

## Q&A with Chris Wormell

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I've always drawn – it is the thing I most enjoyed doing as a child and the only thing I was ever any good at. I never thought of being anything else but an artist, if I could, and a writer of children's stories, too, though I never had much confidence that I could ever manage that. I'm still amazed that I have done! Drawing and writing are still as exciting as they ever were for me and a blank sheet of paper still feels like the beginning of a great adventure.

### **Where do you write/draw?**

In a studio at the top of the house.

### **How do you get the ideas for your books/illustrations?**

The impossible question! Anywhere, everywhere – though usually close to home; me, my family, my friends, places I've been, things I've seen, and just occasionally, wonderful flashes of brilliant inspiration that light up my imagination.

### **Who has influenced your style?**

Thomas Bewick, Reynolds Stone, William Nicholson, Gustave Dore, Charles Tunnicliffe, Ernest H Shephard, Beatrix Potter and several hundred others.

### **Can you describe your latest book in around 15 words?**

A big book all about amazingly brilliant dinosaurs!

### **What is your favourite children's book?**

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

### **Why are books important to you?**

I love them – how could one not? In a book you can go anywhere, do anything and be anyone. All the world is in books, and a whole lot of other worlds too.