



**OXFORD CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUP INVITE YOU  
TO THEIR NEXT CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN'S LITERATURE  
"A WORLD OF WORDS"  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Children's literature has changed over the centuries but the enjoyment of powerful words and imaginary worlds remains the same, and is passed down from generation to generation. For our OCBG conference, we are privileged to have a brilliant line-up of people who work with worlds of words, and writers whose words appeal to a world-wide audience of young readers of all ages:**

**Joss Stirling** who also writes under two other pen names (Julia Golding and Eve Edwards). Once a doctoral student at Oxford, a former diplomat and an Oxfam policy adviser, she is now a multi award-winning writer for children and young adults (YA). She has published over 30 books in genres ranging from historical adventure to fantasy. Her romantic thriller *Struck* won both the YA Romantic Novel and the overall prize of the Romantic Novel of the Year Award in 2015. It was the first YA book to win the top prize in the long history of this prestigious award. **Hear Joss talk about her hugely popular *Struck* and *Savant* series.**

**Tom Moorhouse** who lives in Oxford and, when not writing fiction, works as an ecologist at the University's Zoology Department. Over the years he has met quite a lot of wildlife. Most of it tried to bite him. He loves hiking, walking, climbing and generally being weather-beaten outdoors. Pouring words into books makes Tom very happy. His novels for older readers include *The Rising*, *River Singers*, and *Trickster*. His first illustrated book for younger readers *The New Adventures of Mr Toad* is a rousing re-imagining of the much-loved children's classic *Wind in the Willows*. **Join Tom to hear how he approached reinterpreting a classic children's book, and how his wildlife research has influenced his writing.**

**The Oxford Children's Dictionaries Team-** Oxford is the home of children's language and Oxford's Dictionaries are powered by a unique database, containing millions of words, which tracks and analyses the language children use today. Each dictionary and thesaurus contains tailored examples of words to a context that children can relate to, for example children 'buy' sweets, they don't 'buy' a house. **Join the Oxford Children's Dictionaries team to hear how they are encouraging a love of words and language and find out more about the splendiferous Roald Dahl Dictionary which hit the headlines in 2016.**

**Nicki Thornton** was a bookseller for more than a decade before plunging into a whole new side of the book trade. She entered her children's novel into The Times /Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition 2016 - and won! Now she is busy, learning about design and production, and going on training courses from everything from school events to navigating social media. At the heart of it all is her passion for children's storytelling. She looks forward to meeting even more children as an author and being in that privileged position of being given the chance to turn them into readers. **Come and hear Nicki about her prize-winning murder mystery for children, 'The Firefly Cage', which is set in a magical world and will be published very soon.**

**Bill Laar** who has worked with schools and teachers around the country and overseas, as an adviser on reading, literacy and leadership. He is well-known as a speaker, educational writer and consultant and his special interests are children's literature and creativity in schools. **Find out why he believes that narrative is at the heart of all learning and how worlds of words and stories help us to grow and to thrive.**

**Worlds of Story in Oxford.** For World Book day 2017, the OCBG focused on creating Story Sacks for the JR Children's Hospital. In November 2016, we ran our first Storyfest, with Anna Conomos, the FCBG Jean Russell Storyteller 2016, who performed Jason and the Argonauts over two days with 180 children from three city schools. **Hear more about these, and other, OCBG and Story-based projects.**

**Draft programme for the day**

<b>9.00-9.30</b>	<b>Arrival, Registration/bookshop</b>
<b>9.30- 9.45</b>	<b>Welcome and Intro: <i>Worlds of Words</i></b>
<b>9.45-10.30</b>	<b>Joss Stirling – Author of the <i>Struck</i> and <i>Savant</i> series</b>
<b>10.30-11.00</b>	<b>Coffee/bookshop /signing (Joss and Tom)</b>
<b>11.00-11.45</b>	<b>Tom Moorhouse – Author of <i>The River Singers</i> and <i>The New Adventures of Mr Toad</i></b>
<b>11.45-12.30</b>	<b>OUP Children’s Dictionary Team on the ways children use words</b>
<b>12.30-13.30</b>	<b>LUNCH /signing (Joss and Tom)</b>
<b>13.30-14.00</b>	<b>Worlds of Story in Oxford: <i>Storyfest, Story sacks, Story Museum.</i></b>
<b>14.00- 14.40</b>	<b>Nicki Thornton- winner of <i>The Times /Chicken House Children’s Fiction Competition</i></b>
<b>14.50-15.30</b>	<b>Bill Laar- <i>Conclusion : A World of Stories</i></b>
<b>15.30-4.00</b>	<b>Bookshop open till 4pm/ depart</b>

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is parking for the disabled in the grounds of the Press. Joining Instructions will be circulated one month ahead of the actual event. The Conference Fee is £45 for members of OCBG, and £60 for non-members. Non-members are then welcome to a year’s free membership which includes 3 editions of the FCBG’s *Carousel* magazine. Lunch will be provided by caterers and will cost an additional £10. Please indicate if you wish to order lunch. There is space to sit if you prefer to bring your own lunch.

**All enquiries to: Jackie Holderness (Chair OCBG) on 01865-862640 or [jh@wordscapesint.co.uk](mailto:jh@wordscapesint.co.uk)**

**Booking form:**

Name.....  
 Address.....  
 Post Code ..... Tel. No..... Email .....

Are you a member of the FCBG or OCBG? Yes/No  
 If you are a member of a different local CBG group, which group? .....  
 If you are a Professional or Group Member, which organization or school? .....  
 Individual non-members are welcome to a year’s free trial membership (worth £15) Yes please/No thanks

**Full day’s Conference – 10% discount if booked by 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

<b>Name(s)</b>	<b>OCBG or FCBG Member (individual or group)£45</b>	<b>Non member £60</b>	<b>Free individual OCBG membership? Yes/No</b>	<b>Lunch? £10</b>	<b>Total</b>

Will you require a certificate of attendance? **Yes / No**  
 Any special dietary requirements?.....  
 Any access difficulties? .....

**To book, send this booking form and post** cheques to – **Fay Sinai 18 Mill Stream Court Abingdon OX14 5XA.**  
 Cheques to be made payable to OCBG. Please write your name on the reverse of the cheque.  
 OR You can pay by BACS –

**Account: OCBG Bank code: 30-96-35 Account number: 00330918**

NB. Ideally, all bookings should be received by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 but latecomers are also welcome, if there are still spaces!