



The Federation of Children's Book Groups

Newsletter

Spring 2013

A SPOOKY SPOOKY WINNER FOR THE RED HOUSE CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD!

We are delighted to announce that this year's Red House Children's Book Award goes to **A Spooky Spooky House** by Andrew Weale, illustrated by Lee Wildish, also winner in the Books for Younger Children category. Both thanked the readers in their acceptance speeches, with Lee Wildish saying "without you guys we wouldn't have a job." Andrew Weale remarked that "it is hard to believe that a book I started three years ago, in my pyjamas, has come this far... I'm glad I'm not wearing my pyjamas today."



David Walliam's book **Gangster Granny** was winner of the Books for Younger Readers, and Sophie McKenzie's **The Medusa Project: Hit Squad** won the Books for Older Readers category. All collected their awards at a ceremony held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, as part of the Southbank's Imagine Festival, on 23rd February, that was also attended by other Top Ten nominees, including Louise Yates, Caryl Hart, Ed Eaves, Sam Usher, Elen Caldecott, Jonathan Meres, Donough O'Malley and Suzanne LaFleur, as well as past winners Patrick Ness, Elizabeth Laird and Korky Paul.



Congratulations to all the winners!

red house children's book award!



What happened on the day...

Our return to the Southbank's Imagine Festival was highly anticipated by all those attending, as this year's event promised to be big, and bright, and there was that little something extra planned. After a chance to meet everyone and get books signed by all the authors we all settled down to our tables for the presentation of the portfolios – one of the unique aspects of the award, and always incredibly well received by the nominated authors and illustrators. Once the presentation was complete we enjoyed an amazing lunch, provided by caterers Fabulous Feasts, with trays of food appearing in a constant flow, first burgers, pasta, salads and other savoury delights, then jelly, brownies and no fewer than four different flavours of ice cream! Lunch also provided a chance for everyone to chat with the authors, and as we were sitting with Suzanne LaFleur, the conversation at my table was all about the differences in language and education between the UK and US.

Following lunch we all made our way through to the main hall for the ceremony, where we were greeted by the sound of 100s of party blowers, left on seats for the purpose of celebrating the announcement of the winner (but these things always need a bit of testing!).

The ceremony was MC'd, as it has been for the last few years, by Big Book Babble presenter James Campbell, who led us through each category, introducing all of the authors and asking them each a few questions. This year we learned author's favourite words, with David Walliams answering 'elbow' and Suzanne LaFleur feeling that she couldn't choose, for fear of offending all the other words. We also heard them describe their books in five words, with answers including 'sad, funny, sad again, funny again... and something else,' 'some stuff happens and then...' and 'excellent, brilliant, the best, fantastic.' As well as a reading from *Gangster Granny*, by Walliams himself, there was a brief, pre-recorded interview with Pittacus Lore, from an unknown, remote location!

inside

- We sat down and started a book blog
- An Interview with Sarah Crossan
- All about Wolverhampton's Spooky Storytelling

Top: Andre Weale and Lee Wildish
Middle: David Walliam with bookmark
Bottom: Sophie McKenzie



At the beginning of each category we were treated to a performance from children from the **Dulwich Stagecoach troop**, who had been asked to produce a 1 minute interpretation of each of the books, including a hissing conga line representing *Sassoon*, a gangster granny rap, and some rather creepy scenes from both *The Medusa Project* and *The Power of Six*.

Each of the category winners was announced by a previous winner, alongside children from various of the Federation's book groups. Each of these winners reminded us of the importance of the award, with Korky Paul saying "it's a terrific award to win because you know you've really touched the hearts of your readers" whilst Patrick Ness called it one of the "most honest" awards because "nobody is pretending." Elizabeth Laird, meanwhile, reminded us that it is not just the winners who have produced terrific reads, but that we should

"read them all, and enjoy them all." And that, I think, is something we can definitely agree with!

Highlights for Elinor Gould, Aleisha Jones, Bethany Lewis and Tegan Dagger, from the West Wales Children's Book Group included:

- Being called a VIP!
- The amazing food – especially the pasta!
- Meeting David Walliams, and getting to have their photo taken with him.
- The goodie bags, especially the Fed Teds (now known as Jonathan, Mike, Roodie and Walliams)
- James Campbell – he was hilarious!

Thanks to Sarah Stuffins and Bella Brown for their hard work in making the day a success, to everyone involved in organising testing and gathering results, to the Southbank for hosting us, and to Red House for their continued support for the award. And of course thank you to everyone who came along on the day, because it wouldn't be half as much fun without you!

