

Hullabaloo!

Newsletter of the Children's Collection at the Sibthorp Library, Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln

Volume 4, Issue 2, May 2008. Compiled by Janice Morris and Emma Sansby. Please direct all comments to hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk

Welcome!

We're full of the joys of Spring here at Hullabaloo! and have been very busy trying to cram in loads of articles, so much so that we've had to continue one on our website because we ran out of space. We've got articles about reports and visits and awards and people and festivals and conferences and celebrations. Just a basic, average, ordinary, every day, run-of-the-mill, ho-hum issue then (to paraphrase William Goldman's fabulous *The Princess Bride*)!

Emma & Janice

My Lady Spring

My Lady Spring is dressed in green,
She wears a primrose crown,
And little baby buds and twigs
Are clinging to her gown;
The sun shines if she laughs at all,
But if she weeps the raindrops fall.



Awards Roundup

The winner of the **Waterstone's Children's Book Prize** was Sally Nicholl's *Ways to Live Forever* (Scholastic/Marion Lloyd, £7.99) about Sam, who is dying of leukaemia.



Winner of the 2008 **John Newbery Medal** (awarded by the American Library Association) is *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Amy Schlitz, illustrated by Robert Byrd (Candlewick, £10).

The **Caldecott Medal** (also awarded by the ALA) for the most distinguished American picture book for children, went to *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick (Scholastic, £12.99).

The 10th **South Lanarkshire Book Award** has been won by Tim Fowler for his supernatural thriller *Frozen Fire* (Oxford University Press, £5.99). [Image on right courtesy of OUP and Getty images.]



Horrid Henry and the Abominable Snowman by Francesca Simon (Orion, £4.99) won the **WH Smith Children's Book of the Year** category of the Galaxy British Book Awards.

And finally, Kate Cann won the **Southern Schools Book Award** for *Leaving Poppy* (Scholastic, £5.99).

Fancy Starting a Book Club?

In Aidan Chambers' 1993 book *Tell Me*, 8-year-old Sarah says: "we don't know what we think about a book until we've talked about it".

Wise words from an 8 year old, especially considering the renaissance in book clubs which began just three years later when Oprah Winfrey launched one on her TV show.

To start a book club you need passion for books and reading and literature, and here at BG you need look no further than Janice for someone who fits that bill. Janice is interested in starting a children's literature book club so she can share her passion with other like-minded people. So, if you're dotty about Dahl, hung up on Hughes, nuts about Nesbit, mad about Milne, loopy about Lindgren, or just love children's books and would be interested in forming a children's literature book club here at BG, Janice would love to hear from you.

Write to her at hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk



Celebrating Picture Books

Love picture books? Check out **The Big Picture** at www.bigpicture.org.uk. Launched in 2007 by Booktrust, it's a national initiative to draw attention to the significance and importance of picture books and illustration (something close to Janice's heart).

2008 events began with the announcement on 31st March at the Bologna Book Fair of the 'UK's Ten Best New Illustrators'. The winners, all published in Britain since 2000 and chosen from a longlist of 250, were:

Alexis Deacon, Polly Dunbar, Lisa Evans, Emily Gravett, Mini Grey, Oliver Jeffers, David Lucas, Catherine Rayner, Joel Stewart and Vicky White. You can view examples of their work on The Big Picture site.



Look out also for a free copy of **The Rough Guide to Picture Books**, which has been published to highlight the authors and illustrators of 35 of the very best children's picture books. Copies will be available from Waterstones from April 24th and will be supplied again in October through Tesco. Also in October the campaign to celebrate picture books sees **The Big Picture** joining forces with the **The Big Draw** (www.campaignfordrawing.org) to host Big Picture parties in libraries throughout the country.

The Bourne Inspiration

A few weeks ago Janice visited Bourne Grammar School in South Lincolnshire where they're promoting personal reading in a big way. Below is the first part of an article written for *Hullabaloo!* by Wendi Matthews, Head of LRC and Promotion of Reading...

We are very fortunate that over the last 12 years personal reading has become an important part of the curriculum at Bourne Grammar School. All students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have timetabled promotion of reading lessons, and students in Year 11 and Key Stage 5 visit the Learning Resource Centre

(LRC) with their English teachers whenever possible.

'Reading' is also set as part of the homework timetable.



As Head of the LRC and

Promotion of Reading I lead the reading lessons in Year 7 and I work with members of staff who lead the lessons for other years. The students meet every fortnight for 50 minutes.

During the lessons various activities are undertaken to develop reading skills using different forms of fiction, non-fiction and research material. The activities explore ways in which students can respond imaginatively, using different strategies to engage with texts, and to structure this response by evaluating the purpose of the novel and the overall effect of the text on the reader. We endeavour to make our students enthusiastic, discriminating and responsive readers, appreciating what they read on a critical level.

