

Husband and wife team pen their second fantasy book

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A children's fantasy book inspired by a Hatfield couple's much-lamented pet has been stocked by major retail chains and is selling well.

Amazon has just made a second order for *The Kingdom of Puli*, and Waterstones has told authors Karen and David Levy it is popular with customers.

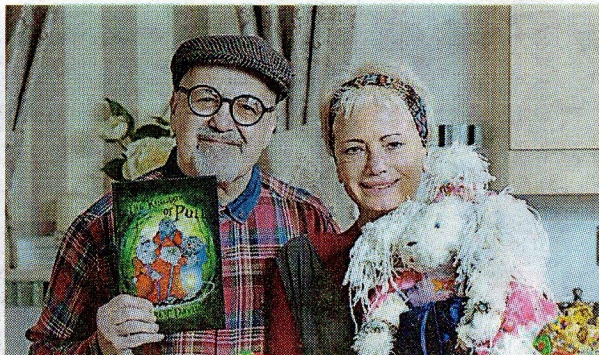
The couple, who live in Sovereign Place, wrote the book over several years, drawing inspiration from their Hungarian puli dog, Jimmy, who died about a year ago.

Karen, 53 told the *WHT*: "David puts in all the swashbuckling and fighting, but I put in the humour.

"David did a lot of research, but I did all the drawings."

Whenever they took Jimmy, a rescue dog from the RSPCA at Ridge, to local parks, they found children were fascinated by his woolly coat.

Karen said: "They would say he looked like a cloud, or like a sheep



David and Karen Levy co-wrote the children's book *The Kingdom of Puli*. Picture: DANNY LOO

on a lead."

In the fantasy world they have created, supernatural puli dogs live in the clouds, but in their book, a spell condemns one to live on earth as a normal dog.

The book spans several generations and spans historical periods, incorporating Florence Nightingale, Robin Hood and late Georgian times.

First published by Austin Macauley in January, it is currently stocked by WHSmith, Foyles, Waterstones and Amazon.

The Levys have given readings, helped by Karen's hand-made puppets, at several Welwyn

Hatfield primary schools and day centres for people with learning disabilities, always with an enthusiastic response.

David, 58, has retired from his career as an electrician to concentrate on the books.

Karen, who suffers from the autoimmune disease lupus, said: "Children love it. I did about half the drawings in hospital. It has been good therapy, and it has brought us closer together."

Their second book, a form of prequel set in Ming Dynasty China, will be published later this year under the title *the Book of Origins*.