Still not satisfied? We've shared a lot more wonderful pictures from the day on our website and on our facebook page, where you can find lots of photos from previous events as well.

Rebecca Knight

All photos copyright Dominic Turner.

Top: Performers from Stagecoach
 Bottom: Elen Caldecott signing books
 Right: Jonathan Meres signing at the RHCBA

A quick catch-up with Jonathan Meres

As well as having been one of our top-ten shortlisted authors, the author of the *World of Norm* books is due to keep us all entertained after the gala dinner at Conference. We quickly caught up with him to ask some questions about his characters, his favourite books, and his writing habits.

If you could be a character in a children's book who would you be and why?
 Tigger. Bouncing around all day on a tail like a spring. What's not to like?

Do you think your experience as a stand-up comedian has helped your creative writing process?

Yes. Oh sorry, do you want a slightly fuller answer? Yes, I think it has.

What can we expect from you at the FCBG annual conference seeing as you are the Saturday night entertainment?

A song, a dance, a laugh, a tear, set of saucepans, cuddly toy, fire-breathing and some hilarious showbiz anecdotes.

You mentioned at the RHCBA ceremony that you draw on your sons' experiences in your books. Is there one in particular who is most like Norm?

I think I probably said that because I'd just had a microphone thrust under my nose in front of 900 people & thought I'd better say something vaguely intelligent. There isn't one who's especially like Norm. And if there was I wouldn't tell you which one.

Where do you go to write?

To a faraway magical place called Imaginland. Nah, not really. An office at the bottom of the garden.

What is your favourite children's book?

I love all my children equally. Oh, I see. Sorry but I'm rubbish at picking favourite things. So right now it's *Charlotte's Web*, *Holes* & *Ladybird's 'What To Look For In Winter'*.

Which other authors writing today do you most like?

Serious cop-out alert - but far too many to mention. And far too many people to upset.

What book are you currently reading?

Phew. Simple. *The Unlikely Pilgrimage Of Harold Fry*.

How would you describe Norm to someone who hasn't read your books yet?

A typical nearly-13-year-old.

What's your favourite word?

Do you know something? If I'd been asked that at the RHCBA ceremony I'd have said 'elbow' because I've said that many times before. But David Walliams was asked instead. And what was his answer? Elbow! Absolutely true! Erm, so.....llama.

What's your favourite film?

Life Is Sweet. Or *Cinema Paradiso*. Or anything by *Laurel & Hardy*. Or *Tom & Jerry*. See what I mean? Rubbish at choosing favourite things.

If you had a bookclub, what would it be reading?

The Gruffalo.

If the Norm books were made into a film, who would you want him to be played by?

Daniel Day-Lewis.

Questions asked by: Ellie John



An Interview with Sarah Crossan

Sarah Crossan, originally from Dublin, studied philosophy and literature before training as an English and drama teacher. She has been working to promote creative writing in schools ever since, including teaching at a small private school near New York. Her first book, *The Weight of Water* was first published in hardback in 2012 and has been nominated for the UKLA Book Award and won the Coventry Inspiration Book Award (Read it or Else category). The book blurs the line between poetry and fiction, tackling the subjects of immigration and bullying through narrator Kasienka: a young Polish girl who has travelled to Coventry in search of her father. Sarah's second book, *Breathe*, a dystopian YA adventure with an environmental twist, was published in October 2012.

In writing *The Weight of Water*, what came first, was it the character, the story idea or the poems?

Kasienka's voice, in poetry, came first. It was a bizarre feeling to be jotting down words and images in a notebook one minute, and to hear your character's voice the next. I believe that good writing is the result of hard work, but this was inspiration like I've never felt it before. It was both a daunting and beautiful moment.

And what was it in particular about Kasienka and her story in particular that made it suit being told through poetry?

The fact that Kasienka feels so 'other' made verse a perfect platform for her to express herself; it's different and complicated just like she is. As you read, the language can sound and look a little choppy at times, I hope, which also mirrors how she speaks.

Was there any point that you were worried about telling the story through poetry, and about how it might be received?

I didn't write *The Weight of Water* to sell it or even have others read it. This made the writing completely free from external influence. I was going through a difficult period in my life and needed to create a character with strength. It was a very personal project.

***Breathe* is obviously a very different book, with very different characters and audience in mind - where did the idea for that come from?**

I was taking a trip a few years ago and saw logging on a massive scale. I wondered what the planet would be like with no trees and *Breathe* is my vision of this world. I had to write something fast paced and in prose after writing *The Weight of Water* to help me lose Kasienka's voice and find new ones, which thankfully I did!

