



# Conference 2011

## Worth Abbey



Federation of Children's Book Groups 2011



# David Almond Opening Speaker





David gave a scintillating talk on his personal vision of writing: like singing he said, a wonderful creative act, with stories coming from his imagination like a gift seemingly from nowhere.

Although he did not plan to write books for young people he loves the playfulness of children's books, that allow for true experimentation. Children's authors have a desire to communicate with their audience.

David's stimulating talk was a wonderful way to start the weekend.



# Daniel Hahn in conversation with Chris Priestley and Jon Mayhew





Both writers gave fascinating insights into the research they have undertaken to create their wonderful gothic tales of horror and how writers of the period had informed their visions. Jon cited M.R. James and '*The Clock*' by William Harvey. Both discussed why we all still love to be frightened – how readers suspend disbelief in order to enter the writer's and their own imaginations.

And Daniel, as always, drew out tantalising information from both – how as the youngest of four children, both authors were half terrified by their eldest brother...



# A wealth of Seminar speakers

Ali Sparkes



Jan Fearnley



Pauline Francis





# And more....

John Matthews  
(and Caitlin)



Burchett .... And..... Vogler....





# And two more....

CJ Skuse and Janet Foxley





# Non-Fiction

After the success of the inaugural National Non-Fiction Day, Chair, Adam Lancaster, was thrilled to introduce a Non-Fiction Panel to the Conference. Nicola Davies, Viv French and Marcia Williams explored the role they feel non-fiction plays within children's reading. Not only sharing knowledge and learning 'facts' but also challenging information, learning about the world and putting knowledge into an emotional context to engage the heart as well as the mind.

And, if you can think of a better word to describe all this than 'non' fiction then let Adam know!



## Nicola Davies, Viv French and Marcia Williams





## A collage of great authors...and illustrators

Lee Weatherley Andrew Lane



Viv Schwarz



Bruce Ingman



Petr Horacek





## Justin Somper: Vampirates





## The Gala Dinner



Entertained beforehand with great energy by Cressida Cowell taming her dragons and then, after dinner, by a more thoughtful and personal story from Giles Andreae.



## Cressida and Giles





## Steve Cole



Steve is a workaholic - he has published 55 books since 2005, but as he explained, it has been a slow apprenticeship from his first job as Junior Assistant at the *Noddy* magazine to Dr. Who publishing, a stint as 'Samantha' Cole to the *Astrosaur*s series that he has won awards for.

His aim is to write for the entire age range of children, to create worlds that they feel comfortable in and wish to explore.

With a self-confessed compulsion to write many more books are to be expected....



## Jayne Roscoe and MG Harris





## More conversation with Daniel... Alex Scarrow, Simon Scarrow and Phil Earle





## Julie Hearn



Julie gave a fascinating insight into the inspiration of Millais for her well-known book *Ivy* and how she shaped her tale – developing the crisis that had to be resolved. She worked hard to weave threads through three generations up to *Rowan the Strange*.



## And too soon it was over Jonathan Stroud gives the Farewell Address



Until Conference 2012!