

Hullabaloo!

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

Volume 3, Issue 3, October 2007. Compiled by Janice Morris and Emma Sansby. Please direct all comments to hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk

A Warm Cosy Welcome

Seeing the nights draw in reminds us what a perfect time of year it is to curl up with a good book, a cup of hot chocolate and escape for a while. Why not escape with *Hullabaloo*!? We've got contributions from Steve Woodhouse & Steve Willshaw, we find out what lecturer Richard Woolley's favourite book was when he was a nipper, and Janice is let out of the Library for a day.

Emma & Janice

BG Honours Neil Griffiths

July 18th was Graduation Day here at BG. The weather might have been changeable but the mood was most definitely sunny, as the successes and achievements of the 2007 graduates were deservedly recognised and very thoroughly celebrated!

This year was a bit special: we got to meet and spend time with the very lovely Neil Griffiths, who was in Lincoln to receive an honorary degree from the University College (for which he was nominated by Janice — both pictured right). The University College awards a handful of such degrees each year to individuals who have made a significant contribution to either the local area, or to one of the disciplines taught here. Janice nominated Neil because she felt that his contribution to children's literature and education, and especially his development of Storysacks® (which Janice describes as 'a simple but brilliant idea'), were significant enough to be publicly recognised.

The evening before graduation a welcome dinner was held in honour of all three 2007 honorary graduands, and Janice admits that she was nervous about meeting someone that she held in such high regard. But she needn't have worried—he was very friendly and quickly put everyone at ease.

The following day, during his address in the Cathedral, Neil made clear how proud he was to be honoured by the University College, and later described it to Janice as a highlight which will motivate him for the rest of his life. It was clear that Neil loved every minute of his visit to BG—the robing, the photographs, the ceremony, the procession through the town, and the celebrations on campus—and his obvious pleasure in and enthusiasm for the day was highly infectious! After lunch he insisted on seeing our Children's Collection and was particularly impressed by the picture books.



We thoroughly enjoyed our time with Neil (and his guests, who were just as warm and friendly as Neil). He is a wonderful, funny and inspirational man who obviously loves his work, and spends every waking moment promoting stories and reading. Modestly, he refuses to take all the credit for the incredible success of Storysacks® and insists that although he was the lucky one who came up with the idea, the thousands of unsung heroes who make and promote Storysacks® deserve just as much credit as he.

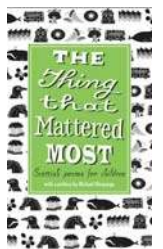
Neil's latest book, *Sam's Sack from Santa* (Red Robin Books, £5.99), illustrated by Gabrielle Buckingham, is pictured left.



Awards Roundup

The 2006 **CILIP Carnegie** and **Kate Greenaway Medal** winners were announced back in July. The Carnegie winner was Meg Rosoff for *Just in Case* (Puffin, £6.99) and the Greenaway winner was Mini Grey's *The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon* (Red Fox, £5.99).

The **CLPE Poetry Award** went to *The Thing That Mattered Most: Scottish Poems for Children*, edited by Julie Johnstone & Michael Morpurgo (Black and White Publishing, £6.99, cover image by Iain McIntosh).



In the **Booktrust Early Years Awards** the Baby Book Award went to Jess Stockham for *Tucking In!* (Child's Play, £4.99), the Pre-School Award went to Polly Dunbar for *Penguin* (Walker, £7.99), and the Best Emerging Illustrator Award went to Emily Gravett for *Monkey and Me* (Macmillan, £9.99).

Jenny Valentine won **The Guardian Children's Fiction Prize** for *Finding Violet Park* (HarperCollins Childrens, £5.99).

There were several categories in the **English 4-11 Best Books Award** for the best illustrated books of 2006. The Key Stage 1 fiction winner was *Mia's Story* by Michael Foreman (Walker, £5.99), and the Key Stage 2 fiction

winner was *The Lost Happy Endings* written by Carol Ann Duffy and illustrated by Jane Ray (Bloomsbury, £12.99). The 'Special Award' went to Shaun Tan for *The Arrival* (Hodder, £14.99).

The **2007 Branford Boase Award** was presented on June 28th and went to *A Swift Pure Cry* (David Fickling, £10.99) by Siobhan Dowd. Sadly, Siobhan died of cancer only 2 months later, on August 21st.

The **Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award** was presented for the first time to an organisation, the Venezuelan *Banco del Libro (Book Bank)*, a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving children's literacy.

