

For newsletter

National share a story month was celebrated in May this year with a group story entitled "Bonzo Mayhem". Working closely with Penguin who are celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Federation of Children's Book Groups Conference saw the launch of the story with Jeremy Strong the well known children's author and a group of children from Aldbourne children's book group. The story then travelled the length and breadth of the UK (over 1,057 miles) with groups as far flung as Harrogate and North West London and Yeo Valley (Somerset) and Barrowby and Grantham via the nssm2010.ning.com website. Jeremy and children from the Wolverhampton children's book group then finished off the story on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Congratulations to all groups who participated and heartfelt thanks to Jeremy Strong and Penguin.

Plans are already underway for next year's event with the theme of "a box of delights", and 2012 will be the year for another shared story with an Olympic theme

If your group would like to take part next year please contact Karen Hellewell NSSM coordinator on [Karen.hellewell@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Karen.hellewell@blueyonder.co.uk)

**National Share-A-Story Month 2010**  
**'Bonzo Mayhem': 1,000 miles of Story Sharing**

National Share-A-Story Month this year was celebrated with a Federation first, challenging the ICT skills of many a group and Executive member and possibly of some teachers as well.

Working closely with Puffin, as part of their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, groups across the length and breadth of the UK shared in the co-creation of a story that grew from a few ideas developed by Aldbourne Children's Book Group, ably facilitated by well-known Puffin author Jeremy Strong, to a story of over 3,000 words by the final chapter, finished and given a title by Wolverhampton CBG, once again skilfully assisted by Jeremy.

After the launch of the story at the National Conference, it travelled the length and breadth of the UK (over 1,057 miles) with groups as far flung as Harrogate and North West London and Yeo Valley (Somerset) and Barrowby and Grantham via the nssm2010.ning.com website.

The groups and the children rose to the challenge, introducing a loveable rogue called Scruff who could metamorphose into a bewildering variety of animals, abetted by his diminutive sidekick, Timothy and encountering during their adventures: a terrifying teacher called Mrs. Mad, a family of grizzly bears, a fearsome man-eating worm, a Viking...to know how the story ends, and if it ends happily ever after you need to visit the ning website.

Karen Hellewell, NSSM co-ordinator congratulated all the groups who participated and gave heartfelt thanks to Jeremy Strong and Penguin for their support. Not only did all our groups show what amazing imaginations our children have, photographs on the web site also show the artistic talent within the Federation. We hope to put the whole story into a document to be e-mailed and downloaded from our web site, [www.fcbg.org.uk](http://www.fcbg.org.uk).

If your group missed this fantastic community story-sharing experience, there will be another opportunity. We hope to repeat the adventure in 2012, Olympic year. We travelled over 1,000 miles in 2010, can we make it 2012 miles in 2012?

For more information contact Karen, details on the back page of the newsletter