


# Clacton Gazette

## First time author is readers' favourite

4:43pm Wednesday 11th February 2009

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A FIRST time author has spoken off his joy after winning a national readers' choice award.

Martin Penalver, of Chilburn Road, Clacton, won Amazon website's January book of the month in their reader's poll, for his first novel, *In Search of an Angel*.

The 40-year-old, who has a day job as manager of Holland Plastics in Clacton, said he was delighted and surprised to have been chosen for the prestigious award.

He said: "It is quite mad!

"I first heard about it six months ago. I had a look and some of the past winners were by people like John Grisham.

"You are up against some big shots, that is probably the nicest thing.

"It was completely unexpected and it was nice that it was a reader's thing, not an author's choice.

"It is magic. It is just the icing on the cake really, it makes me feel really proud."

*In Search of an Angel* was picked as January's winner from the millions of customers at Amazon.co.uk.

The novel, which follows a young man who travels the world in search of angels, is the first in a trilogy.

Mr Penalver said he was inspired to pen the book after a teacher Elsie Butcher at Holland Park Primary School, Clacton taught him the power of books.

Mrs Butcher taught him to read as a child, and gave him the first insight into the magic of the written word.

The pair met again last year, when he was volunteering at Winsford House Care Home in St Paul's Road, Clacton, where he was volunteering.

Mr Penalver said sales of the book had also shot up since winning the award, and he had enjoyed getting positive feedback from his readers.

The second book in the series is already written, and due to be published this summer.

*In Search of an Angel* can be bought from Amazon.co.uk, or on [martinpenalver.com](http://martinpenalver.com).