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Sunday 3 June 3.00pm
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Debut book launched by children's author

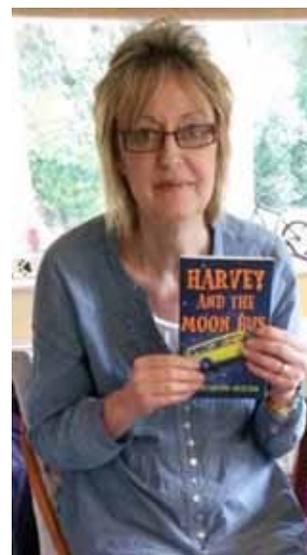
A former pupil of Lord Williams's School has published her debut book, the first in a series for children.

Jill Stanton-Huxton has written *Harvey and the Moon Bus*, a fantasy adventure story for young readers aged 5 to 7 years old, an illustrated work with colourful animal characters.

Jill grew up in Shabbington in the 1970-80s and along with her twin sister, Sally, attended Long Crendon Primary School and then Lord Williams's Lower School West and the Upper School. She still has family in Shabbington and Sally lives in Oakley.

Jill says she loved reading as a child and was often in The Red House – now The Book House – bookshop in Thame. She later worked for Booker Tate in Masters Court.

Jill said: "The inspiration for the book came from mine and my husband's beautiful and charismatic Norwegian forest cat, Macavity. He was a local celebrity in the neigh-



Jill Stanton-Huxton with *Harvey and the Moon Bus*.

bourhood.

"The story started when I walked up to the corner shop to buy something and as I was paying for it, the shop owner looked behind me and started clapping his hands. I turned around and Macavity was sitting behind me. I told the shop

owner he was our cat and he smiled and said he was often sitting outside on the pavement, it's as if he's waiting for a bus.

"Over the next few days the story developed and I introduced a number of other animal characters to it. A few of which – Gatsby the tortoise; Archie, the old farm dog; and Moon Bus Driver and Nelly, Macavity's little sister Kissa – are based on childhood/adult pets.

"The illustrations in the book were done by my friend Emily Brady, a cartoonist and illustrator."

Jill has been a volunteer judge on the BBC Radio 2 500 words competition, marking stories in the 5-9 year range. She was also the winner of the Buckinghamshire Family History Society Alan Dell Memorial Award 2013.

The book, priced £6.99, was published in February and is receiving good reviews on Amazon. It is being stocked at a number of shops including The Book House in Thame.

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Reader travel

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