



IPSWICH CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUP



Spring Newsletter 2014

Spring has arrived and so has the latest edition of the *Carousel Magazine* and Federation Newsletter, as well as some other leaflets which we hope you will find interesting. Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership and for those who have not got round to doing so yet, a form is enclosed. Look out too for Jayne's History Keepers Competition.

PAST EVENTS

Marcus Sedgwick

The Lecture Theatre, County Library, Ipswich, 26th March 2014



With the publication of his latest book, *A Love Like Blood*, we were pleased to welcome Marcus Sedgwick to Ipswich in a joint event with The Suffolk Book League. Advertised as his first novel for adults, he gave a fascinating talk about what makes a novel "for" one audience rather than another – and whether the distinction ever matters. If you missed the event, you can read his guest post -*But who is "it" for?*, on the Waterstones blog.



<http://www.waterstones.com/blog/2014/03/but-who-is-it-for-marcus-sedgwick/>

AGM

The Greyhound, 22nd April 2014

The AGM business was completed promptly and we then enjoyed a delicious meal!

The Committee members for 2014/15 are

Chair:	Ann Cloke	ann.cloke@ntlworld.com
Secretary:	Jayne Gould	jayne.gould@btopenworld.com
Treasurer and Membership:	Shirley Imlach	shirley.imlach@gmail.com
Minute Secretary:	Sally Wilkinson	sally.wilkinson@suffolk.gov.uk
Red House Co-ordinator:	Christine Leggett	cleggett@claydonhigh.suffolk.sch.uk
General:	Hannah Mee	hannahmee@hotmail.com

and we hope to welcome two new members shortly. We are now planning a new programme of events for 2014/15. Do please let us know if there are any particular events you would like us to organise or if you have any comments or queries you would like to raise with us.

At the AGM we did discuss the question of our subscription rate, which has been £15 since 2008 and in view of an increase in the price of the *Carousel* magazine this Summer and also postal rates, it was agreed that next year (from 1st March 2015) our subs will go up to £17. However, we feel this will still continue to represent good value.

FEDERATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Books and Beyond

Worth Abbey School, 11-13th April 2014

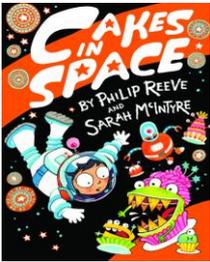
Several Ipswich members went to this year's Conference and had a wonderful weekend. Jayne has made some recommendations of forthcoming titles to look out for.



Books Galore!

One of the great joys of attending the FCBG Conference is the chance to hear about new and forthcoming books. Authors and illustrators give sneak previews in their talks, publishers display tantalising goodies on their stands and are always happy to tell you about the titles which will be coming out later in the year. Plus they are very generous in what they give away – any conference regular can be found laden down with canvas bags full of proof copies!

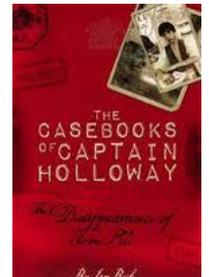
This year was no exception and I just want to highlight just a few of the titles which will be in bookshops in the next few months



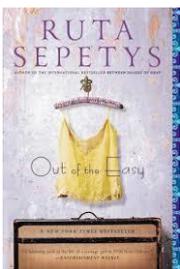
Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre are collaborating again on another quirky, original and highly illustrated adventure, **Cakes in Space**. Astra and her family are travelling through space to a new home on Nova Mundi, when their spaceship is attacked by cakey fiends. It is up to Astra and her robot Pilbeam to stop them before they destroy the ship! Expect humour, witty wordplay and man-eating cake, coming in September!

Walker Books were displaying the first pages from Anthony Browne's latest book about Willy the Chimp, **Willy's Stories**, in which he steps inside classic stories; available in September. Lauren Child showed pages from her new picture book about a small boy coming to terms with a new baby sister. He is not impressed and wishes that she could be sent back! The third in her series about school girl detective, Ruby Redfort, **Catch Your Death**, is out now in a special bubblegum scented hardback.

