

Hullabaloo!

Newsletter of the Teaching Resources Collection at Bishop Grosseteste University Library



We are very proud to be able to say that our *Teaching Resources Collection* has the Royal seal of approval!

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal (pictured left receiving a posy from Hannah Hicks) visited Lincoln on Friday 15th February and spent part of her morning here at Bishop Grosseteste University. Having been shown various parts of the campus Her Royal Highness concluded her visit in the Cornerstone Building where Emma had the honour of showing her around the Library (in the TRC the princess revealed a surprising amount of knowledge about Storysacks!).

Her Royal Highness' final duty at BGU was to formally open the Cornerstone Building, and during her speech we were particularly pleased to hear her emphasise the importance of libraries and literacy in education. It was a special day enjoyed by all, and a beautifully sunny one at that.

Apologies (yet again) for the slightly belated publication of this issue; we're not *quite* sure where the year has gone.

Happy Reading!

Emma and Janice

Inside this issue, as well as all of our regular features, you can read about...

- The BGU Carnegie/Greenaway Challenge
- Julia Jarman's visit to the University
- Newbery & Caldecott - who were they?
- A Farewell to Jan Ormerod

And The Winner Is...

Sally Gardner's *Maggot Moon* (Hot Key Books, £6.99), about a dyslexic teenager living in a dystopian world, won the 2012 **Costa Children's Book Award**.

The ever-popular Sir Quentin Blake was the recipient of the 2012 **Eleanor Farjeon Award** which recognises outstanding contributions to children's books.

The 2012 **ALCS Educational Writers' Award**, which celebrates excellence in children's non-fiction, was won by Ruth Thomson for her book *Terezin: A Story of the Holocaust* (Franklin Watts, £9.99), about life in a Jewish ghetto in what was then known as Czechoslovakia, during the Second World War.

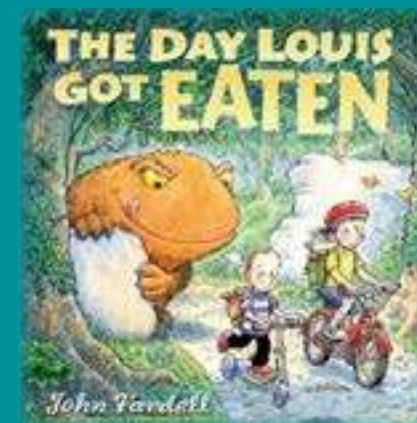
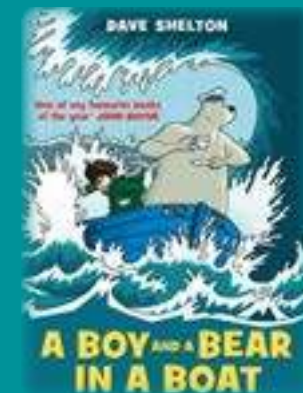
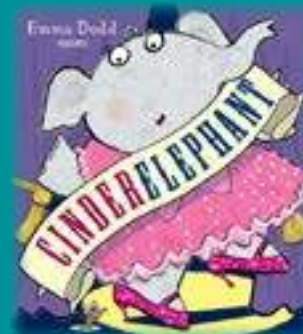
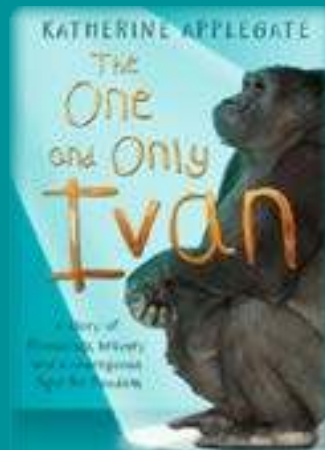
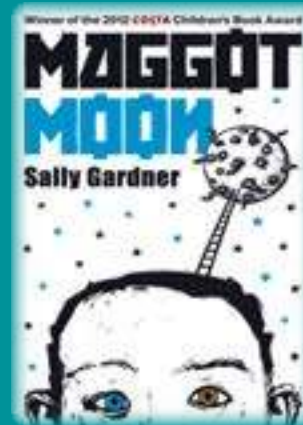
The 2012 **Peters Picture Book of the Year** went to Emma Dodd's take on the Cinderella story, *Cinderelphant* (Templar, £10.99), whilst Peters Fiction Book of the Year went to *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat* by Dave Shelton (David Fickling, £10.99).