Want to read more? To view the complete article go to

www.bishopg.ac.uk/hullabaloo

The 2008 Lincoln Book Festival

The 5th annual Lincoln Book Festival will take place from the 9th to the 18th May 2008 and is shaping up to be a good one. As usual, the line up includes a host of well-known authors and top-notch events. Honorary patron of the Festival this year is Louis de Bernières, best selling author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, who will be appearing at the Drill Hall on Sunday 11th May.

Also making an appearance at the festival are Steven Berkoff, The Hairy Bikers, Colin Dexter, Iain Banks, John Hegley and Alistair Campbell. For the children there will be events by authors David Almond, Sam Enthoven and Ian Billings, and appearances by Little Miss Chatterbox. Other events include storytelling with characters from *In the Night Garden*, and Jackanory reading sessions with Liz Lucas, all culminating with a Teddy Bears' Picnic on Sunday 18th May. As usual, the longlist for the 2008 Lincolnshire Young People's Book Award will also be announced as part of the festival, at a closed event for schools on 9th May.



Reading to Inspire at BG

Head of the Department of Primary Postgraduate Initial Teacher Training, Judith Laurie, tells us about a 'Reading to Inspire' conference held here at the University College in April...



The theme of the conference (which was sponsored by Walker Books and thus enabled students to attend free of charge) was 'a creative approach to non-fiction'. In particular it addressed the place of non-fiction in reading for pleasure; what fiction and non-fiction do and don't have in common; the illustration of non-fiction texts;

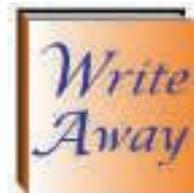
and the appeal of non-fiction. All of these themes were ably addressed by Nikki Gamble, Director of 'Write Away' and an associate consultant at the Institute of Education, as well as two inspirational children's writers, Marcia Williams and Vivian French, and Walker Books' non-fiction editor, Caroline Royds.

Marcia began with a fascinating insight into how she 'creates' a book. She illustrated this with *Archie's War*, a book about the First World War seen through the eyes of a little boy whose father is away fighting. We learnt that she began by creating a keepsake box of artefacts which were evocative of the time, and then used these to create a scrapbook, like one that Archie might have kept. This became the format of the book which includes letters and postcards to read. Fascinating! The copies on sale were soon sold out!

Vivian French didn't begin writing until she was 45 because her school experiences had convinced her that she 'was no good at writing'. This was a salutary lesson for us all and reminded us of the messages we can unwittingly convey to children. She told us how she began to write a book on chocolate through many hours of research (did you know that drinking hot chocolate in church was banned in the 17th century?!). The result is *Chocolate* which she described as a biography of chocolate.

And finally Caroline Royds kept us enthralled by explaining how Walker Books go about commissioning and publishing their books. In her view non-fiction has long been seen as the poor relation in children's books, inferior to fiction in both quality and sales. But in recent years leading figures working in children's books have realised that children should have access to the same high-quality information writing that adult readers take for granted. She illustrated some of the excellent examples of what she described as 'narrative non-fiction' published by Walker books in recent years. A most amusing example was *Poo: A Natural History of the Unmentionable* [!] by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Neal Layton.

The event was hugely enjoyed by all students and staff alike, and the icing on the cake was an offer to students who posted an evaluation on the Write Away website (worth knowing about for all those interested in literacy) <http://www.writeaway.org.uk> and to be entered in to a prize draw to win £100 worth of children's books. The good news is that we have just heard that it is very likely we shall be offered a similar event next year, so watch this space!



Telling Tales

Each May The Federation of Children's Book Groups organises National Share-a-Story Month. Groups across the country stage events and activities to celebrate the power of story. The 2008 event was launched by David Almond and Polly Dunbar at Seven Stories in Newcastle on May 1st. Find out more at www.fcbg.org.uk.



Featured Author: Charles Keeping

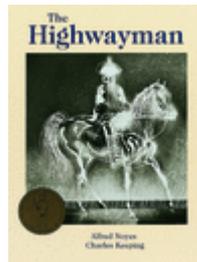
Whilst *The Big Picture* (see page 1) celebrates new talent, it is just as important to remember illustrators who have already made significant contributions to the world of picture books.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the death of Charles Keeping: lithographer, illustrator of adult books, and author and illustrator of children's books. An outstanding artist, Keeping won the Kate Greenaway Medal for outstanding work in children's illustration twice, in 1967 for *Charley Charlotte and the Canary* and in 1981 for Alfred Noyes's *The Highwayman*.

Keeping's work represented a radical departure in picture books. Previously, publishers had aimed them at toddlers and their parents, but in the 1970s Keeping was joined by other authors who saw picture books differently. Along with Michael Foreman, Anthony Browne and Colin MacNaughton he began to create books for older, more sophisticated and questioning children; books that challenged children to consider, reflect and come to their own conclusions about social and political issues.