If you like mystery stories, then the first of Ian Beck's **Captain Holloway's Casebook** series, **The Disappearance of Tom Pile** out in October, should appeal. On a cold winter's night in 1900, a young boy goes missing. No trace is found of him until a terrified boy turns up in the village graveyard forty years later, after unusual lights have been seen in the sky, Corporal Jack Carmody is sent to investigate and realises something intriguing is going on.



I'm still working my way through the books I brought home and have several I'm looking forward to reading. Fleur Hitchcock's first two books, **Shrunk** and **Dear Scarlett**, were very well reviewed and **Saving Sophia**, about a girl desperate to have an adventure, out in July, sounds equally good. Also in July comes Maggie Stiefvater's novel **Sinner**, a companion volume to her werewolf romance trilogy **Shiver**, **Linger** and **Forever**; these are books to lose yourself in. Justin Somper gained a huge following with his **Vampirates** series. Now his fans have a new series to get their teeth into, following the intrigue at the heart of Archenfield, where no-one can be trusted, in **Allies & Assassins**.



My final recommendation is **Out of the Easy** by Ruta Sepetys, the account of Josie Moraine's attempts to escape her life in New Orleans. Her mother may be a brothel prostitute but Josie dreams of attending an elite college; will she be able to escape from the clutches of a clandestine underworld? Ruta spoke eloquently about the power of story and she writes equally well – this is an absorbing read, conjuring up the city in the 50s.

FCBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Inspire

The Olde Barn Hotel, Marston, Near Grantham, 10-12th April 2015

Plans for next year's Conference are already underway. So if Jayne has whetted your appetite, why not make a note of the date and look out for the flyer in this mailing with more details.



HISTORY KEEPERS COMPETITION

Following on from this year's Conference Jayne was inspired to organise a competition, for adults as well as children, so why not have a go!

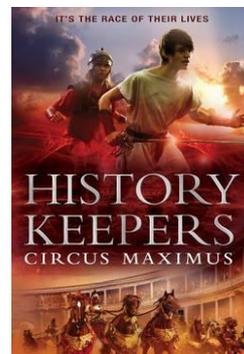
As someone fascinated by history, I've always wished that time travel was possible. Thanks to writers such as Damien Dibben, it is easy to imagine what that would be like, how it might be achieved and the rules you would have to follow. His series, **The History Keepers**, follows the adventures of a secret society which travels through the past to prevent evil enemies from meddling with history itself.

During his seminar at the recent FCBG Conference, Damien talked about his inspiration for **The History Keepers**: reading **Hamlyn's History of the World** with his nephew, which charts dramatically how civilisations led from one to the other and was full of exciting images of empires, battles, conquerors and explorers. "I thought history, in its entirety, would be the most thrilling world in which to set my adventure series." Damien has lived for the past decade on Bankside, opposite St Paul's Cathedral and next to The Globe Theatre, working from an office in Soho. His journey to work through the historic heart of London, where the past feels very close, was another influence on the book. And in order to make the story, and the history, as authentic and accurate as possible, Damian's research has led him to spending time in Rome and China, the setting for the third in the series **Nightship to China**, to be published later this year.



After his talk, Damian very kindly signed paperback copies of the first two books in **The History Keepers** series – **The Storm Begins** and **Circus Maximus**. If you would like to win this great prize, then all you need to do is to tell me which period in history you would like to be able to travel to, where and why. The most interesting answer to reach me by Saturday 17th May will win! I know where I would go ... to London in 1599 to witness the opening of the original Globe theatre and to be able to meet Shakespeare!

Entries, from adults and children, should be emailed to Jayne Gould on jayne.gould@bopenworld.com.



WORLD WAR 1 BOOKLIST

2014 sees the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. This list, which is by no means exhaustive, draws together a range of titles, from novels to information books, to help children understand the conflict and its impact, both on those who fought in the trenches and those who waited for them at home. As you may imagine, there are a number of new titles coming out throughout the year, some of which are included.

