

= Lewis Archer =

Lewis Archer is a fictional character from the British soap opera Coronation Street , played by Nigel Havers . The character was created and introduced as a love interest for Audrey Roberts ( Sue Nicholls ) . Executive producer Kim Crowther revealed the team wanted an actor who was slightly younger than Audrey and who was very charming . Various actors were considered for the part , but the casting director suggested Havers as she knew he was a big fan of the show . The actor said he could not turn down a chance to appear in Coronation Street as his character had an interesting story arc . Havers was contracted until July 2010 and he made his debut as Lewis in the episode broadcast on 18 December 2009 .

Lewis is a gentleman escort , who is described as being suave , charming and charismatic . He is first seen accompanying Claudia Colby ( Rula Lenska ) to a Christmas ball . He is introduced to Audrey , who falls for his charm and later hires him to be her companion to another event . In March 2010 , Lewis was seen advertising his services in The Lady , as part of a crossover between the society magazine and Coronation Street . Rita Sullivan ( Barbara Knox ) sees the advert and books Lewis for a date , forming a love triangle storyline between them and Audrey . Lewis eventually declares his feelings for Audrey , and they plan to leave Weatherfield together .

As their plans to emigrate step up a gear , Lewis forges a plan to steal money from Peter Barlow 's ( Chris Gascoyne ) betting shop by cashing fraudulently franked betting slips . His scam is successful , and he cheats on Audrey when he kisses Deirdre Barlow ( Anne Kirkbride ) . Lewis flees the UK ; he made his last appearance on 13 August 2010 . Just over a year later , it was announced Havers would reprise his role as Lewis and return to Coronation Street in February 2012 . Havers believed Lewis would be a changed man who wanted to apologise to those he had hurt . The character 's first period in the show was well received by television critics . On 22 January 2013 , it was announced that Havers would be leaving Coronation Street once again and Lewis departed on 1 February 2013 .

= = Creation and casting = =

On 14 October 2009 , Daniel Kilkelly of Digital Spy announced Havers had joined the cast of Coronation Street as Lewis , a potential love interest for Audrey Roberts ( Sue Nicholls ) . A writer for What 's on TV said Havers was to make a one @-@ off appearance in December before continuing in the role throughout 2010 . The show 's executive producer , Kim Crowther , told Gareth McLean of the Radio Times that while the team was planning the Audrey and Lewis storyline , they decided they wanted to introduce someone who was very charming , and slightly younger than Audrey . Casting director June West considered various actors for the part , including Anthony Head , but she suggested Havers for the role as she knew he was a big fan of the show . Crowther quipped , " When you think of Nigel , you think of someone suave enough to charm you out of your high heels . Half the work is done . " Havers said he could not refuse the part because his character was fascinating and had an interesting story arc , and that being on the show had always been his ambition . Havers was initially contracted until July 2010 and he made his debut screen appearance as Lewis on 18 December 2009 . In March 2010 , Havers stated that he was keen to renew his contract , as he was enjoying his time with the soap .

= = Development = =

= = = Characterisation and Audrey Roberts = = =

Gareth McLean of the Radio Times said that Lewis was a gentleman escort and he deemed him a " suave companion . " A spokeswoman for the show said , " There is no suggestion that Lewis is anything more than a companion escort for his clients . " A writer for the Metro described Lewis as " charming " and " charismatic " , and a reporter from the Daily Record wrote that he was "