Another organisation, ClearVision, received the **Quentin Blake Award**, presented to a *Road Dahl Foundation*-funded project which Blake feels has touched the lives of children in a special way. Find out more about ClearVision at www.clearvisionproject.org

Promoting Writing as a Skill for Living

Steve Woodhouse, Primary Strategy English Consultant at North East Lincolnshire Council tells us about a new website for teachers:

"Everybody Writes" (www.everybodywrites.org.uk) is a brand new website that has been developed collaboratively by Booktrust, The National Literacy Trust and the Department for Children Schools and Families.

everybody writes

writing resources for teachers, by teachers

The website offers teachers innovative ideas and practical resources to get primary and secondary pupils excited about writing, and celebrates writing as a skill for living: something that can be enjoyed by young people at work, at play, in the home, and in the community. It lists and provides an overview of over 70 local, regional and national writing projects - from using paintings as a stimulus, to setting up an online community magazine - and includes details of 4 pilot projects that explored the idea of writing as a skill for living. All of the projects can be searched by key stage, writing genre or theme, and some projects include full case studies."

We hope you'll agree that this sounds like a really useful resource.

On another note, in the last issue of Hullabaloo! we included an article on **First News**, a newspaper for children. Steve tells us that he has contributed to a new DVD called **The Making of First News** which he describes as "an exciting and informative documentary showing how First News is made, from editorial meetings through to it reaching the shops" and "the perfect tool for teaching newspaper reporting and interview skills". It comes with full teacher's notes.

Find out more at www.firstnews.co.uk.



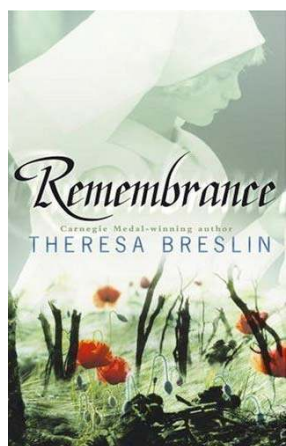
Interesting Reading

In June 2007 the United Kingdom Literacy Association published a report entitled **Teachers as Readers in the 21st Century**. Based on the findings of a questionnaire which was sent to 1200 primary school teachers in 15 local authorities whose main responsibility wasn't literacy, the survey was designed to find out about teachers' reading habits, their knowledge of children's literature, their use of children's literature in the classroom, and their involvement in local services and groups like the Schools Library Service and Youth Libraries Group. Around half of those who responded to the questionnaire worked at Key Stage 1 and the other half at Key Stage 2. All had varying levels of teaching experience.

Phase 1 of a 2-phase project, the survey has already generated an enormous amount of very interesting data. For example, whilst 46% of respondents were able to name 6 'good' children's writers, only 9% could name 6 'good' poets and only 13% 6 'good' picture book illustrators/authors. Equally, only 40% had taken children to visit a public library in the past 6 months. Phase 2 of the project will involve case studies in 5 local authorities, and one of its aims is to bring teachers and librarians closer together (never a bad thing!). There's *far* too much interesting content to summarise it in this tiny space, so why not read the report yourself?

Take a look at <http://tinyurl.com/24dkjf>

Featured Author: Theresa Breslin



With St. Andrew's Day and Remembrance Day both in November, and so soon after the publication of this edition of *Hullabaloo!*, Theresa Breslin seemed like the perfect choice for this issue's featured author. Not only a Scottish author, Breslin is also a Scottish librarian, and wrote her first book whilst working on a mobile library (she's even written a 'library rap'!). Very obviously passionate about literacy, Breslin has been involved in all sorts of groups, trusts, initiatives and committees to publicise and promote reading. She's also written books for all age groups, and in 1995 won the CILIP Carnegie Medal for **Whispers in the Graveyard**, a suspenseful story about a troubled young dyslexic boy called Solomon. Her latest book, **The Medici Seal**, set in Italy in 1502, has been shortlisted for the Booktrust Teenage Prize.

One of Breslin's most popular books is **Remembrance**, the touching story of four teenagers' experiences of World War I. The book has a strong sense of place: from the safe, peaceful Scottish village where the characters are brought up, to the horrific wasteland of the Western Front. It's a great book, made more poignant if read at this time of year, and, like another book set at the same time—Michael Morpurgo's **Private Peaceful**—it's story and characters are likely to linger with you for a while.

To learn to read is to light
a fire; every syllable that
is spelled out is a spark.

Victor Hugo

Out With The Old...

A Booktrust survey of primary and secondary schools has revealed serious underfunding of school libraries, often resulting in collections that are no more than a box of books or shelves in corridors. Secondary schools spend on average £4.28 per head per year and Primary schools £10.25. Find the full report on the Booktrust website.

Sounds like depressing reading, but it needn't be: books should be about fun, not statistics! 2008 is a *Year of Reading* so why not prepare for it by spring cleaning your school library? Because it's autumn? No excuse! Have a look at the books on your shelves. Are they in good condition? Is your non-fiction up-to-date and accurate? Better a small collection of attractive books that children want to borrow, than a large collection of old, tattered volumes that just sit and collect dust, right?