INFORMATION BOOKS

One Boy's War

Lynne Huggins-Cooper, illustrated by Ian Benfold-Hayward

Told through the letters home of 16 year old Sydney, this is an honest account of life in the trenches.



Charlie's War Illustrated: Remembering World War One

Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom

Charlie was Mick Manning's grandfather, and he fought throughout the war. His story is told through a mixture of illustrations and artefacts.

Archie's War

Marcia Williams

Archie tells the story of the First World War from his point of view, filling his scrapbook with anecdotes about life in London's East End, newspaper clippings, letters from his dad and uncle who are fighting in France, and his own war-inspired comic strips.

See Inside the First World War

Rob Lloyd Jones, illustrated by Maria Cristina Pritelli

With vivid illustrations and over 70 flaps to lift, this action-packed book transports readers into the battlefields of the First World War, from the muddy trenches of northern France to the jungles of East Africa. Just one of a number of titles published by Usborne, many written in conjunction with the Imperial War Museum

Walter Tull's Scrapbook

Michaela Morgan

Walter Tull was not only the first black professional footballer but also the first black officer in the British Army. His leadership and courage earned him a recommendation for the Military Cross, but it was never awarded because of his skin colour. His story inspired Michael Morpurgo's novel **A Medal for Leroy**.

You Wouldn't Want to be in the Trenches in World War One

Alex Woolf and Dave Antram

You can discover why you really wouldn't want to be a soldier living in a trench during World War One. Handy hints include how to protect your feet from trenchfoot, how to use pigeons as spies, and how to detect the enemy tunnelling beneath your trench.

The Story of World War One

Richard Brassey [published 5th June]

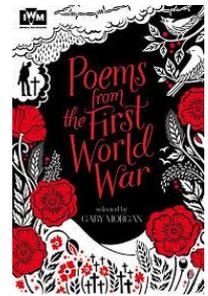
Richard Brassey, author of several successful information books, brings World War One to life in this unique take on the history and events of one of the 20th century's most important episodes. Filled with full-colour illustrations, interesting stories and fascinating facts.

POETRY

Poems from the First World War

Gaby Morgan

Gaby Morgan has brought together a powerful and moving collection of poetry written by people who experienced the war from different viewpoints. Poets such as Wilfred Owen and Rupert Brooke are included along with those less well known.



History Through Poetry: World War 1

Paul Dowswell

Using poetry as a window into the social history of the war, different topics such as daily living, life in the trenches and attitudes to patriotism are covered. The background to each poem and poet is given, together with an explanation of what each poem is about.

What Are We Fighting For?

Brian Moses and Roger Stevens

This is a very accessible collection for children, which includes experiences of the Second World War and the reality of modern warfare as well. There are poems about incredibly brave dogs, cats and pigeons; the Christmas truce of WWI when soldiers played football in No Man's Land; poems about rationing and what it was like to be an evacuee, plus lots of amazing true historical facts.

FICTION

My Story: Road to War

Valerie Wilding

A fictional diary account of one girl's experiences as she arrives in France, determined to help win the war. Soon Daffy finds herself driving an ambulance transporting wounded soldiers from the battlefields. Other books in the series deal with life in the trenches and as a pilot with the new formed Royal Flying Corps.

Stay Where You Are and Then Leave

John Boyne

When the war broke out, Alfie Summerfield's father promised he wouldn't go away to fight, but he broke that promise the very next day. Now he has been missing for four years and by a stroke of luck, Alfie manages to track him down to a hospital close to home.

Remembrance

Theresa Breslin

Scotland, 1915. A group of teenagers from two families meet for a picnic, but the war across the Channel is soon to tear them away from such youthful pleasures. All too soon, the horror of what is to become known as The Great War engulfs them, their friends and the whole village. From the horror of the trenches, to the devastating reality seen daily by those nursing the wounded, they struggle to survive - and nothing will ever be the same again.

