



# IPSWICH CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUP

December Newsletter 2011



The busy build up to Christmas is underway, but hopefully you can find a couple of minutes to catch up on our latest news and maybe even find an idea for that last minute present among Jayne's Recommended Reads.

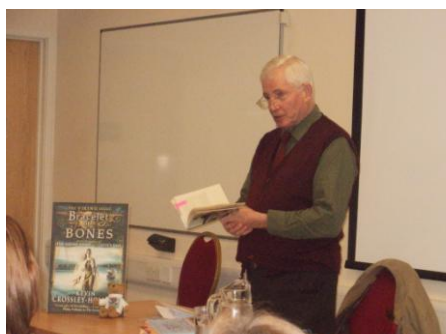
**[www.icbg.co.uk](http://www.icbg.co.uk)**

We have recently been updating our website and, apart from one or two minor alterations that our designer is kindly working on, it is up and running. Please check it out, add your comments and if you have any recommended reads or reviews, especially from children, please let us know, as we would love to share them.

## PAST EVENTS

### Picturing the Past

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at Kesgrave Conference Centre



*The Conference opened with Kevin Crossley-Holland weaving his magic and making us think about Remembrance Sunday, with the effect of war on families though the ages. As he quoted Beowulf, (in the original of course!), he reminded us that language is our way of remembering the past and contextualising our lives with reference to history.*

*Harriet Castor was another of the spell-binding authors who enthralled us during the recent Ipswich Children's Book Group One Day Conference. She had become fascinated by Henry VIII the man, the events of his childhood and his relationships with his parents that had formed him, but really wanted the readers to empathise with Henry and to understand, through the medium of historical fiction, that people in the past were just like us.*



*The librarians from the Suffolk Library Service, Liz Rastrick and Jacky Offord also explored how children can be helped to learn from historical fiction, providing a fantastic list of books through the ages and for different reading skills and activities.*

*They were followed by James Mayhew, illustrator of the Katie books, discussing how images of*

*the past can resonate with us still, the dilemma facing the illustrator of the past and how authentic you can be in terms of materials, perspective, feel... and after a fascinating presentation from Gill Harvey from Guinea Bissau, talking about her Egyptian Chronicle series, the conference ended with Simon and Alex Scarrow talking about recreated pasts, imagined futures, exploring our own identities through historical fiction and getting boys to read.*

**Julia Miller, FCBG Executive**

This is an abridged version of Julia's report, to read the complete version and to see more photos please visit <http://www.icbg.co.uk/2011/05/icbg-one-day-conference/>

## **Sally Gardner**

**Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at Woodbridge Primary School**

Young Browsers Bookshop organised this event, which some of our members went to.

*Dyslexia has long been seen as a problem, but argues author Sally Gardner, it should be seen as a gift. Having been labelled stupid, unteachable, and much worse, during her schooldays, she has learnt to work with her dyslexia to produce award winning books including I, Coriander, The Red Blade and The Silver Necklace. Her new novel, The Double Shadow, is an intriguing exploration of memory, the past and the future through the eyes of Amaryllis stuck in a dream-like world.*

**Jayne Gould**

*Excellent insight into the difficulties of dyslexia.*

**Leanne Baines**

## **NEWS**

### **Got to Read**

Got to Read is a new charity based in Suffolk dedicated to improving lives through improving literacy. Everyone should be able to enjoy a good standard of literacy and feel confident about reading, writing and speaking. The project will work with local communities and partners to offer activities and events which bring people to share and enjoy reading. Training will be available to volunteers who will be able to offer one-to-one support to help others reach their own personal reading goals. Ipswich Children's Book Group is one of a number of local organisations supporting the project.

Further information can be found on [www.gottoread.org.uk](http://www.gottoread.org.uk)

### **The Eleanor Farjeon Award 2011**

Founded in 1966, this award is presented annually in memory of the celebrated author Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965). It is coordinated by the Children's Book Circle and is given to individuals or organisations that have been deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to the world of children's books. Previous winners include Shirley Hughes, Books for Keeps, Michael Rosen, Julia Eccleshare, Philip Pullman and Wendy Cooling to name but a few.



This year it was awarded to the Federation of Children's Book Groups and is a great honour for the Federation, its members and its National Executive.

At a ceremony in London the Children's Book Circle and Anne Harvey, from the Eleanor Farjeon estate, presented the £2000 gift to Chair Adam Lancaster. In his acceptance speech Adam spent time passionately talking about the work that everyone in the charity is involved in. This ranged from groups running numerous events in their localities with a number of partners, to the national executive working as an umbrella providing opportunities for a whole host of events to take place.

## FILMS

### Hugo

**Released Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011**

Hugo is a 3D adventure drama based on Brian Selznick's novel *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, about an orphan living alone in Paris' railway station in the 1930s and a toy shop owner there. With the help of an eccentric girl, he searches for the answer to a mystery linking the father he has recently lost, the toy shop owner, an automaton and a heart shaped lock.