The American Library Association's 2013 **Newbery and Caldecott Medals** (see page 6) were announced in January, with the Newbery Medal going to Katherine Applegate's *The One and Only Ivan* (HarperCollins Childrens, £6.99, a story inspired by true events and narrated by a gorilla!) and the Caldecott Medal to Jon Klassen's *This Is Not My Hat* (Walker, £11.99).

The winners of the 2012 **Scottish Children's Book Awards** were announced at a special event in Dundee on 7th March. They were, in the Bookbug Readers category *The Day Louis Got Eaten* by John Fardell (Andersen Press Ltd, £5.99); in the Young Readers category *The World of Norm: May Contain Nuts* by Jonathan Meres (Orchard, £5.99); and in the Older Readers category fantasy novel *The 13th Horseman* by Barry Hutchison (HarperCollins Children's, £6.99).

Teen category and overall winner of the 2013 **Waterstone's Children's Book Prize** was coming-of-age story *Ketchup Clouds* by Annabel Pitcher (Indigo, £9.99). The Fiction for 5-12 Year Olds category was won by RJ Palacio's *Wonder* (Corgi Children's, £6.99), and the Picture Books category by Rebecca Cobb's *Lunchtime* (Macmillan's Children's Books, £6.99).

The winners of the 2013 **Blue Peter Book Awards** were announced in March. The Award for Best Story went to Liz Pichon for *Tom Gates: Genius Ideas, Mostly* (Scholastic, £6.99), and the Best Book With Facts went to Nick Arnold and Tony De Saulles for *Horrible Science: House of Horrors* (Scholastic, £12.99).



lives in Bedfordshire she was born in Lincolnshire, in her grandmother's cottage in the fenland village of Deeping St James.

Julia has always been an avid reader, writer and teller of stories. She was a member of her local library, often visiting twice a day during the school holidays, and at the age of eight she wrote her first story. Her favourite book is Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* and she admits that Jo March has had a profound influence on her. With this background it is perhaps unsurprising that Julia studied English and Drama at university and then became a teacher.

Julia's daughter takes the credit for convincing her to write professionally. Having listened to one of her mother's stories she said, "that's the most interesting thing you've said in your whole life – why don't you write it down?" As a result Julia started *When Polly Ran Away*, published in 1985. Many more books followed, for children of all ages, and along the way she has teamed up with some wonderful artists, including Adrian Reynolds who illustrated *The Big Red Bath* in 2004. A delightful story full of fun and action, *The Big Red Bath* is a great book to read aloud, so much so that The Arts Council has funded a theatrical version which is touring the UK from September and includes performances at the Lincoln LPAC on 29 September and Stamford Arts Centre on 19 October.

For older children, Julia deals with a range of challenging issues including animal rights, conflict and bullying. Her 2010 book *Inside* looks at a young offender and the choices he has to make to change his

Julia Jarman's Visit To BGU

We thought we had featured pretty much every author with links to Lincolnshire in previous issues of *Hullabaloo!*. It therefore came as a surprise when Julia Jarman told us, during her visit to the University back in February, that although she now

life for the better. Her popular *Time Travelling Cat* series follows the adventures of Ka and her friend Topher as they journey into the past.

Julia's visit to BGU was spent with students from our BA (Hons) Primary Education programme. During her talk which proved entertaining, thought provoking and informative she acknowledged that although there is always much discussion about the best way to teach it, there can be no question about the importance of reading, and the fact that it helps to improve writing, spelling and language skills. But, she suggested, it is about more than developing practical competence: "Stories," she remarked, "are like clothes that you can try on to find out who you are and who you would like to be"; they help us learn about other people, their experiences and their feelings. Julia also feels that reading offers companionship and the way to a better world, developing not only the skills but the emotional maturity to make the most of life's opportunities. Julia also paid tribute to the crucial role teachers play in children's lives.

