



Local author enriches TeaBooks meeting by Kate Castleden, September 2023

Last week was a first for me, I was fortunate enough to meet a published author! Oxfordshire-based [Colin Wade](#) has written a number of crime and mystery novels. Having heard about our [TeaBooks](#) groups, Colin contacted me earlier this year, and kindly offered to come and speak. Fast forward a few months, and I found myself in [Abingdon Library](#) with members of our Abingdon TeaBooks group alongside members of the public, all eagerly waiting for the talk to begin.



We learned about Colin's journey to becoming a full-time author, and thoroughly enjoyed finding out where he gets his ideas from and how he develops them. I hadn't realised that it takes almost as long to edit and publish a book as it does to write the first draft! The Q & A session at the end was a great opportunity for us to find out more and ask all sorts of things including whether any real people are represented in the books.

It was a fascinating insight into the literary world

TeaBooks Volunteer

What struck me was the fact that Colin hasn't always been an author. Writing is something he came to after a 30-year career in project management:

I consider myself to be an uncreative person, I'm not musical and I'm terrible at art and craft. I surprised myself when I started writing and realised it was something I could do.

Discovering a new career in later life must have been exciting, though I imagine quite daunting at first. Colin spoke about the importance of learning to handle the rejection you experience prior to seeing your first novel on the shelf of a bookshop. It's about being passionate about your craft and having confidence in your writer's voice. Writing about what you know, be it places or scenarios, is always a good starting point. Colin has been able to use his experience as a civilian in the police force to provide his readers with authentic insight into police procedure, including for his latest book, [The Devil's Code](#).

I'd like to say a huge thank you to Colin, as well as Abingdon Library and our Abingdon TeaBooks group. It was a very enjoyable morning, and here's hoping for more similar opportunities in the future.

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