I imagine, from reading *Breathe*, that the environment and how we treat it is something that concerns you. Do you feel that we should be doing more to look after our world?

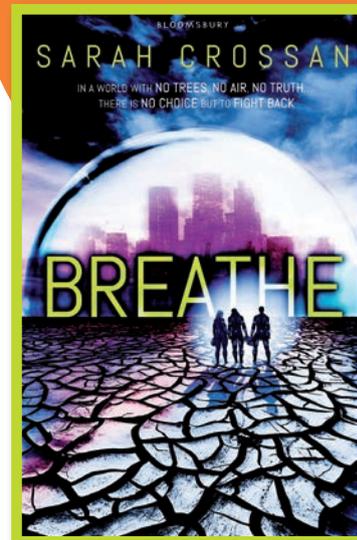
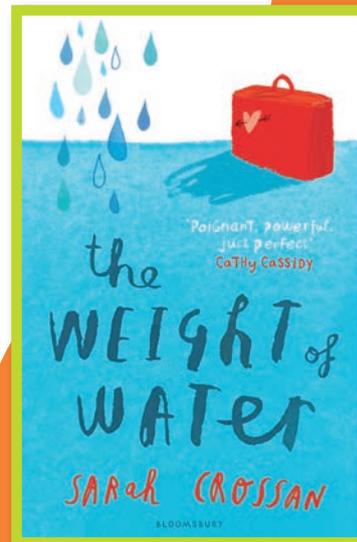
Oh my goodness...yes! I live in America right now, and although I love it here, the consumerist culture is nauseating and completely unsustainable. I occasionally can't sleep worrying about the planet. I try to reduce, reuse, and recycle, and I'm very careful about not driving when I don't have to and turning off lights. I also try to consume as little meat as possible. It's the small things that can make a big difference.

You could say that both books, though, do have a sense of their main characters being out of their element, at least initially - would you agree with that? And is it something that you've ever felt yourself?

I feel constantly out of my element, and I think I write to work things out. It isn't a form of therapy, that's a dangerous road to take, but it's about creating characters to navigate physically and emotionally challenging worlds in order to discover how these kinds of things are overcome.

Finally, are there any books that you feel have particularly stayed with you, particularly ones you read as a child?

I remember the first book to make me cry was Paul Zindel's *The Pigman*, the first book I hid from my parents was Virginia Andrew's *Flowers in the Attic*, and the first book to make me fall in love with language was Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*. My parents were very protective (I was never allowed to watch *Eastenders*, for example), but they weren't afraid of books, and books became my way to learn about the world and where I should position myself in it.





We sat down and started a book blog



My teen daughter and I run a book blog called *We Sat Down*. She was twelve when we started it.

Learning to read was a struggle for Little M. The turning point for her was in Year 3 when I went in to school and helped her to select a book. That was really how we began sharing thoughts about books that we'd read independently.

Since then, her reading improved dramatically and she was enjoying it. In Year 7, she was diagnosed with dyslexia. All of a sudden, her literacy difficulties made sense. A couple of months after that, we set up our blog, *We Sat Down*.

The idea behind the blog was hers. I'd mentioned that I logged the books I read when I was younger. I just kept a simple list of book titles I'd read, when I read them and I marked them with a simple comment. She asked if I could help her keep her reading list on a blog. So one day in March 2012, we sat down on a couch together and....*We Sat Down!*

The main reason for the blog is for it to be an historical record of Little M's reading. I also wanted to check out what Young Adult fiction was all about – because that wasn't around when I was younger. We started off by reading the same books and then posting reviews about them. Quite quickly we got involved in hosting interviews with authors and writing other bookish things. As well as writing some reviews, I tend to maintain the blog and Little M devotes her time to reading, reviewing and all the other activities that teens get up to. We don't spend much time with the blog design or anything like that. We're more interested in the discussion that goes into the content that we put onto the blog. This is the really fun bit and we've had hours of conversations that we

simply would not have had otherwise – and they're not just about books! Little M wanted it to feel like a club but we have felt that this works better in real life meetings and events - and on Twitter too.

A blog can take as little or as much time as you like. For example, you could set up a Blogger account and within half an hour (or less), you'll have a blog that's up and running. It may not be the prettiest or the one that gets the most hits, but it'll be a blog that works. You can also have a private blog if you choose.

Little M's spelling and writing has improved in the last year. She thinks that the blog may have helped. She reads a lot, and she has to think and write reviews (sometimes she dictates to me). We also talk a lot about books and because we have been invited to some publisher events, we even talk about publishing. It's also great to see how both our reading tastes and habits have changed and developed over the past year. Overall, *We Sat Down* has turned into a massive hobby for us – and we love it.