The Lama

The one-l lama,
He's a priest.
The two-l llama,
He's a beast.
And I will bet
A silk pajama
There isn't any
Three-l llama.



by Ogden Nash

Rooted in Reading

Steve Willshaw, Senior School Improvement Consultant for CfBT tells us about a new regional project to encourage reading for pleasure:

*"International research has shown that reading for pleasure by children is the **best** indicator of future academic success. It is because of this that CfBT, working in partnership with Lincolnshire and Rutland County Councils is launching a programme called **Rooted in Reading**. The project will run throughout 2008, alongside the National Year of Reading, and aims to make a positive impact on children's futures for many years to come.*

Rooted in Reading covers the entire school age range. Key features include close liaison with school libraries, the Schools' Libraries Service and the counties' public libraries to make books more widely available, and to raise awareness of the reading resources that can be borrowed by students, parents and teachers alike.



*The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education will be organising conferences and in-service training throughout the year for invited schools to promote reading, enjoyment of books and literacy achievement in schools. Schools will be encouraged to show their commitment to reading by meeting the criteria for the new **Lincolnshire and Rutland Reading Mark**. A central aspect of this will be students' use of the new **Rooted in Reading Passport** as a means of recording and developing reading skills. We are even hoping to decorate a mobile library van so that it can visit schools and deliver a mini book festival, complete with storytellers, poets and exciting interactive features. Keep your eyes peeled!"*

For more information please contact Steve at swillshaw@cfbt.com

What Janice Did On Her Day Off

They say that there are only seven stories in the world from which all narratives derive. On a recent visit to Newcastle I took my family to **Seven Stories**, a seven-floor warehouse (geddit?) converted into a museum and archive devoted to children's literature. (You may remember a report on its opening back in our October 2005 issue.)

Though most of the visitors seemed to be under 5 years old, the museum has something for everyone. Serious researchers have access to an archive of books, manuscripts, original artwork and related artefacts, and there's plenty of interactive fun for kids of all ages.



Photo by Bevan Morris

My own toddlers, aged 17, 14, and 52, were all kept very well-entertained. One discovered Antonia Barber's story of **The Mosehole Cat** (illustrated by Nicola Bayley) for the first time; another was intrigued by a DVD showing Quentin Blake drawing the characters for Roald Dahl's **The Twits**; and the third was fascinated to see how Phillip Pullman thinks "out loud" and criticises himself in pencilled notes throughout his handwritten manuscripts.

Our favourite bit was probably the Level 4 Gallery where ten Walker picture books are exhibited. A scene has been staged from each book using appropriate props. For Jill Murphy's **Five Minutes' Peace** the illustration of the children of the Large family having breakfast has been reproduced as a life-size model, and art materials have been added so that the visiting children can interact with the exhibition. My 17-year-old's favourite thing about this area was that children could be seen carrying the props from one story into another, so chimps from **Hug** would be sitting on a couch watching Michael Rosen on TV performing **We're Going on a Bear Hunt**!

We had a great day, and would encourage you to visit Seven Stories if you get the chance — you won't be disappointed. If you do decide to visit it's worth checking the internet for directions first — we were only one minute's walk away before we found any signs to the Museum!

Featured Website

Hot on the heels of social networking sites like *Facebook* and *YouTube* comes



Spinebreakers, marketed as the UK's first online book community for teenagers.

Launched in September by Penguin, Spinebreakers is a funky site edited by nine teenagers with support from a large network of other young contributors dotted around the country.

As well as the usual features — news, reviews, interviews, competitions — there are podcasts and blogs, and chances for readers to get involved by submitting stories, lyrics, and poems.

Check it out at www.spinebreakers.co.uk

Featured Journal: English 4-11

This issue's featured journal is *English 4-11*, published three times a year by the English Association and the UK Literacy Association (who have kindly allowed us to reproduce the cover from their latest issue).



First published in 1991 as *Primary English*, it was re-named *English Four to Eleven* in 1997 and is a respected forum for all those involved with teaching English in primary schools. The magazine discusses and communicates ideas and information, and includes practical research, classroom projects, practitioners' experiences, as well as reviews of books, videos, software and other resources.

The journal also endeavours to promote the very best in children's books. Each year prizes are awarded for illustrated children's fiction and non-fiction books at Key Stages 1 and 2. This year's non-fiction winners were *Oscar and the Frog: A Book about Growing* by Geoff Waring, and *Pick Me Up – Stuff You Need to Know...* by David Roberts and Jeremy Leslie. Check out the **Awards Roundup** on page 1 for the prize-winning fiction.

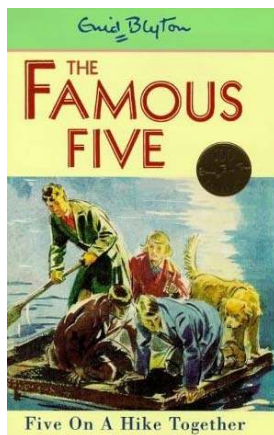
When I Was A Nipper...

