



This month, we've been talking to . . . Christopher Llewelyn

Christopher Llewelyn was born in Wales, but now lives in Christchurch next to the beautiful Banks Peninsula. He has a varied employment history, ranging from Oddbins wine merchants, the Serious Fraud Office in London, the forensic department of Deloitte & Touche, as well as 10 years working as a ceramic tiler. Chris is a natural storyteller and has enjoyed sharing his visions of the weird and wonderful with people since childhood. *Tyranno-sort-of Rex* is Chris's second book with Scholastic NZ, following *How Does the Giraffe Get to Work?*, both illustrated by Scott Tulloch.

We asked Christopher some questions about himself, and here's what he said...

Where were you born? Where do you live now?

I was born in Merthyr Tydfil (in South Wales). Now I live in Christchurch.

Where did you go to school? Did you have a nickname?

I went to Llandrindod High School. My nickname was Squealer (don't ask).

What were you like in school?

Annoying (if you were a teacher).

What is the naughtiest thing you did?

It's hard to say what the outright naughtiest thing was (there were a few special moments, which I'll keep to myself), but it was unusual to get through a day in school without having a teacher shout at me.

What was your favourite book growing up?

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown.

Who is your favourite children's author?

A.A. Milne.

What is your favourite food/colour/movie?

I like most food, and I love eating out, but if I had to pick one thing, it would be curry. I also love going to the movies, though a film I could happily watch again and again would be *The Ladykillers* (the original black and white one with Alec Guinness in it). My favourite colour is daffodil yellow (you can take the boy out of Wales).

Who inspired you to write?

No one person really inspired me. Every good book I read made me want to write, so I just kind of started. Though it was my wife who encouraged me to try to take it further.

How did you get started? How old were you?

The desire to write, or tell stories, has always been there, but it was about ten years ago that I first wrote down a rough idea for a children's book. The writing then slowly grew until I was spending all my time thinking about new stories.

Why did you want to be a writer?

Because I couldn't be the manager of Chelsea Football Club (I sent them my CV, but apparently some bloke called Mourinho was more qualified).

How do you think up ideas?

Trade secret.

Do you have a special place where you write?

Anywhere warm.

What is the best thing about being an author?

Being able to have a power-nap anytime you want.

Have you had a funny or embarrassing moment as an author?

Misspelling my own name when signing a book (spelling never was my strong suit, but I should be able to spell my own name by now).

What do you do when you are not writing?
Running, eating, reading, listening to the radio,
power-napping.

What would you have chosen to be if you were not an
author?
Manager of Chelsea Football Club.

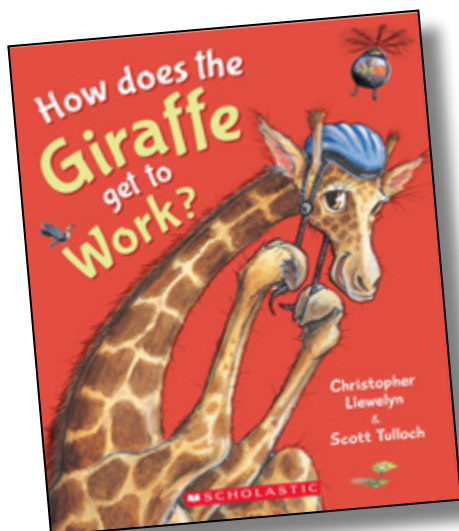
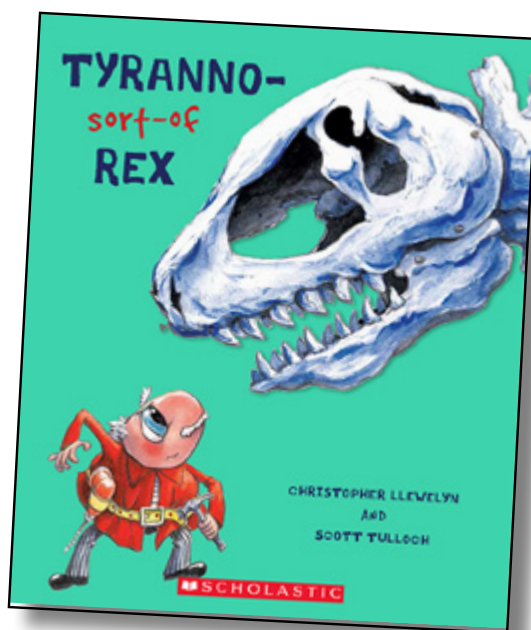
Which famous person from the past would you like to
talk to?

Alfred Russel Wallace, the British explorer and
naturalist.

SCHOLASTIC NZ BOOKS BY CHRISTOPHER LLEWELYN

Tyranno-sort-of Rex

Publication	July 2015
ISBN	978-1-77543-311-8
Print RRP	\$19.00
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