We review books that we think we will enjoy, and that is usually a very personal choice. We don't always read the same book either. We tend to look at the book prize lists from the past few years for inspiration. Little M loves adventure and action, historical and dystopian sci-fi. I enjoy literary fiction, some dystopian and science fiction, and I read these across middle grade, young adult and adult fiction. Our current reading list will keep both of us going until Little M's an adult.

There are so many favourite books that we can both talk about now. And there are so many more to come.

By M
<http://wesatdown.blogspot.com>
Twitter: @WeSatDown

Start Planning Your Summer!

As book enthusiasts we are all mostly quite familiar with the literature festival calendar - from Oxford, to Hay, to Bath, we try to keep up with what's going on and when. In recent years, though, there has been a definite rise in child and family-friendly festivals, offering a few relaxed summer days of music, crafts workshops and, quite often, story-telling. Oh, and hopefully some sunshine! I've taken a look at what's happening, and where, this summer:

POP-UP FESTIVAL OF STORIES - King's Cross, London
www.pop-up.org.uk

Although there's little news yet on this year's Pop-Up Festival, they tell us we can expect Big Things! Going into its third year now, highlights from the last year include Marcus Sedgwick, World Wise Stories, and the Pop-Up Picture Pavilion – a gallery curated by James Mayhew, Clara Vulliamy and Vanessa Stone. And the best thing about Pop-Up, is that all events are completely free.

THE JUST SO FESTIVAL - 16th – 18th August 2013, Rode Hall, Cheshire.
www.justsofestival.org.uk

The Just So Festival is a weekend-long festival of creativity aimed at children, young people and their families. The festival provides a magical experience where art, music and literature are entwined in a beautiful landscape. Every clearing and glade offers a new and different way to be creative: workshops, installations, theatrical performances and story tellers.

FESTIVAL AT THE EDGE - 19th - 21st July 2013, Much Wenlock, Shropshire
<http://www.festivalattheedge.org/>

Festival at the Edge promises to be 'a weekend of fantastic storytelling, tall tales, terrific tellers, music and more ... surrounded by breathtaking views of the Shropshire countryside.' A family-friendly event, they offer a children's festival that runs alongside the main festival events, which mixes specially booked children's performers with artists from the main festival.

LARMER TREE FESTIVAL - 17th - 21st July 2013, Larmer Tree Gardens, Dorset/Wiltshire borders
www.larmertreefestival.co.uk

This small, intimate festival is offers an incredibly relaxed and enjoyable weekend. The Larmer Tree Festival is suitable for all ages – everyone is welcome whether you are 1 or 101. Offering a YouthZone aimed especially at 11-17 year olds, this is a great festival for families with older children too! One of the highlights of the festival is Sunday's carnival procession, the result of a full weekend's work making costumes and banners.

They also offer a week long camping pass allowing you to extend your stay and take in the local area.

Also held at Larmer Tree Gardens, later in the year, is the **END OF THE ROAD FESTIVAL**, 30th August – 1st September
<http://www.endoftheroadfestival.com/>

CAMP BESTIVAL - 1st – 4th August 2013, Lulworth Castle, Dorset
www.campbestival.net

Camp Bestival is a four day festival full of fun and frolics for the whole family. Family is at the heart of this festival, so you can expect a huge Kids Area filled with a whole array of treats for all ages. Every year the festival has a different theme, and this year's 'Around the World' theme promises all sorts of opportunities for dressing up, trying out different foods, and learning all about new cultures.

CROPREDY - 8th - 10th August 2013, Cropredy, Oxfordshire
www.fairportconvention.com

This year will mark Fairport Convention's 37th annual 3 day festival of music, with festivities beginning on Thursday afternoon and ending at midnight on Saturday. Very much a music festival, Cropredy is very family friendly. During the afternoons there is always children's entertainment going on, with opportunities including the chance to learn circus skills or take part in a play!

LOLLIBOP – Regent's Park, London
www.lollibopfestival.co.uk

Lollibop is billed as 'The Big Bash for Little People' and is a 3-day non-camping festival aimed specifically at the under-10s (and their parents). There's no news yet on what, if anything, might be going on in 2013, but highlights of 2012 included workshops from Horrible Histories, the Roald Dahl Museum and Storytelling Centre, and an Alice in Wonderland Tea Party!

These are just a few of the bigger festivals happening over the summer. So, if you've been inspired but want to find something a bit closer to home, take a look at the map on <http://www.festivalkidz.com/festivals> because there are things going on all over the country!