Senior Lecturer Richard Woolley has chosen **Five on a Hike Together** by Enid Blyton as his favourite read when he was a nipper....

*"It was the ginger beer (we were a teetotal household) and the rugs (which I thought were carpets) and the 'rounds' of bread (I never knew it meant sandwiches) in Enid Blyton's **Five on a Hike Together** that caught my imagination.*

I bought a hardback copy in a jumble sale when I was eight years old. I don't know why I chose it – the plain red cover lacked a dust jacket, and the illustrations were quite stark. I suspect that I thought it looked rather grown up. I had also read other books by Blyton, and perhaps that made a connection. I still have that copy.

I know that the book is full of stereotypes and does not reflect today's world; but it fired my imagination. The



idea of heading off on an adventure, of solving mysteries and enjoying the freedom of the countryside seemed very exciting to me.

I joined the Youth Hostel Association aged twelve and hitch-hiked around Derbyshire with a mate that year (how dangerous!) on the back of reading this book far too often. I have a certificate from Chris Bonington to prove it! My mum has kittens now when I remind her that she let me head off on my own at such an age. It led to quite a few other adventures!

If you are intrigued about what happens to Saucy Jane at Two Trees near Gloomy

Water then you might enjoy reading this book. If you can be patient with its idiosyncrasies and bear to tolerate its stereotyping of class and gender you might have a really good read. When I was nipper I certainly did."

Cover illustration by Eileen Soper. Reproduced by permission of Hodder and Stoughton Limited.

First Words Comp

We had a record number of entries into the last First Words competition - thank you!

The winner was Flexi PGCE student Katy Wilson who receives a £10 book token for correctly spotting that our quote came from the much-loved **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle. This issue's first words are from a book first published in 1968:

"Plop was a baby Barn Owl, and he lived with his Mummy and Daddy at the top of a very tall tree in a field."

Identify the book and e-mail your name and your answer by December 14th to hullabaloo@bishopg.ac.uk and a £10 book token could be yours!

Heads Down Across Lincolnshire

Young people all across the county are currently reading their way through the shortlisted titles for the **Lincolnshire Young People's Book Award**. Sounds like fun, although from the look of the lists there are going to be some tough decisions to make!

The shortlisted books are:

Ages 9-12

Julia Golding's **The Diamond of Drury Lane**
Michael Morpurgo's **Alone on a Wide Wide Sea**
Linda Newbery's **Catcall**
Angie Sage's **Flyte**
Carole Wilkinson's **Dragonkeeper**

Ages 12-14

Kate Cann's **Leaving Poppy**
Anne Fine's **The Road of Bones**
Thom Madley's **Marco's Pendulum**
Terry Pratchett's **Wintersmith**
Mark Walden's **H.I.V.E.**



Lincolnshire Young
People's Book Award

Students from the University College will again be shadowing the award: Lindy Nahmad-Williams's 3rd year BA Primary Education students will be shadowing the 9-12 category, whilst Ruth Hewitt's PGCE Secondary English with Drama students will be shadowing the 12-14 category.

Last year the BG shadowers chose a different winner to the county's kids, so it'll be interesting to see the outcome of this year's deliberations.

**Children are made
readers on the laps of
their parents.**

Emilie Buchwald

Farewell Kate Petty (1951-2007)

We're sad to report that innovative award-winning author and editor Kate Petty died of cancer on May 22nd at the age of 55.

Years before Lynn Truss's *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* hit the shelves, Kate Petty's 1996 **The Great Grammar Book** smashed children's preconceptions that grammar and punctuation could only be, well, dull. A fabulously fresh pop-up book, full of wheels and flaps and tabs, it became an instant best-seller and was translated into 12 languages. (Emma & Janice really wish it had been published when they were little.)

Katharine Petty, neé Chapman, was born in Hertfordshire and attended Bedales School and York University. During her writing career she authored almost 100 books, and though the majority were non-fiction, her fiction included the popular **Girls Like You** series, and **Tales of Beauty and Cruelty**, a modern re-telling of 10 Hans Christian Andersen fairy tales, co-authored by Caroline Castle.

But it will be for her innovative pop-up books that Petty will be best remembered. After **The Great Grammar Book**, she and her illustrator Jennie Maizels published several other (equally fun-filled) titles including **The**

Terrific Times Tables Book, **The Perfect Punctuation Book** and **The Super Science Book**.

2005 saw the publication of **The Global Garden**, inspired by and published by the Eden Project, for whom Petty was working as a commissioning editor. It won Junior Prize at the Royal Society / Aventis Prizes for Science Books in 2006.

What a great loss to the world of children's books.