Julia interspersed her talk with funny and energetic readings. She demonstrated that telling a story involves more than speaking the words on the page. A whole range of techniques including facial expressions, eye contact, voice modulation, different accents, and body movements can be drawn on to act out the narrative. For the student teachers listening and watching Julia, it was clear that mastering these practices is essential if they are in turn to inspire the children they teach to become readers.



The Competition

Last issue's winner was lecturer Ashley Compton who correctly spotted that the first line of the poem was from Robert Frost's *Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening*. A new first line is below. Simply email us at hullabaloo@bishopp.ac.uk with the name of the poet and poem by 31 July and the first correct answer out of the hat will win a £10 National Book Token.

"This is the night mail crossing the border..."

Our Shadowing Challenge: The Story So Far

In the last issue of *Hullabaloo!* we announced the BGU Carnegie/Greenaway Challenge, an initiative we developed to mirror the shadowing schemes that take place in UK schools. There are several reasons why we wanted develop our own scheme. Firstly we wanted to draw attention not only to the awards and shadowing schemes, but also to all of the past and present winners and contenders. Secondly, we thought it would be a great way to celebrate our new Teaching Resources Collection (TRC) and our extensive collection of children's literature. Thirdly, we never pass up a chance to promote the government's *Reading for Pleasure* initiative. And lastly, we wanted to give the people of BGU the opportunity to engage with some fabulous books, make connections with fellow bibliophiles, and develop their knowledge of children's literature; not only for their own personal benefit, but to pass on to the children they encounter at home, on placement, and in the workplace.

We had a fantastic response. People from across the University attended the launch in the TRC on 4 February. Emma and Janice introduced the Medals and outlined how to take part. Lecturers Helen Hendry and Sibylle Erle then talked about the significance of taking

part and highlighted some of their favourite titles from the longlists. All 132 books were on display and



guests were invited to browse and borrow a book from each longlist. Over the next few weeks a steady



flow of people came and borrowed the books and before long several of the books had had a review placed inside them (you can read a few of them the next page).



Before we knew it it was 21 March and time for our second event to announce the shortlists and promote the second stage of the Challenge. Helping us to celebrate were author and illustrator Jackie Morris (pictured left) and bookseller Marilyn Brocklehurst from the *Norfolk Children's Book Centre*. Jackie gave a fascinating talk on how she developed and illustrated her book *The Cat & The Fiddle: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes* which was longlisted, but unfortunately not shortlisted, for this year's Kate Greenaway Medal (see our Dec 2012 issue for more information about Jackie and her connection to the TRC). As it was *World Poetry Day* we incorporated some poetry readings too, and Marilyn's book stall was a popular draw, especially when it came to Jackie's books, all of which she very kindly signed (and doodled in!).

There's still plenty of time to participate in the Challenge by voting for your favourite from each of the two shortlists. All sixteen shortlisted books (listed below and pictured left) are displayed in the TRC and you have until 12 June to cast your vote. By doing so you can also enter a prize draw to win copies of the two official Medal winners, which will be announced on 19 June along with our own BGU winners. So get reading!!

The CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist:

The Weight of Water	Sarah Crossan
A Greyhound of a Girl	Roddy Doyle
Maggot Moon	Sally Gardner
In Darkness	Nick Lake
Wonder	R.J. Palacio
Midwinterblood	Marcus Sedgwick
A Boy and a Bear in a Boat	Dave Shelton
Code Name Verity	Elizabeth Wein

The CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal Shortlist:

Lunchtime	Rebecca Cobb
Again!	Emily Gravett
Oh No, George!	Chris Haughton
I Want My Hat Back	Jon Klassen
Pirates 'n' Pistols	Chris Mould
King Jack and the Dragon	Oxenbury & Bently
Black Dog	Levi Pinfold
Just Ducks!	Rubbino & Davies

I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen

Review by Dan Morelle

Jon Klassen pays homage to Eisenstein's *The Red Shoes* with this unorthodox picture book. A triangular flash of red appears in the thoughtfully paced sequence of images. Klassen's use of repetition and shocking denouement leaves children slightly puzzled and adults horrified: of course it is the reader who decides the fate of the millinery tea-leaf.

