

# Hullabaloo!

*Newsletter of the Teaching Resources Collection at Bishop Grosseteste University Library*



A very warm welcome to our Winter 2014 issue.

Don't worry, our students aren't getting younger - the photo above is of young Merryn, who paid a visit to the TRC recently as part of a photo shoot for a new early years course!

What a great opportunity the cold weather and long nights

provide for catching up on some reading (for pleasure of course!). If you're looking for inspiration you've come to the right place. Not only do we have news of Booktrust's '100 Best Books' and our very own Rewarding Reads Children's Literature Challenge, we mention all sorts of books inside, from the classic *The Arabian Nights* to some fabulous non-fiction. Why not

seek a couple out in the TRC or your local library?

Happy Reading,

*Emma and Janice*

*Inside this issue:*

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# And The Winner Is...

Congratulations to *Skellig* author David Almond (pictured right), who was the recipient of the 47th annual **Eleanor Farjeon Award**. Speaking at the award ceremony Nicolette Jones described his work as “tales that resonate with truth about the big emotions”.

London’s Cambridge Theatre hosted the 2013 **Roald Dahl Funny Prize** award ceremony in December. In the 7-14 category Jim Smith took the prize for the second in his Barry Loser series, *I Am Still Not A Loser* (Jelly Pie, £5.99) and in the under-6 category Simon Rickerty picked up the prize for *Monkey Nut* (Simon & Schuster Children’s, £6.99).

The 2013 **ALCS Educational Writers’ Award**, the only UK award for educational writing, went to *Molecule Mayhem!: Pop-Up Chemistry Chaos* (Templar, £14.99) written by Tom Adams and illustrated by Thomas Flintham.

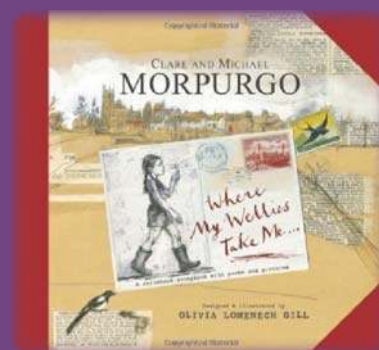
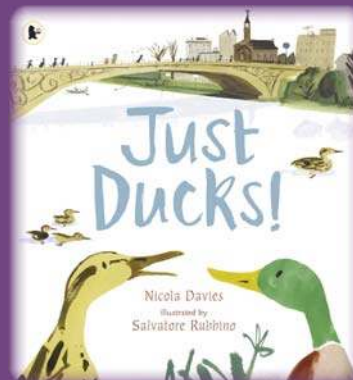
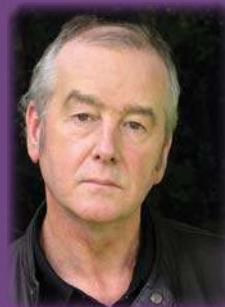
Overall winner, and winner of the 7-12 category of the School Library Association’s 2013 **Information Book Awards**, was *Incredible Edibles* (Walker Books, £9.99), written by Stefan Gates and illustrated by Georgia Glynn. The under-7 category was won by Nicola Davies’ *Just Ducks* (Walker Books, £6.99), illustrated by Salvatore Rubbino, and the 12-16 category by Clive Gifford for *Discover More: Cool Technology* (Scholastic, £10.99).

Chris Riddell took the 2013 **Costa Children’s Book Award** for *Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse* (Macmillan Children’s, £9.99) which judges described as ‘an instant classic for children of all ages’.

And lastly, two awards that were overlooked in our last issue....

The **English 4-11 Awards** are made up of four categories. The 4-7 Fiction category was won by Jeanne Willis (author) and Tony Ross (illustrator) for *Hippospotumus* (Andersen Press, £6.99); the 4-7 Non-Fiction category was won by Nicola Davies (author) and Mark Heald (illustrator) for *A First Book of Nature* (Walker Books, £14.99); the 7-11 Fiction category was won by Clare and Michael Morpurgo (authors) and Olivia Lomenech Gill (illustrator) for *Where My Wellies Take Me* (Templar, £17.99); and finally the 7-11 Non-Fiction category was won by Christiane Dorion (author) and Beverley Young (illustrator) for *How We Make Stuff* (Templar, £14.99).

The two winners of the 2013 **Lincolnshire Young People’s Book Award** were, in the 9-11 category RJ Palacio for *Wonder* (Corgi Children’s £6.99), and in the 12-14 category James Patterson for *Nevermore* (Arrow, £6.99), final book in the *Maximum Ride* series.



