

# First book sows the seeds of Jean's budding new career

A MYLOR woman inspired by the environment around her has published her first book, aimed at encouraging children to grow their own vegetables.

Jean Webster's book *No Hens for Pens* is the first of many planned by the retired teacher.

It tells the story of Chrissie Cress who lives in a city farm and cannot find eggs to make her cakes, so she goes looking for some hens.

Jean has already read the story to children at Constantine School and it was well received.

"We were very happy to help the children see the link between sowing and growing their own food and farming," she said.

Each book comes with its own pack of seeds in the hope children will get involved in growing plants.

The writing started when her son Andrew, who is working in Antarctica for 18 months, asked what she would do while he was away.

"I said I'll write and publish a children's book," she added. "Then I saw a writing for children course at Bristol University and it all fell into place. My first tutor was inspirational."

The book was completed in just three months. It was Andrew's partner Zoe, who has an allotment that suggested the seeds.

Jean, whose husband Geoff



■ Author Jean Webster at her home in Mylor with her book *No Hen in the Pen*, her Guinea Pigs Holly and Lynsey and her inspirational marrow.

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is an engineer, has almost finished her second book, about a brother and sister who have a magical weekend with their father.

And she has already got plans for a book on an allotment cat, hens escaping on a

tractor and having adventures and another inspired by her guinea pigs.

She taught in primary schools from 1970 until 2006, including Constantine and Rosemellin in Camborne.

Although she moved around

because of Geoff's job, they have re-settled in Lemon Hill, Mylor.

"While teaching I never thought of writing books, although I write a lot of plans and loved helping the children write scripts for assembly," she

said. "I love reading and loved teaching children to read. It was and still is my passion.

"I would like to develop being a writer and artist in schools."

The book is available from Falmouth Bookseller and The Eden Project.