The Hueys in the New Jumper by Oliver Jeffers

Review by Philippa (aged 6)

It was a really good book. It was pretty funny because they all thought they were different when they were all the same with the same jumpers on. I loved the drawings because they were the same.

My Big Shouting Day by Rebecca Patterson

Review by Diane

A good book to...stimulate talking about feelings...Nice simple language that younger children will understand.

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein

Review by Adam Houndslow-Eyre

EXCELLENT! Very gritty WWII story – scenes of torture/ escape/ shootings. A lot left to the imagination- EVEN WORSE!! Fabulous 'feminist' theme through the book with two strong female lead characters.

Goldilocks and Just The One Bear by Leigh Hodgkinson

Review by Sophie Ellis

I took the book to placement to share with the children because I loved it so much! All the children enjoyed the story and were very engaged by the illustrations. I had their full attention throughout.

Croc and Bird by Alexis Deacon

Review by the Clarke brothers, Thomas (8) and Jamie (4)

Thomas: This book is a good friendship story. It teaches you that you don't have to be friends just with people that are like you.

Jamie: The crocodile makes me laugh.

A Review Of 'The Weight of Water'

The Weight of Water by Sarah Crossan is a fictional tale that takes the unusual form of a verse novel. This striking arrangement brings poetic quality to the narrative that stands out as first-class. Crossan captures the mood superbly in high definition. This sharpness focuses everyday struggles and anxieties felt by the protagonist, Kasienka.

We follow twelve (almost thirteen) year old Kasienka and her mother as they leave their homeland Poland. However, against all our expectations, their lives become even more difficult once they reach their destination. Mama must deal with the pain of heartbreak and Kasienka must bear the burden of being 'the outsider' in the alien world of modern Britain. As tensions rise, alongside feelings of sorrow and being homesick, both Mama and Kasienka discover unusual methods of coping emotionally.

This novel would appeal to a wide ranging audience due to Crossan's ability to combine contrasting situations that are sometimes very familiar to us and sometimes completely new and unfamiliar. Despite being introduced to new thoughts and situations, audiences are able to sympathise with the characters

as Crossan explores issues of immigration, loss of love, bullying and close friendships. Interestingly, as the novel is written from a child's perspective, the innocence of youth is felt throughout Crossan's narrative.

This book is both accessible and enjoyable to teenagers and adults alike. The uncluttered nature of the text leads the reader through the text quickly and easily. The inspired layout is exciting and visually energising. True to its poetic form, stanzas replace paragraphs and once read aloud the true expression of the characters, in particular Kasienka, become illuminated and stand out from within the pages.

Feelings of anxiety, helplessness and loneliness are very strong in this novel, allowing the audience to feel a deep emotional connection with each character. You as the reader are parachuted into the novel as Kasienka's confidant, allowing you the opportunity to reflect upon each scenario as it unfolds. The novels stimulating form urges you to read on in order to find out what happens next, I could not put this book down, it had me gripped!

By Lauren Doble
2nd year BA (Hons) English Literature



Two Giants Of Children's Literature

Our Carnegie / Greenaway Challenge (see pages 4 and 5) set us thinking about the two Medals and the people they were named for. This then prompted us to wonder about the equivalent prizes in the USA: The Newbery Medal and the Caldecott Medal. Both are awarded by the American Library Association but do they pre-date the UK awards, and who were Newbery and Caldecott?

In fact, both of the American medals pre-date the British Medals, and they are named for two giants of the children's literature world: John Newbery (1713-1767) and Randolph Caldecott (1846-1886), both of whom, incidentally, were British.

The Newbery Medal was first awarded in 1922, pre-dating the first Carnegie Medal by 14 years. Said to be the oldest children's book prize in the world, it was the idea of publisher and bookseller Frederic G. Melcher who also suggested that the Medal be named for John Newbery, a publisher and bookseller like Melcher, and often referred to as 'the father of children's literature'.