### War Horse

**To be released Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

A British-American war drama film directed by Steven Spielberg and based on *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo. It begins with the remarkable friendship between a horse named Joey and a young man called Albert, who tames and trains him. They are forcefully parted and the film follows the extraordinary journey of the horse as he moves through the war, changing and inspiring the lives of all those he meets - British cavalry, German soldiers, and a French farmer and his granddaughter.

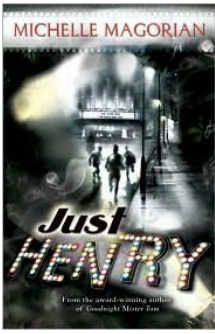
### Hunger Games

**To be released on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012**

Based on Suzanne Collins' popular book *The Hunger Games* and winner of the Red House Children's book Award in 2010, this film is set in a future where the Capitol selects a boy and girl from the twelve districts to fight to the death on live television, which all citizens are required to watch. Katniss volunteers to take her younger sister's place and, with her male counterpart Peeta, is pitted against bigger, stronger representatives who have trained for this their whole lives.



## TV DRAMAS



### **Just Henry**

**ITV Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 7.00 pm**

*Just Henry* by Michelle Magorian is set in post-World War II Britain. Josh Bolt takes on the title role of Henry – a boy who is struggling to come to terms with his father's death and his mother's remarriage. Henry begins to become obsessed with investigating the circumstances of his father's death but things take an unexpected turn when a man meets Henry at his father's graveside and claims to be his Dad.

### **The Gruffalo's Child**

**BBC1 Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 6.30 pm**

Following the success of *The Gruffalo* two years ago, BBC1 are showing a new animated version of *The Gruffalo's Child* this Christmas.



### **The Borrowers**

**BBC1 Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 7.30pm**

A classic book updated for TV this Christmas, starring Christopher Eccleston as Arriety's father and Victoria Wood and Stephen Fry as 'Human Beans'.

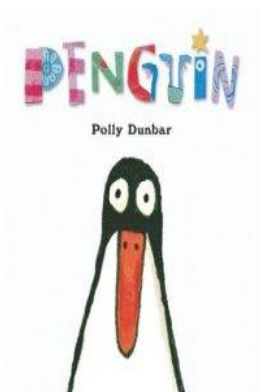
### **Great Expectations**

**BBC1 Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup>–Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 9.00 pm**

A three part adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel with Ray Winstone as convict Magwitch, Gillian Anderson as Miss Havisham and David Suchet as lawyer Jaggers.



## THEATRE



### **Penguin**

**New Wolsey Studio, St. Georges Street, Ipswich**

**6<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 (excluding Sundays) 11.00 am and 2.00 pm on most days**

This production performed by the Long Nosed Puppet Company and based on Polly Dunbar's book, is suitable for 2-7 years olds and is 40 minutes long plus playtime. Tickets are £7. It has proved very popular, but there are still some seats available. For more information visit: <http://www.wolseytheatre.co.uk/?lid=2174#booknow>

**Tiddler and Other Terrific Tales**  
**New Wolsey Theatre, Civic Drive, Ipswich**  
**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 2.00 pm and**  
**Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 11.00 am and 2.00 pm**

This is a magical collection of Julia Donaldson's most popular titles, including Tiddler, The Smartest Giant in Town, A Squash and A Squeeze and many more favourites. Suitable for ages 3+, it runs for 55 minutes without an interval and all tickets are £7 each. For booking details please visit <http://www.wolseytheatre.co.uk/3080/shows/tiddler-and-other-terrific-tales.html#booknow>

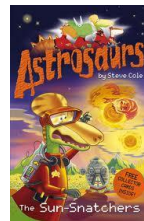


## FUTURE EVENTS

We have some exciting events coming up in 2012, so put the dates in your diary and we will send you full details of each one as the arrangements are finalised.

**Astrosaurs Author**  
**Steve Cole returns to Ipswich**  
**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012**

[www.stevecolebooks.co.uk/](http://www.stevecolebooks.co.uk/)

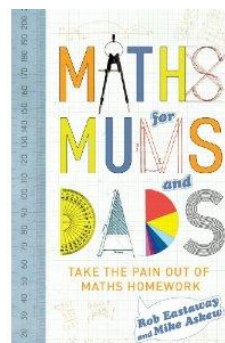


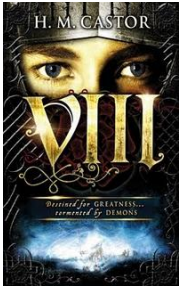
**Ipswich Favourites The 2 Steves**  
**Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore are coming back to entertain and inspire in their own special way week beginning Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

[www.the2steves.net/](http://www.the2steves.net/)

**Robert Eastaway helping to make maths fun**  
**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

[www.robeastaway.com/](http://www.robeastaway.com/)





**Harriet Castor**

**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

Harriet returns to Ipswich to talk about VIII. So if you missed her at our recent One Day Conference make sure you put this date in your diary.