Keeping knew that illustrating change would help children engage with the issues, offering them "something to think or talk about and draw their own conclusions from over and above just making a story about it." Indeed, there is so much to look at in Keeping's illustrations: there is his fluent use of pen and ink; there is sepia monochrome, displayed to terrifying effect in *The Highwayman*; and in *Sammy Streetsinger* colour enhances the musician's rise to success, whereas monochrome accompanies his fall.

After his death, at the age of 63 from a brain tumour, Keeping's wife Renate (herself an artist) turned their house into a gallery. It can be viewed at www.thekeepinggallery.co.uk.



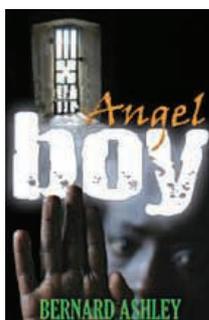
The first illustrated book produced for children is said to have been *Orbis Sensualium Pictus* (The Visible World in Pictures), written in the 1650s by Czech educator Jon Amos Comenius.

A Visit From Bernard Ashley

On Wednesday April 9th the University College installed its new Provost, Dame Judith Mayhew-Jonas, in an impressive ceremony at Lincoln Cathedral, followed by a lunch for staff members and invited guests on campus. And just who did Janice and Emma get a bit excited about hosting on their lunch table? None other than Mr and Mrs Bernard Ashley!

Bernard was our first ever featured author and is an honorary graduate of the University College. After a delicious lunch, we brought Bernard and his wife over to the Library to see the Children's Collection. Bernard was kind enough to sign our copy of his first book, *The Trouble with Donovan Croft*, which was first published in 1974 (an updated edition of which is due out this summer).

Bernard's next book, set in Ghana, is *Angel Boy*, due to be published in June by Frances Lincoln (who have kindly given us permission to reproduce the cover image on the right).



Featured Website

Borders Bookzone TV is a new internet TV channel featuring over 100 interviews with authors. The site is a collaboration between bookshop giant Borders and digital entertainment provider Simply Media. Current interviews include Khaled Hosseini, Joanna Trollope and Terry Pratchett, as well as children's authors **Marcus Zusak**, **Marcus Sedgwick**, and **Beverley Naidoo**,

Go to www.bookzone.tv and remember that you'll need access to speakers or headphones to listen to the interviews!

OSA Award

Each year the University College's Old Students Association generously donate a sum of money to the Library's Children's Collection. This year we spent the money on puppets, primarily for students to take on placement in schools.

One of the reasons we chose puppets is because we've been asked for them, both in surveys and via conversations with students. Indeed, Janice has been approached many times by students suggesting how they might use them. One was especially keen to use puppets with boys, explaining that boys seem happier to tell stories as a puppet character than as themselves: they're less self-conscious and less afraid of making mistakes.

So far we've bought (pictured right) a wolf, a witch, three little pigs and a dragon! They were chosen because they appear in many different stories. We also intend to contact academic staff to ask for their suggestions for future purchases.



This is an exciting development for us and we'll be asking for feedback from the students who use them (which we look forward to sharing with you).

When is Reading Not Reading?

Young people's self-perceptions as readers: An investigation including family, peer and school influences is a 2008 report by Christina Clark, Sarah Osborne and Rodie Akerman published by the National Literacy Trust. A study of over 1,600 Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils it explores the extent to which young people see themselves as 'readers'.

The findings show that a huge percentage of children who define themselves as 'non-readers' do in fact read: by associating reading with fiction books, factual books, poetry and newspapers, they ignore the fact that they regularly engage with websites, emails and social networking sites. The researchers also believe that teachers define readers in this way too.

The report finds that these self-defined non-readers see reading as "geeky and boring" and not something they would aspire to. It suggests that rather than trying to make more young people into readers, more needs to be done to try to change the perception of what 'reader' actually means.

The authors see this year's National Year of Reading as "an ideal opportunity to promote the value of many different kinds of reading, not only for enjoyment but also as having a contribution to make to educational development and attainment."

Read the report in full at The Literacy Trust website at www.literacytrust.org.uk (under 'Research').

When I Was A Nipper...

When Finance Assistant Debbie Kirkup was a nipper she loved **The Moon On The Water** by **Nina Warner-Hooke**. Heard of it? Nor had we, nor could we find any trace of it except for a mention on a website belonging to the book's illustrator David Parkins. We emailed David in Canada to see if he would mind us using some of his illustrations, and it turns out that until two years ago he lived in Lincoln, just around the corner from BG! Talk about a small world. Now back to Debbie...