Coincidentally, this year marks the 300th anniversary of John Newbery's birth, in Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire. At the age of 16 he was apprenticed to a local printer and eventually came to jointly own the business. By 1740 he had started his own publishing business in Reading and just three years later opened a shop in London. After publishing several books for adults John Newbery turned his eye to books for children; the first person ever to do so. His first children's book, *A Little Pretty Pocket Book*, was published in 1744 and contained poems, proverbs and an alphabet song. It also had a bright cover to make it appealing to children. It was a resounding success and John Newbery went on to become the leading publisher and author of children's books in the eighteenth century with clients including Samuel Johnson and Oliver Goldsmith.

John Newbery's most famous book was *The Little History of Goody Two Shoes*, a facsimile edition of



which we keep in the Teaching Resources Collection. It is one of a small number of facsimile editions we own, and

which together form the **Osborne Collection of Early Children's Literature**; a beautiful and fascinating collection that you are encouraged to seek out: you'll find it on the Children's Reference shelves in the TRC. Two other of the books in the Osborne Collection - *Babes in the Wood* and *The Diverting History of John Gilpin* - were illustrated by Randolph Caldecott, and it is an image from the latter which decorates one side of the Caldecott Medal; first awarded in 1938, pre-dating the first Kate Greenaway Medal by 17 years.



Randolph Caldecott was born in Chester in 1846, just 6 days after Kate Greenaway. He initially worked in a bank and studied art in his spare time. His first sketch was published in the *Illustrated London News* when he was just 16 and he continued to have drawings published in various magazines and newspapers, until in 1872 he moved to London to be a full-time artist. His success grew quickly; he became friends with the group of artists known as the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and had a painting exhibited at the Royal Academy.

In 1877 printer Edmund Evans asked Caldecott to create illustrations for two children's books for Christmas, of which one was the aforementioned *The Diverting History of John Gilpin*.



The books were immediately popular. Caldecott created two more every year for the rest of his life and the series (16 in total) cemented his reputation as a talented illustrator of children's books. By the time of his death in 1886, at the age of just 39, over 800,000 copies of Caldecott's Christmas books had been sold and he was famous around the world.

The website www.randolphcaldecott.co.uk contains some moving tributes written about Randolph Caldecott following his death and is a great place to read more about his life and work.

Reading For Pleasure News

Eileen Finch often shared books with her children. She believed that this special time together was not only fun but also helped develop her children's confidence, social and educational skills. Later in life she wanted to do the same with her grandchildren but Eileen suffers from Stargardt's Disease, which means that her central vision is progressively disappearing.

Unable to find any suitable picture books she decided to take action, and after intensive research, many setbacks and hard work Eileen successfully gained copyright permission to produce books with giant print, braille and illustrations on each double page. Titles include *The Gruffalo*, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, *Handa's Hen*, and *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, the last two of which we purchased for the TRC. Find out more at www.access2books.org.



Many readers know from experience that the benefits of reading for pleasure cannot be underestimated. However, more and more we are being asked to back up what we instinctively know with research and statistics. A report from the Department for Education entitled *Research Evidence in Reading for Pleasure* helpfully summarizes the benefits and lists strategies to improve independent reading, including the importance of choice and the home environment in fostering a lifelong love of books and reading. It also stresses that reading for pleasure is strongly influenced by relationships between teachers and children, and children and families. Read it in full at <http://tinyurl.com/clogb83>.

When I Was A Nipper

This issue's nipper is Mike Rogers, who works as Collections Team Leader at the Lincolnshire Archives...

The Little Old Engine is the 14th volume of Rev W Awdry's Railway Series. It was first published in 1959, some 14 years after the first appearance of the anthropomorphic engines of the Isle of Sodor.

I don't recall who gave me the book – presumably parents or grandparents – but it was a splendid choice. 15 new pence well spent.

My own copy is the first paperback edition, 1970, and is in surprisingly good condition given the hammering it must have received. There are a few loose pages, and someone has used the back cover to test biro, but it lacks a scrawled

"This belongs to ..." scrawl found in so many childhood books.

