



OCBG Spring Newsletter

Dear Member,

I hope this finds you planning to curl up with a good book in the warm, while the snow remains outside.....!

This is a brief newsletter, just to keep you up to date with recent events, and to signal a few key dates for your diaries.

First of all, OxFedTed has already enjoyed two outings. He is our new golden bear, who plans to enjoy a very busy Golden Anniversary year. The FCBG is 50 years old this year...and the OCBG is 25 years old, so OxFedTed is planning to wear quite a lot of bling this year!

January 17th. School Visit to OHSJ. Our golden bear spent a happy time with Oxford High School Juniors, to thank them for generously donating £590 towards making more Story sacks, for the J.R. Children's Hospital School and Helen House Hospice (27 sacks are now ready to present on March 16th, and we plan to create a further 20 at least, for World Book day in 2019).

February 28th: Author Visit. OxFedTed accompanied Elaine Wickson to Wootton Primary School, near Boar's Hill, where Elaine entertained the children with her book 'Planet Stan'.

March 16th: Presentation of the Story sacks to the Hospital School at the J.R.

Members of OCBG Committee will go to JR Hospital as part of WBD to hand the Story sacks to the Hospital School.

March and April, Children's Book Award testing: OxFedTed will oversee the Annual Children's Book Award review process, of the Top Ten choices, which will be starting again soon. Each school that participates asks children and YP to read the shortlisted books, then vote for their favourites. This is the only Book Award, where children choose what THEY think is the best read! OCBG has agreed to do the testing again. Please contact Moira da Costa if your school is interested: moira.da.costa@pjmdc.demon.co.uk

April 21st: Kennington Library. Kennington Library is hosting a Literature Festival for families, featuring OCBG member Korky Paul and his latest Winnie and Wilbur books. OCBG will be running craft activities for families, so please join us! The Festival opens at 10 am for 10.15 and there will be lots of things to do until 1.30 pm.

April 13-15th: National FCBG Conference in St Albans. See FCBG website.

May 5th: 2-4pm. OxFed Ted's Gold and Silver Party.

All-age and family event. All members, past, present and future welcome!

To celebrate the double, glittering anniversaries, come along to the Story Museum on May 5th for our sparkly, fun-packed birthday party. Come dressed up in Gold and Silver, if you wish!

The afternoon will be opened by Neil Griffiths, original creator of Story sacks, and we will have a glittering line-up of authors and storytellers, including Geraldine McCaughrean, John Foster and Bill Laar. There will be craft activities and stories to listen to, throughout the afternoon, with a slice of Gold and Silver cake, and a glass of fizz, to celebrate the FCBG's golden anniversary and to toast OCBG's achievements over the last 25 years! Current OCBG Members free! (Standard Museum entry fees apply to everyone else).

Nov 1st. AGM. The AGM will be on Thursday 1st November. 7-9pm. Guest author tbc.

Nov 3rd: FCBG Birmingham. Festival of Children's Literature. **The FCBG** is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. It will include three past Children's Laureates: a Treasury of Songs with Julia Donaldson (with a special guest appearance from the Gruffalo); the celebrated Jacqueline Wilson; and author and illustrator Chris Riddell. Please see the FCBG website for more information on timing and tickets in due course.

Jackie Holderness (Chair OCBG) March 3rd 2018