# Booktrust's 100 Best Books

Just in time for *Children's Book Week* last October, Booktrust announced its *100 Best Books*. The selection covered books published over the past 100 years and was divided into four age groups, from birth to 14. Booktrust then invited readers to vote for their ultimate favourite. 24,000 votes were cast and the top ten were: 1) *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling, 2) *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, 3) *The BFG* by Roald Dahl, 4) *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, 5) *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A.A. Milne, 6) *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr Seuss, 7) *The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien, 8) *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White, 9) *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman and 10) *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis.

To find out about the 90 other books on the list go to <[bit.ly/1cvddDM](http://bit.ly/1cvddDM)>. Coincidentally, around the same time we asked users of the TRC to (very informally, with sticky notes!) write down their favourite children's book. Julia Donaldson was far and away the most popular author with particular praise for the fantastic *Stick Man*. Close behind were Michael Rosen's *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and Janet and Alan Ahlberg's *The Jolly Christmas Postman*.



## A Helping Hand for English Teachers

A new *English Curriculum Review Planning Tool* has been written by subject experts from schools, universities, ITT providers and subject associations to support the introduction of the new National Curriculum for English. Based on current research and good practice, as well as the new statutory requirements the document covers reading, writing and the spoken word. It outlines basic principles and includes prompts about the curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, as well as expected outcomes. There is also a section on teaching literature at Key Stage 3 and a very useful bibliography. As the tool also takes into account other aspects of the curriculum such as EAL, diversity, disability, creativity and cross curricular organization it can be used to support the development of the wider school curriculum.

[www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools\\_teaching/curriculum](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools_teaching/curriculum)

## The Competition

Last issue's winner was BGU student Laura England who correctly spotted that the first line of the poem was from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Autumn Fires*. A new first line is below. Simply email us at [hullabaloo@bishopp.ac.uk](mailto:hullabaloo@bishopp.ac.uk) with the name of the poet and poem by 31 March 2014 and the first correct answer out of the hat will win a £10 National Book Token.



*"There's snow on the fields, and cold in the cottage..."*

# Introducing Rewarding Reads...

## What is Rewarding Reads: A Children's Literature Challenge?

It is our own BGU scheme designed to shadow the 2014 CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Book Awards and is based on a similar scheme that we ran this time last year. We have hopefully designed it to be a fun, educational and inspiring extra-curricular activity that any student or staff member at BGU can enjoy.



## What are the Carnegie & Greenaway Awards?

They are two highly regarded children's book awards that are presented annually by CILIP, the *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*. The Carnegie award, established in 1937, is for excellence in writing and the Kate Greenaway award, established in 1952, is for excellence in illustration. The award winners receive gold 'medals' and so the awards are often alternatively referred to as the Carnegie Medal and the Kate Greenaway Medal.

## What is a shadowing scheme?

It is where groups of people, often school pupils, mirror the process and schedule of a book award by reading and evaluating the nominated books, sharing feedback, and voting for their favourites.



# How does Rewarding Reads work?

The University Library has copies of all 137 of the books nominated for the 2014 CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Book Awards: 76 for Carnegie and 61 for Kate Greenaway. To get involved all you need to do is read at least one of the nominated title and provide feedback on the special feedback slips. Essentially you can choose to get involved as much or as little as you like: the books come in all shapes and sizes and cover a range of age groups. Dip in, flick through, pore over or immerse yourself completely – it's up to you!

## When is it all happening?

We'll be launching Rewarding Reads in the Teaching Resources Collection on Thursday 6 February 2014. There will then be a second event to celebrate the announcement of the shortlists on 19 or 20 March 2014 (date tbc). The official winners aren't announced until June, when unfortunately many BGU students have already left for the summer, but we'll definitely mark the announcement - and the result of the BGU vote - somehow!

## Tell me more!

To find out more about Rewarding Reads visit the Teaching Resources Collection or take a look at the News & Events section of the Library's Blackboard site.

## Sharing Last Year's Experiences

Last year's Carnegie /Greenaway Challenge was such a positive experience for us here in the Library that we wrote an article about it for CILIP. CILIP stands for the *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*. It not only is the professional body for library and information workers but also organises and administers the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Book Awards. For this reason their monthly magazine, *CILIP Update*, seemed the perfect place to share our experiences.