Weatherfield 's answer to American Gigolo . " The soap 's official website lists " ungallant behaviour " as something Lewis dislikes . Havers believed Lewis would eventually display " a real dark side " , though he was unaware of what that could be . Lewis is first seen accompanying Claudia Colby ( Rula Lenska ) to a Christmas ball . He is introduced by Audrey Roberts ; Digital Spy 's Daniel Kilkelly stated that she was " immediately bowled over by his charming ways . " Claudia informs Audrey that she booked Lewis through an agency and Audrey decides to hire Lewis to be her companion to another event . Lewis goes to the Rovers Return Inn and pretends not to know Audrey . He then proceeds to chat her up in front of her friends , causing them to wonder how she attracted him . Havers thought the scenes were funny and called the storyline between Lewis and Audrey " fantastic " . In March 2010 , Lewis was seen advertising his escort service in society magazine , The Lady . A reporter for The Belfast Telegraph revealed the character 's classified advert would be seen in the real life magazine in a crossover with the show . A spokeswoman for Coronation Street stated " The Lady heard the magazine was going to feature in an episode , and they approached us with the idea of using the advert in the actual magazine . " In the advert , Lewis claims to have " years of experience " and is " suitable to accompany ladies in any social or corporate event " . On screen , Audrey 's friend Rita Sullivan ( Barbara Knox ) notices the advert and books Lewis for a date .

A love triangle storyline between Audrey , Rita and Lewis then formed and was played out over Easter 2010 . Rita hires Lewis to accompany her to a ball , despite knowing that her friend has fallen for him . Audrey becomes jealous when she tries to book Lewis herself and he explains someone has already hired him . Audrey attends the ball with a friend and is shocked to see Rita with Lewis . The two women insult each other and Lewis and Rita leave . Susan Hill , writing for the Daily Star said that despite Lewis ' apology for attending an event with Rita , Audrey is furious and confronts her friend . Rita tells Audrey she is " acting like an old fool as Lewis can never be hers " and Audrey slaps Rita across the face . Of Lewis ' view of the situation , Havers commented , " I think Lewis is genuinely concerned about Audrey . When Rita gets involved , he has to box clever , but he 's very good at that . " Audrey decides to stop all contact with Lewis after realising she has fallen in love with him . Audrey 's decision is prompted by her falling out with Rita and the fact she has read Lewis ' diary , which contains details about his clients . Not wanting to get hurt by him , Audrey tells Lewis that she wants end their arrangement . Lewis is shocked and cannot understand why Audrey would want to stop seeing him . A show spokesperson commented , " In the end she has to come clean and tell him how she really feels ? which prompts Lewis to kiss her . He then tells her he 's developed feelings for her too . " Audrey is shocked by the kiss and Lewis ' declaration of love .

As their relationship progresses , Audrey invites Lewis to move in with her . Nicholls told Suzanne Byrne of RTÉ Ten that Lewis appears to brush Audrey off , before eventually agreeing to move in . Nicholls said , " And then in his usual charming style he brings her breakfast in bed on her birthday , which she adores him for . He 's clever like that , he knows how to bring the balance back to the relationship . " In May 2010 , the Daily Mirror 's Brian Roberts reported that a new plot for Audrey and Lewis could see them leaving Weatherfield for a new life in Greece . The couple go on holiday to a Greek island and Audrey is taken with Lewis ' idea of opening a hotel and living a glamorous life out there . Roberts likened the plot development to that of the 1989 film , Shirley Valentine . Roz Laws of the Sunday Mercury noted that Lewis seemed uncomfortable with the plan ; Nicholls said that Audrey is unaware of his doubts . Laws also compared the plot to a similar one in another ITV soap opera , Emmerdale , involving Diane Sugden ( Elizabeth Estensen ) and Charlie Haynes ( George Costigan ) , and predicted that both storylines would end in heartache . Nicholls wanted Audrey and Lewis to leave together and have a happy ending , and wanted to see a spin @-@ off series focusing on the pair and their new life in Greece . Olivia Buxton from the Daily Mirror questioned whether Lewis would go through with the plan ; she wrote that two endings to his story arc had been filmed , one of which showed him making a dramatic exit .