<http://harrietcastor.com/>

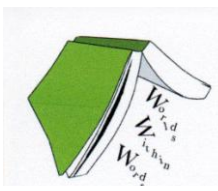
**Other 2012 book event dates:**

Week commencing Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> January – National School Libraries Week

Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February – National Library Day

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> March – World Book Day

Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April – World Book Night



**Federation of Children's Book Groups Annual Conference**

**Worlds Within Words**

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

**at Bradfield College, Reading**



FCBG Conferences are always something to look forward to and can become quite addictive!

2012's looks to be just as exciting and inspirational as previous years, with many well-known names from the world of children's books – Charlie Higson, Eileen Browne, Helen Oxenbury, Korky Paul and Wendy Cooling to name but a few. To appreciate the great line up, please visit [http://www.fcbg.org.uk/uploads/pdf/prov%20prog%20\\_web\\_%203.pdf](http://www.fcbg.org.uk/uploads/pdf/prov%20prog%20_web_%203.pdf) and see the provisional programme.

The 10% Early Bird discount applies until 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and a booking form is enclosed with this newsletter. Some of us have already booked our places and if you decide to join us we are sure you will not be disappointed.

**RECOMMENDED READS FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Norman the Slug with a Silly Shell**

Sue Hendra

Simon and Schuster

Norman longs to join in the fun and games with the snails, but he needs a shell. He thinks he's found the perfect solution, but one thing leads to another... Brightly illustrated, this is a lot of fun.

**A Stork in a Baobab Tree**

Catherine House illustrated by Polly Alakija

Frances Lincoln

This glorious picture book, glowing with jewel colours, takes the traditional carol *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, and transfers it to an African setting. Everyone is getting ready to celebrate the birth

of a child and the gifts, starting with a stork in baobab tree, reflect the traditions and activities of village life.

### **The Big Snuggle Up**

Brian Patten illustrated by Nicola Bayley

Andersen Press

Scarecrow is looking for a warm place out of the snow and brings the mouse which lives up his sleeve. But they are not the only ones looking for somewhere cosy to stay. This is a perfect bedtime read with lots to explore in the pictures.

### **The Great Big Book of Families**

Mary Hoffman illustrated by Ros Asquith

Frances Lincoln

Families come in all shapes and sizes and this book takes a look at all aspects, including homes, holidays and pets. A book to share again and again.

### **Small Change for Stuart**

Lissa Evans

Doubleday

Stuart Horten moves house and finds himself caught up in the strangest adventure of his life. His great-uncle was a talented magician whose workshop has been lost and Stuart must follow the clues to find it. An exciting blend of comedy and magic.

### **Little Manfred**

Michael Morpurgo illustrated by Michael Foreman

HarperCollins Children's Books

In the Imperial War Museum is a wooden dachshund carved by a German prisoner of war who was working on a British farm. This heartwarming tale of friendship tells the story of its making and how it brought enemies closer together. Michael Morpurgo has set the story at Kessingland, an area which Michael Foreman knows well, having spent his childhood at Pakefield.

### **Animals at the EDGE**

Jonathan Baillie and Marilyn Baillie

Watts

EDGE stands for Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered and this book follows scientists as they study and protect some of the world's most unique and extraordinary animals. A fascinating insight in the work being undertaken to save creatures such as the bumblebee bat, Yangtze River dolphin and the long-eared jerboa.

### **Sticky Ends**

Jeanne Willis illustrated by Tony Ross

Andersen Press

Twenty-six cautionary verses in which the characters meet *very* sticky ends! Open if you dare and read about Felicity Finch who was prone to pinch, Icy Clare who refused to wear clothes even in the snow, and Spec-Less Rex who really should have worn his glasses!

### **Lost Christmas**

David Logan

Quercus

Goose has had the worst year of his life. His parents were killed in a car accident the previous Christmas Eve, and with his Nan slipping into Alzheimer's, his anger and despair have led him into a life of crime. Now his beloved dog has gone missing. Then mysterious stranger Anthony appears who seems to know everyone's secrets but nothing about himself. Will he be able to help Goose? If you've ever cried at *It's a Wonderful Life*, you'll love this story.

### **Lia's Guide to Winning the Lottery**

Keren David

Frances Lincoln

We've all wondered what it would be like to win the lottery and how we'd cope with unexpected millions. 16 year old Lia finds out when she scoops 8 million pounds and life is turned upside down. This is a delightful, funny read which explores big issues with a light touch.

**Jayne Gould**

**As always a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at next year's events**

**A Merry Christmas to You All  
And  
Happy Reading in 2012**

**Shirley Imlach  
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December 2011**