The article was written by Emma and Janice and two of the University's Senior Lecturers, Sibylle Erle and Helen Hendry, both of whom were heavily involved in the 2013 Challenge. The 3-page article was published in the October 2013 issue of *CILIP Update* and was subsequently picked up by the UK Literacy Association, who asked permission from CILIP to place a copy of the article on their website. We think that means they liked it! Read the article for yourself at:

[www.ukla.org/news/story/shadowing\\_shines\\_a\\_light\\_on\\_resources](http://www.ukla.org/news/story/shadowing_shines_a_light_on_resources)



# School Library Grant

In the days before she died of breast cancer in 2007, award-winning author Siobhan Dowd set up a Trust. Her aim was to give children and young people the opportunity to enjoy literature. This year the Trust, in association with the Schools Library Association, is making available a grant of £6,000 to a school library, as well as two runner-up grants of £3,000 and consultations with trained librarians. So, if you've had a project for your school library in mind but lacked crucial funds and professional help, now's your chance!

Applications will be assessed based on a demonstration of need and enthusiasm and clear evidence that the project has been carefully planned and will make a real difference to your pupils. To apply e-mail <director@siobhandowdtrust.com> with an outline of your project showing how and why the funding will help your school library. The Trust would especially like to hear from the pupils themselves. The closing date for applications is May 1st 2014 and the winners will be announced at the School Library Association's conference in June. For more information visit <<http://bit.ly/1avVu2n>>.



## Listening to the Laureates

On 2 January Mariella Frostrup presented a special edition of Radio 4's *Open Book* programme about the role of the Children's Laureate. Current Laureate Malorie Blackman as well as former Laureates Michael Rosen and Jacqueline Wilson were in the studio discussing the role and why it is important and talking about their commitment to promoting reading for pleasure to all children. You can listen again at <[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03mcl9d](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03mcl9d)>.



It was Malorie Blackman's second appearance on Radio 4 in as many months, since just weeks earlier she was Kirsty Wark's castaway on Desert Islands Discs. The book she chose to take to the island was Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* and her luxury item was a bicycle! Kirsty Wark has interviewed no fewer than seven of the eight Children's Laureates for Desert Island Discs and we have a **small prize** for the first person to e-mail [hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk) with the name of the Children's Laureate yet to be marooned! You can browse through the musical, literary and luxury choices of all the castaways at <[www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/desert-island-discs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/desert-island-discs)>.

## War Horse at BGU

Forget travelling all the way to London to see the National Theatre's acclaimed stage production of Michael Morpurgo's *War Horse*, BGU's *The Venue* will be a screening a performance live by satellite from the West End at 7pm on Thursday 27th February. Tickets cost £12-£14 and can be booked at <<http://bit.ly/1dBBuOJ>>.



# Reading Improves Brain Power!

According to *Social Inequalities In Cognitive Scores At Age 16: The Role Of Reading*, a recent report from the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at the Institute of Education (IoE), children who read for pleasure are likely to do significantly better at school than those who rarely read. Authors Alice Sullivan and Matt Brown found that regular readers make more progress in maths, vocabulary and spelling and that by the age of 16 the combined effect of reading books often, going to the library regularly and reading newspapers was four times greater than the influence of having a parent with a degree.

While reading for pleasure impacted most on vocabulary development, spelling and maths still benefited significantly; “it may seem surprising that reading for pleasure would help to improve children’s maths scores” states Sullivan, “but it is likely that strong reading ability will enable children to absorb and understand new information and affect their attainment in all subjects.” The importance of new technologies and government policies in supporting and encouraging children’s reading for pleasure are also stressed in the report.

Download the report in full from <<http://bit.ly/1bfXXei>>.

## Championing Non-Fiction

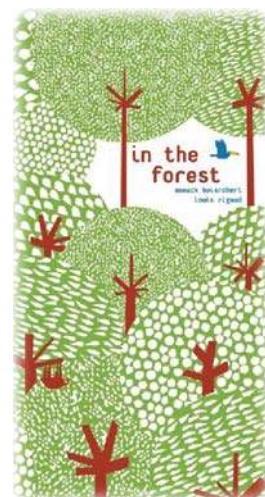
Mary Louise Maynes, Lecturer in Early Childhood Studies at BGU, has been doing some work on the use, perception and value of non-fiction books for children. We asked her to share some of her thoughts on the subject...

“Stefan Gates’ *Incredible Edibles*, winner of this year’s SLA Information Book Award, is part science book, part recipe book. In turn humorous and shocking it is crammed with fascinating facts and interesting stories and is a good example of new non-fiction texts for children; ones that refuse to fall in to familiar categories, aim to challenge readers’ expectations and entertain as well as inform.

