

Writer finds 300 'lost' relations

ROBIN Bayley was eating nachos with the long-lost Mexican family sired by his libidinous great grandfather Arthur when a female cousin nudged him in the ribs.

"This is what women were like for Arturo (their name for him), have one, then another, then another," she giggled in Spanish.

Sitting next to Robin was his Sheffield grandmother Ruth, who Robin had flown out to Mexico to meet her father's descendants, now over 300 of them.

"What is she saying?" asked Ruth. "Nice nachos, Granny," he said.

If his first book, *The Mango Orchard*, was fiction you'd think it was too far-fetched. But it's fact.

"It is an enormous story spanning 100 years, two continents and hundreds of people," says Robin, now 43, who grew up in Nether Edge. Parents Michael and Fleur still live here.

As a lad, Robin heard stories in the family from his granny Ruth, in particular

how her father had befriended a bandit, El Jefe, by giving him money.

In return El Jefe warned him his life was in danger and to flee.

But Robin, who went to Hunters Bar Junior and High Storrs, thought there must be more.

■ He signs copies of *The Mango Orchard* at Waterstones, Orchard Square, next Wednesday at 6.30pm. Published by Preface at £12.99.

■ Visit thestar.co.uk for the full story