= = = Departure = = =

Lewis departed the show on 13 August 2010 . In his exit storyline , he leaves the UK after stealing a large sum of money from Peter Barlow 's ( Chris Gascoyne ) betting shop . Lewis carries out his

plan to place fraudulently franked betting slips in the till while Audrey arranges to have her money transferred into a bank account for them to purchase their hotel . On the day of their farewell party in the Rovers , Lewis slips out to collect his money from the betting shop and kisses employee Deirdre Barlow ( Anne Kirkbride ) when she becomes suspicious about his motives for being in the shop . Kate Woodward , writing for Inside Soap , said while Deirdre is attracted to Lewis , she ends their kiss and tells him to return to the party . However , Lewis flees the country , but decides not to take Audrey 's money as well and he writes her a letter ending their relationship . Havers filmed his final scenes on 21 June 2010 at a Manchester hotel , which doubled as an airport bar . While he is at the airport , Lewis meets a businesswoman , Lydia Radcliffe ( Lysette Anthony ) . Chris Johnson of the Daily Mail thought Lydia was a welcome distraction for Lewis , who is feeling guilty about what he has done . Lewis flirts with Lydia and " rolls out some of his well @-@ known chat @-@ up lines " , which she falls for . Lydia mentions she is travelling to Barbados and Lewis reveals he is going there too , so they board the plane together .

= = = Return = = =

Havers returned to Coronation Street on 17 February 2012 . While appearing on Loose Women the previous year , Havers revealed that he had been in talks with Coronation Street producers about a return to the show . He stated that he had adored his role as Lewis and that he had to return and apologise to Audrey . Later that year , ITV announced that Havers would return to Coronation Street in 2012 to reprise his role as Lewis . Series producer Phil Collinson said that Havers had started filming his scenes in January 2012 and he would return on @-@ screen from February . Collinson also said that Lewis would have a lot of ground to cover to win Audrey back , that the character is " a great hoot " and that it was wonderful to have Havers back . Peter Dyke and Katie Begley of the Daily Star wrote that Lewis ' return storyline would show Audrey and her daughter , Gail Platt ( Helen Worth ) , unexpectedly meeting Lewis at a country pub . Havers told Allison Jones of Inside Soap that Lewis then tries to convince them he is his own twin brother , Hugh . Havers said , " Audrey is totally floored to see him again ? as you can imagine . And if I said that Gail is angry when they bump into Lewis , it would be a massive understatement ! " Lewis begs Audrey and Gail not to call the police and he decides to return to Weatherfield .

Havers said Lewis was a changed man who wanted to apologise to those he had hurt and to make amends . He said , " There 's always that danger Lewis could fall back into his old ways , and he is down to his last penny . But at the moment , Lewis is trying his hardest and has no ulterior motive ? just an awful lot of ice to break instead ! " Lewis returns the money he took from Peter , adding an extra thousand pounds as compensation . Havers said that Lewis feels desperately bad about what he did . Upon entering the Rovers , Lewis is punched by Deirdre . Havers stated that Lewis wants Audrey to forgive him and give him a second chance . Lewis finds Audrey charming and honest and he likes being mothered by her to an extent . Havers said that Lewis did fall in love with Audrey while they were together , but no one believes him as he has told so many lies , and thought Lewis ' one redeeming feature was not taking Audrey 's money when he had the chance . Havers added , " He 's been feeling terrible because he did the dirty on her and he wants to make amends . "

Lewis ' presence on the Street infuriates Gail , who still holds a grudge for the way he treated Audrey . Gail hopes Lewis may have left for good when he attends court on charges of fraud . However , Lewis charms the judge with a speech about the way he let Audrey down , and he is sentenced to community service . The animosity between Gail and Lewis , reaches a peak at The Bisto ; and as Audrey defends Lewis , a food critic from the Weatherfield Gazette walks in . A show spokesperson told Inside Soap 's Katy Moon that Lewis turns on the charm and quickly wins the reviewer over . Audrey 's grandson Nick Tilsley ( Ben Price ) , who owns The Bistro , realises Lewis ' communication skills could be good for his business and he employs Lewis for a trial period at the restaurant .