"I first heard the story read on Jackanory and liked it so much that I just had to have the book. I think it was probably the first book I ever bought. I actually remember the day I got it. The trudge around town seemed fruitless. No where had it, therefore, suggested my tired out mum, maybe I had got the book's name wrong. I clutched my pennies and with a heavy heart followed her on the last errand before going home. The cramped little newsagent shop was the last stop, and WOW, there it was! At last! My pennies were exchanged for the crisp, bright new book.

As a child, I simply loved the story. It's the tale of six carousel horses

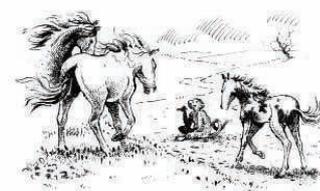


that magically become real horses to escape being chopped up for firewood because they are being replaced at their fair by modern speedboats. They want to find a place "where horses live wild". A gypsy advises them to "follow the moon on the water" and thus their adventures begin.

It is a fantasy story with good and bad fortune. There's some sadness, but happiness and contentment too. At the beginning of the story you would never guess the destinies of each of these beautiful friends! As their adventures unfold, the scenes are brought to life by several [of David's] delightfully sketched illustrations: surely a winning formula for a children's book.

I still love the story, and I still have the book! It is one of the few things that have been kept from my childhood. Now, it is dog-eared, very creased and several of its yellowed pages have come loose.

Remember that feeling you have for a favourite toy from your childhood? That's the feeling I have for this book.



Big Boost for Children's Charity

As we write, children's writers and illustrators are busy collaborating on **The Big Birthday Book**, a project to celebrate the 60th birthday of HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales on November 14th. Due to be published later this year by Jonathan Cape, the book will be edited by Michael Morpurgo and Quentin Blake, and will include contributions from award-winning authors Jacqueline Wilson, Philip Pullman and Anthony Horowitz.

Royalties will be donated to **The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts**, a charity (of which Prince Charles is President) committed to ensuring access to the arts for children. Thousands of children in the UK

The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts

leave school having never set foot in an art gallery, watched a live performance or heard an orchestra play. **Children & the Arts** works to redress the balance by providing funding and support to arts organisations. This allows them to form partnerships with their local primary and secondary schools in order to create opportunities for children to visit and engage in arts and cultural events. In the coming year the charity will help over 38,000 children and its official ambassadors include Kate Adie, Richard E. Grant, Baz Luhrman, Sharon Osbourne and Hayley Westenra.

Want to know more, get involved, or make a donation?

Visit www.childrenandarts.org.uk

Anne of Green Gables hits 100 (1908-2008)

Is there any female out there who *doesn't* love **Anne of Green Gables**? Many of you will have read the book/s, or watched the film, or been glued to the TV series at some point. No? Then you've missed out on a truly delightful and heart-warming story. [Can you tell Emma's a big fan?].

The Anne of the title is 11 year-old red-haired, freckle-faced orphan Anne Shirley. Anne is adopted by siblings Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert who live on Green Gables Farm in Avonlea, on Canada's Prince Edward Island. (They were expecting a boy.) She becomes friendly with Diana Barry, and not so friendly with Gilbert Blythe. And she gets into *lots* of scrapes, like managing to dye her hair green.

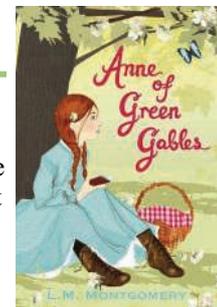
Anne Shirley was the creation of L.B. (Lucy Maud) Montgomery who, like Anne, spent her early years on Prince Edward Island.

Born in 1874 (on the same day as Winston Churchill no less) Montgomery was raised by her grandparents. Growing up she wrote several stories and poems, but **Anne of Green Gables** was her first novel. She wrote twenty more novels, nineteen of which are set on Prince Edward Island and eight of which follow Anne's life as she grows out of childhood to become a teacher, and eventually a wife (to Gilbert Blythe of course) and mother.

In 1911 Montgomery married Presbyterian minister Ewan Macdonald and together they had three sons (one of whom died at birth, as

does one of Anne's children). Once married she never lived on Prince Edward Island again, but following her death in Toronto in 1942 she was returned there to be buried in Cavendish, not far from her childhood home.

To mark Anne's centenary Puffin has repackaged the original book (see new cover image above) and published an authorised prequel, **Before Green Gables**, by multi award-winning Canadian author Budge Wilson. It's been receiving very positive reviews so why not pick a copy and judge for yourself?



There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (1929-1994)

First Words Comp

Last issue's winner was student Ria Dunthorne who received a £10 book token for correctly spotting that our quote came from Anthony Browne's **Piggybook**. This issue's first words are :

"A mouse took a stroll through a deep dark wood."

Identify the book and e-mail your name and your answer by May 30th to hullabaloo@bishoptg.ac.uk and a £10 book token could be yours!