The Amazing Tale of Ali Pasha

Michael Foreman

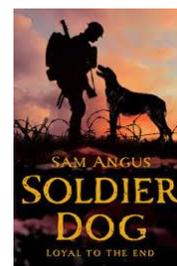
Templar Publishing

During the bombardment of the beaches of Gallipoli a young British sailor rescues a tortoise, which he brings back to live a long and peaceful life in a Suffolk village.

Soldier Dog

Sam Angus

After an argument with his father, Stanley runs away and enlists in the army to train as a messenger dog handler, and despite being far too young he's soon heading to France with a Great Dane called Bones by his side.



Eleven Eleven

Paul Dowswell

Set during the final 24 hours before the armistice at 11 a.m. on 11th November 1918, the story follows a German storm trooper, an American airman and a British Tommy. As their destinies converge, we see the story from differing viewpoints.

Valentine Joe

Rebecca Stevens

Rose accompanies her grandfather to Ypres to visit the war graves. The name of one boy, fifteen year old Valentine Joe Strudwick, stays in her mind. That night, Rose hears marching in the square outside her hotel and sees a young soldier... As she tries to follow, she finds herself in the town of the past.

A Dog in No Man's Land

Damian Kelleher illustrator Gary Blythe

Billy is an under-age soldier who befriends a stray dog in France during World War One. When Billy left for dead in the blood-soaked trenches of No-Man's-Land, the dog, Scruff, comes to his rescue. But Scruff is soon in danger himself, being sent onto the battlefield as an ambulance dog. Will both Billy and Scruff survive the terrors of war?

Poppy

Mary Hooper

Poppy's place in society seems already determined, working as a parlour maid at a large country house. But her life is about to be thrown into turmoil, first by falling in love with someone who could never marry her; second by war. Poppy decides she must do all she can to help the growing number of wounded soldiers.

War Girls

Adele Geras et al [published 5th June]

1914: war has broken out across Europe and beyond. Nothing will ever be the same again for those caught up in the conflict. This collection of short stories explores how the First World War changed and shaped the lives of women forever. A courageous nurse risks her life at the Front Line; a young woman discovers independence and intrigue in wartime London; and a grief-stricken widow defends her homeland amidst the destruction of war. Through these and other tales, *War Girls* presents a moving portrait of loss and grief, and of hope overcoming terrible odds.

Stories of World War One

Tony Bradman

Compiled by Tony Bradman, this collection of short stories chronicles the events of World War One - imagining the conflicts and emotions of those people caught up in the war and its aftermath. Contributing authors include Malorie Blackman, Geraldine McCaughrean and Oisín McGann.

Only Remembered

Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Ian Beck [published 3rd July]

2014 will mark one hundred years since the outbreak of the First World War. To mark the date, this beautiful anthology collects favourite words and images that deal with the subject from some of the UK's leading figures including Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Anthony Horowitz, and Dr Rowan Williams. Poems, short stories, personal letters, newspaper articles, scripts, photographs and paintings are just some of the elements of this unique and seminal collection - each introduced by the person who selected it.

Michael Morpurgo has of course written extensively about war, from chronicling life in the trenches and highlighting the injustice suffered by those shot for alleged cowardice to the modern day conflict in Afghanistan. His books are powerful, moving and well loved, so this list would not be complete without mentioning acclaimed novels **War Horse** and **Private Peaceful**, as well as the illustrated account of the 1914 Christmas Day football match played in No-man's Land between British and German soldiers, **The Best Christmas Present in the World**. Michael Foreman was the artist for this book, as well as writing and illustrating his own evocative version of this encounter and its aftermath, **War Game: From Village Green to No-man's Land**, featuring a group of lads from a Suffolk village.

Jayne Gould

Thank you Jayne for all your recommendations.

We will continue to keep you updated with information from the world of children's literature via our regular emails and look forward to your continued support and seeing you, family and friends at future events.

**Happy reading,
Shirley Imlach
May 2014**