= = = Reuniting with Audrey = = =

Lewis and Audrey decide to rekindle their relationship in March 2012 . Kate White from Inside Soap wrote that Audrey finds Lewis hard to resist , especially after he has apologised for his previous actions . When Lewis is wrongly accused of taking some money from The Bistro , he plans to leave Weatherfield . Nicholls told White that Audrey feels awful that she too accused Lewis and it is a wake up call for her as she does trust him . The actress said Audrey still fancies Lewis and does not want to lose him again . Lewis and Audrey spend the night together and decide to keep their relationship a secret , especially from Audrey 's family , as his " past indiscretions still loom over them like a dark cloud " . Nicholls said Audrey could be making a mistake , and added , " You read this sort of thing in the papers all the time , women of a certain age being charmed by these men . I 'd ask her to think about what she 's doing . " A writer for Inside Soap said that Audrey and Lewis are very happy as they " bask in the warmth of their revived romance . " However , they have to resort to sneaky measures to spend time together to avoid upsetting Audrey 's family . When Audrey calls in sick at the salon to spend time with Lewis , Gail and David become concerned and check up on her . They see Lewis leaving her house and realise the pair are back together .

Lewis and Audrey decide to go on holiday together and Lewis offers to pay for himself . Digital Spy 's Daniel Kilkelly wrote that Lewis ' renewed relationship with Audrey and their plans to go on a round @-@ the @-@ world cruise would cause a feud between her and David . Audrey 's money is tied up in the salon , so she asks David to sign it back to her so she can pay for the holiday . However , David refuses to sign the salon back as he thinks Lewis might be planning another fraud . Kilkelly said Lewis tries to play peacemaker and suggests postponing the trip until he can save the money himself , but Audrey insists David will co @-@ operate and she tears up their contract .

= = = Departure ( 2013 ) = = =

On 22 January 2013 , Kilkelly confirmed that Havers would leave Coronation Street following the conclusion to the Lewis and Gail storyline on 1 February . The scenes lead to Lewis ' departure from Weatherfield , but Kilkelly commented that " fans will have to wait and see whether Gail loses everything thanks to Lewis " . The door was left open by producers if Havers wanted to reprise the role of Lewis again in the future .

= = Storylines = =

Lewis is hired by Claudia Colby to accompany her to the Weatherfield Traders ' Association Christmas party . Claudia introduces Lewis to her friend , Audrey Roberts , and he flirts with her . Audrey learns Lewis is a male escort and she later hires him to be her date for the Stylists ' Dinner . Audrey contacts Lewis again and invites him to have dinner with her , but she becomes apprehensive and pretends to be ill when he arrives . Lewis persuades Audrey to let him into her home and he listens while she talks about her late husband . They then go out for dinner . Lewis visits the Rovers Return in Coronation Street and pretends not to know Audrey . Norris Cole ( Malcolm Hebden ) recognises Lewis from the Christmas party and when he sees Lewis kissing Audrey , he jumps to the conclusion that they are having an affair .

Rita Sullivan contacts Lewis and they attend the theatre together . Lewis charms Rita and she books him for the Chamber of Commerce Easter Dinner Dance . Lewis is surprised when Audrey turns up at the dance with Claudia . Audrey becomes jealous of Rita , and the women insult each other until Lewis intervenes . Lewis leaves his diary containing his clients ' details in Audrey 's salon . When he returns to collect it , he finds Audrey has read it . Audrey tells Lewis that they cannot continue to be together , but Lewis kisses Audrey and tells her he has feelings for her . They begin dating , despite Rita telling Audrey it will end in tears . After noticing Audrey is not happy with his occupation , Lewis quits and tells Audrey that he is beginning to feel too old for the job . Audrey invites Lewis to move in with her ; and although he hesitates at first , Lewis eventually accepts .

