



# School's past inspires book

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Retired teacher Rod Ling at Moseley School with his book based on its history

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A RETIRED teacher who is battling cancer returned to his old school - to try to inspire pupils to find out more about their historic campus.

Rod Ling went back to his old stamping ground to launch a novel written to encourage people to explore the story behind their school.

The book is based on Rod's discoveries about the interesting history of the building that is now Moseley School. It is fiction but founded on years of research into the history of the Grade II listed Spring Hill College, and is described as a pacey, page-turning adventure. Battered If These Walls Could Whisper, the book highlights the colourful history of Moseley School's original 157-year-old building.

Mr Ling said: "The title in a sense is about heritage and history. "What I'm suggesting is the building has acquired the lives of people who have inhabited that space. "The plot uses the building's heritage as religious training centre, military barracks, orphanage, grammar school and its connection to an Oxford college." Set in the early months of the new millen-

nium, it tells the story of the quest of four young people to find a long-lost treasure.

The book weaves together a back-story with the contemporary plot, inspired by the true facts around the formation of the school.

Rod, 60, from Kings Heath said he believes most schools have interesting backgrounds which can be bought to life for students to strengthen the local and learning community.

He describes it as a "fast paced entertaining read with a more serious point to be made."

He wants to connect the current student intake of an inner-city school, now drawing on black and Asian communities, with the lengthy history of the school building.

A number of books have been given to the school to support the curriculum and sales with some of the profits going to cancer research.

Rod is receiving palliative treatment for kidney cancer from Queen Elizabeth Hospital Cancer Centre, the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital and St Mary's Hospice.

He is raising funds for cancer research at the QEH from sales of the book. The book is currently for sale on Amazon and costs £7.

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Brian Conley stars as showman PT Barnum and West End veteran Linzi Hareley, from Tamworth, plays his wife Chatty.

What I'm suggesting is the building has acquired the lives of people that have inhabited that space

ROD LING

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