

Stephen Dearsley's Summer of Love Colin Bell

It's 1967 and the start of the Summer of Love. Life will never be the same again for the young as they celebrate liberation and nonconformity, but also protest against prejudice, repression and war. In Brighton, Stephen Dearsley is tempted and intimidated by the way his generation is casting off traditional ways of dress along with the old ways of thinking. His hippy housemate Dys provides an open door into his own possible summer of love, but will autumn still find him in tweeds, or will he be in colourful loons and tie-dye? His ambition to become a biographer is fulfilled when he's commissioned to research the life story of Austin Randolph, and the revelations of hypocrisy, class prejudice and homophobia lead him to make his decision.

About the Author

Colin Bell was born in a Franciscan convent in Surrey but grew up in Sussex – everything that he has done, he did for the first time in Brighton. After half a lifetime in Manchester working for Granada Television, he returned to Sussex and now lives in Lewes, the urban equivalent of BBC Radio Four.

At Granada, after working in every department from politics to light entertainment, he became a producer-director of arts documentaries and then Executive Producer, Music and Arts, making arts series for ITV and Channel Four. His television credits include Celebration, God Bless America, My Generation, Menuhin's Children and It Was Twenty Years Ago Today.

He has fond TV memories of writing scripts for Kenneth Williams, unwittingly asking Sir Lawrence Olivier to find him a transistor radio, being the regular voice of 'sneering authority' on the investigative journalism series World In Action and setting the music questions for University Challenge. He is also proud of writing three children's books (published by Novello's) to accompany the Early Reading series, Story World and of working with most British rock bands from The Beatles to Oasis. Following an urge, he gave up television deciding that he had to try to become a full-time writer and thus fulfill his life's ambition.

While working on his novel and a number of short stories, he suffered a brain haemorrhage that was meant to kill him but failed. Described as the neurologist's 'miracle patient', he made a full recovery while discovering the virtual world of Second Life and a previously unexpected ability to write poetry.

He adopted a wolf's persona when his cyber name, Wolfgang, was affectionately lengthened to wolfiewolfgang during his time as arts editor of the online men's fitness magazine Mansized, and he still answers to the name Wolfie in various writers' communities, in Second Life, and on his web site where he writes a daily blog.

His poetry has been published in the UK and the USA by The Blotter, The Fib Review, Every Day Poets and Inspired Words. His short stories have been performed by the White Rabbit theatre company in London and published by Ether Books. He is a Writers' Village Best Writers' Award winner and has given poetry readings in the UK and the USA.

He is an enthusiastic but skillless martial artist (Kung fu and Tai chi), roller-blader and musician who relaxes in his small town garden with a very sharp pair of secateurs and where he is not afraid of barefoot snail crushing.

Cover Image to follow

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