Lewis and Audrey go on holiday to Greece together and Lewis suggests they move there and open a hotel . Audrey agrees and gets a £ 100 @, @ 000 loan towards the purchase of the hotel . Lewis , needing money of his own , decides to steal from Peter Barlow 's betting shop with fraudulently

franked betting slips . He begins flirting with Deirdre Barlow , an employee at the betting shop . Lewis sends Deirdre out of the shop to get a corkscrew so they can share a bottle of wine . He places his fraudulent betting slips in the till and when Deirdre returns , he kisses her to distract her . Lewis slips out of Audrey 's farewell party to collect his money and he leaves for the airport . Peter discovers Lewis has stolen from him and Audrey is devastated by his disappearance . She discovers Lewis has left her money alone and she finds a photograph of them with the words ' I tried ' written on the back . While he is in the airport bar waiting for his flight to Barbados , Lewis introduces himself to Lydia Radcliffe and offers to sit with her during the flight .

Lewis enters a country pub and unexpectedly meets Audrey and her daughter Gail . Upon seeing them , he pretends he is his own identical twin brother . Neither Audrey or Gail are fooled and Lewis offers to pay for their drinks . He then leaves the pub and heads to Coronation Street . Lewis visits Peter Barlow , apologises for stealing from him and returns the money he took with an extra £ 1000 as compensation . Lewis then goes to Audrey 's salon and he tells her he did not mean to hurt her . He asks Audrey to drive him to the police station to prove how sorry he is . After he is given bail , Lewis enters the Rovers Return and is punched by Deirdre . Lewis faces hostility from Audrey 's grandson , David ( Jack P. Shepherd ) upon his return to the salon . He begs Audrey for forgiveness but she throws him out . Lewis sends her flowers and Audrey visits his address and finds he is living in a bedsit . David 's wife , Kylie ( Paula Lane ) , introduces herself to Lewis and he defends her against Brian Packham 's ( Peter Gunn ) accusations that she is giving her son the wrong food .

Lewis attends court , where he is found guilty and sentenced to perform forty hours community service . While dining at The Bistro , Lewis charms a food critic and Nick Tilsley offers him a two @-@ week trial as head waiter . Gail disapproves but Audrey defends Lewis and he later buys Audrey a bracelet as a gift of thanks . When Nick finds some money missing from the till , he and Gail believe Lewis took it . Audrey also doubts Lewis but when she learns that Eva Price ( Catherine Tyldesley ) took the money , she tries unsuccessfully to stop Lewis from leaving . Lewis returns for his wages and tells Nick that his community service has finished and he is leaving for good . Audrey arrives to see Lewis , asks him to stay and professes her love for him . They spend the night together at Audrey 's house and agree to keep their relationship secret . Once David and Gail find out about their relationship , Audrey and Lewis make it public . Lewis suggests they go on holiday together to the Mediterranean and Audrey agrees . She asks David to sign her salon back to her so she can help pay for the holiday , but he refuses .

Audrey and David begin feuding over the rights to the salon and Lewis notices that the arguing is taking its toll on Audrey 's health . He suggests they go to Wales for a few days instead . When Audrey serves David with an injunction to try and reclaim her business , an argument breaks out and Audrey suffers a heart attack . Lewis comforts Audrey until the ambulance arrives and stays with her at the hospital . Lewis and Audrey go on holiday . On her return , Audrey reveals to her family that Lewis disappeared from the Eurostar on the way home . Lewis later turns up at the salon to see Audrey and explains that he disappeared because he saw Penny Thornley ( Susan Hanson ) , a woman he once conned . Lewis asks Audrey to run away with him and she agrees . While they are packing , Audrey 's family and Penny arrive . Penny reveals that she is going to call the police , but Audrey stops her and gives her the money Lewis took . When Nick refuses to give Lewis his job back , Gloria Price ( Sue Johnston ) hires him to work at The Rovers Return .

