



## **Oxford Children's Book Group: Spring/Summer Newsletter 2017**

Dear OCBG Members,

*I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the world of children's books and literacy. 2017 promises to be another busy year. We would very much like to increase our membership numbers, so please encourage your local school and your friends who love reading to join us!*

### **NEWS UPDATE- RECENT EVENTS:**

#### **1. 2016 OCBG STORYFEST.FOLLOW UP. STORYTELLING DVD.**

*Everyone agreed that the Jean Russell Story Telling Project which took place in Oxford last November was a great success.*

*Recently, storyteller Anna Conomos has very kindly given each of the six participating Book Groups a teacher-training or CPD programme on DVD. The DVD is designed to enhance anyone's Storytelling skills. We hope to hold a Storytelling Workshop for our members in the next academic year. In the meantime, however, if your school or a local group would like to borrow the DVD to hold a CPD session, please let me know.*

#### **2. WORLD BOOK DAY 2017: March.** *This year, we were asked to make some Story Sacks for the JR Children's Hospital. Story Sacks normally contain soft toys but we needed to use more hygienic wooden or plastic toys and games and laminated card images for characters. Altogether, the committee created 19 exciting Story Sacks to donate to the hospital. Neil Griffiths, the inventor of Story Sacks, generously gave us one of his own stories in a sack so that our total gift was 20 sacks, which saved the hospital at least £1000! The children and staff were very appreciative and the story made the local newspaper.*

<http://www.storysack.com/Story Sacks-1/Story Sacks.html>



*NB. We have been asked to continue to make Story Sacks so that all three local hospitals will have a set. We will soon need more volunteer members who would be willing to help with these. Please get in touch!!*

**3. FCBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE: 'WRITE AROUND THE WORLD: BROADENING HORIZONS' : April 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>**

*The theme for 2017 was 'Write Around the World', and was hosted by Reading Book Group at The Oratory School.*

*The programme was packed with exciting authors and illustrators, debuts and established, and a host of publishing insiders and industry experts, including the Children's Laureate, Chris Riddell.*



*Speakers included historian and TV presenter Lucy Worsley, performance poet AF Harrold, authors and illustrators Jon Walter, Jo Cotterill, Giancarlo Gemin, Martin Brown, Kes Gray, Rachel Bright, Emma Shoard, Cas Lester, Petr Horacek, Nicola Davies and a whole host of others, including literary experts such as Wendy Cope and Daniel Hahn. [www.fcbg.org.uk/conference/](http://www.fcbg.org.uk/conference/)*

**4. APRIL and MAY 2017: CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD TESTING:**

*The Children's Book Award testing is being coordinated by Moira da Costa and is going very well with over 4 schools and over 40 students taking part across the region. See the Top ten shortlist here:*

*<http://www.fcbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Top-Ten.pdf>*

*Last year, Pamela Butchart and Thomas Flintham were named overall winners of The Children's Book Award 2016, with their book My Head Teacher Is a Vampire Rat.*

*We are always looking for new schools to test the short-listed books. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved next year. In the meantime, we will let you know when the winners in each category have been chosen by the FCBG's children testers and reviewers.*

*<http://www.fcbg.org.uk/childrens-book-award/>*

## **SCHOOL MEMBERS:**

*We are always hoping that more schools and individuals will join our Book Group and we are actively campaigning to publicise the opportunities we offer parents, teachers and, most importantly, children. If you know a local school who would enjoy a visit but isn't yet a member, you might encourage them to join.*

## **SCHOOL/ COMMUNITY BOOK SWAPS:**

*We have invited a school member in North Oxford to hold a Book Swap this summer term, in June. If you would like to have a Book Swap or a Storytelling event in your school or locality, please get in touch.*

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## **OCBG Diary dates ahead for your Diary:**

- **MAY 16<sup>th</sup>** : Author **GILL LEWIS** will visit Botley Primary School and then come along to meet the OCBG Committee, members and friends, starting with a Bring and Share supper at 7pm.
- **JULY 10<sup>th</sup>** : Author **GILLIAN CROSS** and *The Demon Headmaster* Summer evening event. Details tbc.
- **OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>** : **Biennial OCBG Conference: A World of Words.** We have a brilliant line up of guest speakers but only a limited number of places will be available. Book early to avoid disappointment!!

## **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017.**

*Draft programme for the day*

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

*Please see the OCBG website for more details and a booking form.*

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## **FCBG Diary dates ahead:**

### **a) MAY 2017: NSSM (National Share a Story Month).**

*Please see this link for a wide range of excellent materials and resources, many of which have been designed and produced by Louise Stothard, who is a long-standing member of the OCBG Committee.*

[nssm@fcbg.org.uk](mailto:nssm@fcbg.org.uk)

*The theme for NSSM 2017 is 'Picture a Story.'*

*Our aims for the month are –*

- to celebrate the power of illustrations, particularly in picture books, for all ages and to encourage sharing of picture books*
- to celebrate, appreciate and enjoy pictures in Museums and art galleries and to encourage creative writing using these pictures as starting points*
- to encourage youngsters of all ages to draw, illustrate, sketch and tell a story, however simple, through their own pictures and the comic format*

### **b) NOVEMBER 2017: NNFN (National Non Fiction November).**

[www.fcbg.org.uk/national-non-fiction-november/](http://www.fcbg.org.uk/national-non-fiction-november/)

### **c) ALL YEAR LONG 2018: GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.**

*The FCBG will celebrate 50 years since it was founded by Anne Wood, to promote enthusiasm for and about children's books. All local Book Groups are being encouraged think of exciting and golden ways we can work together to celebrate this important milestone in golden style. Please make contact if you have any ideas or you would like your local school or community to become involved.*

*So, lots of things going on and we hope we see you at some or all our events. Till then, enjoy this latest edition of Carousel and keep in touch via our Facebook page and website.*

*With continuing and sincere thanks to all our members, school pupil testers and everyone on the Committee for all their ongoing commitment and invaluable contributions to the group!*

**Jackie Holderness(Chair)**

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