Children who choose non-fiction instead of fiction are sometimes regarded as less committed readers who are missing out on the pleasures that fiction has to offer. We have long known that many boys prefer non-fiction in a variety of forms, but their reading choices are not always reflected in materials available in the classroom (Boys’ Reading Commission 2012). The rich and varied reading experience which good quality non-fiction can offer is often underestimated in favour of narrative texts, yet a glance

through recently published non-fiction books shows that they offer much more than mere sources of information. Take Boisrobert, Rigaud and Strady’s *In the Forest* for example (see the cover image on the right); a delightful pop-up book where the reader seeks out the tiny sloth sheltering in the last tree in the rainforest and in doing so is drawn into its plight in a powerful and visual way. Or Mark Dowson’s *North*, beautifully illustrated by Patrick Benson, which presents factual information in lyrical prose alongside images which convey the vast and awe-inspiring landscapes of the arctic. Both books invite an empathetic response from the reader and offer possibilities for the imagination as well as increasing understanding of their subject matter and stimulating discussion.

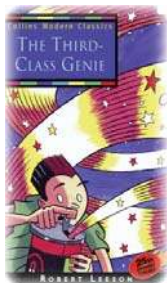
As investment in school libraries is on the decline, it is particularly important to remember what non-fiction can offer all young readers and to provide different, exciting and thought-provoking books from the breadth and wealth of non-fiction which is currently available.”



# Farewell Robert Leeson (1928-2013)

Robert Leeson, British author and critic died in September aged 85.

A multi-talented writer, Robert Leeson was not only editor and correspondent of newspaper The Daily



Worker and its successor The Morning Star, he also authored books about the history of the labour and trade union movements, wrote for radio and theatre, and produced over 70 books for children, including *The Third Class Genie*, and *Harold and Bella, Jammy and Me*.

Born in Cheshire in 1928, Robert Leeson worked for a local newspaper before National Service took him abroad. He was always writing, but it wasn't

until his fifties that his first books for children were published. The first of these were historical novels, including a Civil War trilogy beginning with *Maroon Boy* in 1974. Leeson never shied away from tough subjects; his books confronted issues such as class struggle, slavery, women's rights, racism and teenage pregnancy. It is not surprising then that in the 1980s it was he who authored five *Grange Hill* tie-in novels; at the time one of the most controversial children's programmes on TV for the range of issues it addressed.

Robert Leeson was awarded the 1985 *Eleanor Farjeon Award* for services to children's literature, specifically for the workshops he ran in schools and his fundraising efforts to supply Third World schools and libraries with books.

## When I Was A Nipper

This issue's nipper is none other than BGU's Vice Chancellor, the Reverend Professor **Peter Neil**, who joined the University in May 2013 from the University of the West of Scotland...

We are always told not to judge a book by its cover, but when I was younger that is exactly what I did and was enticed into the contents of a book by the illustration on the front. One which I remember vividly, and which I was delighted to rediscover in the Teaching Resources Collection at BGU is *The Arabian Nights*. Retold by Amabel Williams-Ellis, it was first published by Blackie in 1957.

The book is a collection of stories narrated by Shahrazad. Shahrazad was to marry a wicked king who had vowed to marry a maiden and then kill her the very next day. Story-telling is used by Shahrazad as a means to keep the king so enthralled that he delayed his plan to kill her; he wanted to hear the end of each story and then wanted to hear more stories; he was unaware that Shahrazad knew over 1,000 stories.



The fascination which kept the king from his wicked plan permeates each story and I as a young reader was transported into a world of make-believe which was aided by the beautiful illustrations, some of which were in black and white and others in colour, with such attention to detail. The combination of the stories and the skilfully chosen drawings by Pauline Baynes [one of which is shown above] held my attention from start to finish and I couldn't wait to start the next story. The tales of Ali Baba, Aladdin and Sinbad were familiar to me but others such as the Bird and the Bird-Catcher were not. Looking back I think the main attraction of the book was that these were stories which were supposed to be listened to and not read, but the fact that the context for the stories had been set in the first chapter meant that I could hear the voice of Shahrazad throughout so that I got the feeling that I was listening to rather than reading the story. For me that is what reading is all about - bringing alive words on the page to create a new world for the reader. The fact that the volume still features on our TRC shelves is evidence that these stories are timeless and still captivate generations of young readers.