I had a few other volumes in the series, and there were yet more at Infant School, avidly read by my contemporaries, but this was definitely my favourite. Apart from short cameo appearances by Gordon and James, the main line and branch line engines play no part in the book. Instead it concentrates on the escapades of five narrow gauge engines: Peter Sam, Skarloey, Sir Handel, Duncan, and Rusty the diesel.

As with all the volumes in the original series, there are four linked stories, beautifully illustrated on every other page: *Trucks!*; *Home at Last*; *Rock 'n' Roll*; and *Little Old*



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Twins. Of these, the first has always stuck in my mind – poor Peter Sam gets damaged by kamikaze slate trucks on an inclined plane in a case of mistaken identity.

At the age of 13, on a school trip to North Wales, we stopped off in Llanberis. There, in an abandoned slate quarry just like the one in the book, were several bright red narrow gauge steam engines ... we had finally met. And yes, I do own the Complete Collection in one volume.

Farewell Jan Ormerod (1946-2013)

Australian author and illustrator Jan Ormerod died of cancer in Leicester on 23rd January 2013 aged 66. Born Janet Hendry in Bunbury, Australia Ormerod was the youngest of four sisters. She enjoyed art from an early age and is said to have drawn inspiration from girls' annuals and comics. After attending art school in Perth she taught in secondary schools and a teacher training college before marrying librarian Paul Ormerod in 1971. She and her youngest daughter Sophie discovered picture books together when husband Paul used to bring them home from the library. She describes how she "was hooked. I knew I wanted to make picture books. I resigned my job, let the house, and set off for London and my career in picture books."

Ormerod's first book, *Sunshine*, was published in 1981. A double-page spread from the book can be seen at the bottom of the page. The book shows, through pictures alone, a young girl and her parents sleepily starting their day; waking up, having breakfast, getting dressed, and leaving the house. Though simple in its concept – akin to a storyboard or film strip – in the early 80s the format had rarely been seen in picture books. It soon became a hit, receiving both the *Mother Goose Award* (a British prize for newcomers to children's book illustration, last given out in 1999) and the *Australian Picture Book of the Year Award*, as well as a *Kate Greenaway Medal* commendation. A companion book, *Moonlight*, which showed a young girl and her family sleepily ending their day, was published four years later in 1985.

Many of Ormerod's books were written for babies and young children. They are the results of observing her own and her friends' children, and of having a fundamental understanding of what interested, excited, and worried them. *Kitten Day* (1989) was written

about her youngest daughter's agonizing wait for her new kitten to arrive; *101 Things To Do With A Baby* (1984) dealt with the arrival of a new sibling; and the *Baby Book* and *New Baby Book* series focused on the relationship between father and toddler and pregnant mum and toddler respectively. Furthermore, we included *When An Elephant Comes to School* in our *Transitions Reading Resource* as an excellent book to share with children concerned about starting school.

Jan Ormerod's career spanned over 30 years, during which time she wrote and/or illustrated around 100 books and won several awards, the most recent of which was in 2011 when her collaboration with indigenous Australian (and current Australian Children's Laureate) Boori Monty Prior, *Shake a Leg*, won them *Australia's Prime Minister's Literary Award*.

Just as it is clear from her work that she cherished her role as a parent, it is clear from the content of the many obituaries written after her death that Jan Ormerod was a caring, generous, stylish woman with a great sense of humour. It is also clear, from her own words – in Anita Silvey's book *Children's Books and Their Creators* – that she had a fundamental understanding of the importance and value of storytelling:

I depend on an adult to create the right atmosphere and help children with my books...I believe that teachers, librarians, and parents can enjoy identifying with the adult in the book, while the children see the book from their perspective. When this happens, it is a time for physical closeness and comfort, a quiet time for sharing ideas and feelings, for laughing and learning together. Any adult who takes time to share books with small children will be rewarded, enriched, and revitalized by it every time.



From *Sunshine* by Jan Ormerod copyright (c) Frances Lincoln Ltd. 2005. Reproduced by permission of Frances Lincoln Ltd.