Gloria confides in Lewis that she is dying and he provides her with support . When she asks him to run away with her , he turns her down and tells her he loves Audrey . Lewis then learns that Gloria is not ill and she and Gail were testing his loyalty to Audrey . Lewis is outraged when he realises Audrey knew what was going on and breaks up with her . He then gets revenge on Gloria by revealing that she has cheated in the local pub of the year competition . Lewis gets his job back at The Bistro and he moves into a flat on Victoria Street . Lewis begins to formulate a plan to get back at Gail for ruining his relationship with Audrey . He decides to use her guilt against her . One night at the Bistro , he pretends to slip and hurt his back . Gail takes pity on Lewis and allows him to stay with her , while she cares for him . During his time with Gail , Lewis offers her his support and advice about her problems . Lewis is not happy when he sees Audrey on a date with another man .

While sharing a bottle of wine with Gail , Lewis tries to kiss her . He later introduces her to his friend

, Patrick ( Simon Rouse ) , and pretends to turn down a job opportunity in Italy because he loves her . Lewis pays Patrick for his help and tells him that Gail ruined his life , so he is going to do the same to her . Lewis and Gail grow closer and begin dating in secret , although Lewis resists taking things further because of his feelings for Audrey . Lewis attempts to drive a wedge between Gail and her family , before telling her that he has been offered a new life in Italy , running a small hotel . Lewis asks Gail to come with him and she agrees . Audrey is devastated when she learns about their relationship , after catching them together . Gail takes out a £ 40 @, @ 000 loan against her house to fund her trip to Italy , which Lewis plans on taking . He overhears Kylie speaking about a one @-@ night stand she had with Nick and blackmails her into getting Gail 's bank account password for him . Gail gathers her family together to tell them about Italy , but Lewis does not turn up . He instructs them by text message to watch a DVD he has made detailing his revenge plan . He reveals that he has taken Gail 's money and that he deeply loved Audrey . The police later inform Gail that Lewis fled to Belize .

= = Reception = =

Jaci Stephen of the Daily Mail called Havers ' casting " inspired " and wrote that he had become " synonymous with upper @-@ class cads " following his role as Ralph Ernest Gorse in The Charmer . Stephen wrote , " It 's not often that someone like Lewis strays onto the cobbles . Suave and charming , he 's in a different class to Jack Sugden ( sic ) and co . Although at least none of Weatherfield 's men folk have charged ladies for their company , as , despite his plummy veneer , Lewis is just a gigolo . " In March 2012 , Stephen wrote that Lewis is " charm personified , even if he is a reformed fraudster . " A writer for the Liverpool Daily Post wrote , " Since Lewis ( Nigel Havers ) waltzed into the street , things with the over fifty club ( Rita , Audrey and now Deirdre ) haven 't been the same . " Steve Pratt , writing for The Northern Echo , said , " As love rat scumbags go , Lewis Archer is up there with that chap who tried to push Rita under a tram in Blackpool . "

Sue Crawford of the Daily Mirror said , " playing a ladies ' man comes naturally to Nigel Havers so it 's hardly surprising he 's playing a flirt in Coronation Street . " Crawford 's colleague , Simon Boyle , wrote that Lewis was " charming but devious . " Havers ' role in the soap proved popular with female viewers . The actor told entertainment website Digital Spy that he had been sent sackfuls of fan mail and underwear . However , other viewers were unhappy with Havers ' character 's treatment of Audrey and the actor received abuse in the street . In November 2011 , Jon Horsley of Yahoo ! said viewers should be excited about Lewis ' return to Coronation Street . Horsely added " It 'll be great to see the old smoothy back on the cobbles . We 're really looking forward to Audrey 's reaction to him , too . " Lewis ' return to Coronation Street was selected for Digital Spy 's Picture of the Day feature .

In 2013 , Havers won Best Exit at The British Soap Awards for his portrayal of Lewis . He was also nominated for Villain of the Year .