

Life after the Quest for Worton Author

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Worton author David Johnson is not resting on his laurels after the fifth and final part of his acclaimed Crystal Quest book series was launched.

Mr Johnson, 52, a former Ministry of Defence employee, launched the final book in the series, *Dark Victory*, at the recent London Book Fair.



He set his young hero, 12-year-old James Lightwater, who lives in a town very similar to Devizes, on his quest six years ago and his books have sold worldwide.

The father of two grown-up children has spoken to schools all over Britain as well as in Eire and New Zealand. His wife Christine has been very supportive of his writing career.

It was his fascination with Avebury, Stonehenge and other ancient monuments of the West Country that inspired him to write the books.

He said: "I pulled together a lot of different ideas. It took a year to write the first one as I kept changing the plot

lines."

His hero James discovers he is a descendant of the people of Atlantis and he is destined to save the earth from destruction. His quest is to find 12 sacred zodiacal crystals before alien powers can get their hands on them.

He admits that finding plot lines that haven't been used before and keeping ahead of technological innovation has been a major challenge. He said: "HG Wells' *War of the Worlds* and *The Time Machine* are over 100 years old but in many ways have not been excelled. "Many innovations, such as the mobile phone, GPS, satellite navigation are now science fact not science fiction. Trying to think ahead has become increasingly difficult."

With the completion of the Crystal Quest series, Mr Johnson is now working on a series of science fiction short stories which he is illustrating himself.

He finds writing easy but it is when the books are finished he finds more challenges awaiting him. He said: "I find the title and the blurb on the back of the books the hardest things to do."

As well as talking to schools, Mr Johnson has also been involved in mounting science fiction festivals throughout the county.

He has been the guest author at more than 16 sci-fi events including the Dalek Invasion at Yeovilton last summer and the more recent events at public libraries all over Wiltshire.