WOLVERHAMPTON CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUP GHOST NIGHT

November 2012

We were all very excited to be going to WCBG's **Ghost Story telling night** and hoping to be severely scared!! We were not disappointed. The evening was held at the Newhampton Inn and our venue was decidedly dark and spooky with candlelit tables. An empty black sofa draped in cobwebs waited patiently.

The first story teller was Keith Prosser, whose enormous beard and Victorian attire already set pulses racing. He told the story of the Stalls of Barchester Cathedral, keeping us all on the edge of our seats. It was a very evocative start to the evening.

Next we were delighted to see the first of two performances by The King's School Drama students - two different groups of students, but equally entertaining, dramatic and vibrant performances, with a touch of local humour that was greatly enjoyed. We should definitely invite them again – maybe they could put on themed performances at all our author events!

Our evening continued with Steve, a musical Tudor Bard singing to us and Gill Adamson a new recruit to WCBG committee rendering a very professional performance of Edgar Allen Poe, which had us all hooked.

Finally the evening was rounded off by John Edgar retelling terrible tales as if we weren't all frightened enough already.

Many thanks to all the performers and to Paul Dowswell who organised the entertainment and to the WCBG committee, in particular, Debbie, Jane and Lisa without whom the evening would not have been such a success.

Judi James (WCBG)

WOLVERHAMPTON CBG Have also hosted events over the last few months with Alex Scarrow, Marcus Alexander, Katherine Roberts and Alan Gibbons.

ONLINE DONATIONS NOW POSSIBLE!

As part of our embracing of the internet and modern technology, we have now made it possible to make secure online donations to the Federation of Children's Book Groups via our new BT MyDonate page: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/thefederationofchildrensbookgroups>

Your donation, which can include Gift Aid where relevant, will make a big difference to the work we do. By donating to the Federation you will be helping to:

- Bring top authors and illustrators to meet and inspire young people.
- Facilitate participation in our Red House Children's Book Award and Annual Award Ceremony.
- Support local events for families and for schools focused around our national initiatives: National Share-A-Story Month and National Non-Fiction Day and other events such as World Book Day.
- Fund free resources and booklists for children from early years to young adult with lists of old favourites, new authors and our annual Top 50 Pick of the Year.

If you, or your group, would like to raise funds for the Federation of Children's Book Groups, you can create a fundraising page for your own event, using BT My Donate. A sponsored storytelling session? A reading marathon? An auction of artwork? All sorts of events are possible!

If you've any questions about BT My Donate, or would like help fundraising for the FCBG, please contact Zoe on web@fcbg.org.uk.

WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED ON THE FCBG BLOG

As well as news about the Red House Children's Book Award, exciting competitions, and interesting resources for your group for World Book Day and other events, the last few months on the blog have also seen quick fire interviews with Tim Bowler, Gillian Cross, Sally Prue and Geraldine McCaughrean as they prepared to set off on the Oxford University Press Author Roadshow, followed by the news that reading notes are now available from the OUP for some of their books!

If you've still not subscribed to the blog, go to <http://www.fcbg.org.uk/blog/> to find out how, all you need is an email address, and then all our fresh news will go straight to your inbox!



Thank you to all the groups who send in details about their events. The web site is regularly updated with group activities.

SOUTH BUCKS CBG took Flight!

I mentioned this in the last newsletter, but South Buckinghamshire have since been in touch to tell us more about the Flight themed day they held at the beginning of November, for National Non-Fiction Day: "Three amazing speakers all brought such different areas of Flight to life so wonderfully.

Sarah Williamson gave a great slide show on the Chiltern & Thames Valley Air Ambulance; Dave Scott, author of "High Wycombe's Contribution to Aviation" brought his model aeroplane for all to see and simply demonstrated aerodynamics and lift with a sheet of paper draped over one's arm; and Robert Turner, from Booker Glider Centre at Wycombe Air Park, showed some amazing video footage from the cockpit of a glider flying over a snow capped mountain range – so exhilarating!

There were fun craft activities for all ages – peg planes, paper hot air balloons and straw gliders with an amazing flight pattern and Lisa the Usborne lady brought a great selection of books, relevant to Flight from aeroplanes to space rockets. A great quiz to round off the afternoon gave everyone the chance to use the fascinating and colourful, illustrated non-fiction books to find out about the huge variety of flying machines that have been invented."

LEWES CBG

have hosted their regular book swaps, as well as an evening with Miriam Moss, back in January. As well as being an author of over 75 books Miriam is a member of the group, and talked to them about the process of writing a picture book and working with illustrators. If you want to find out more about Miriam, take a look at her website: www.miriammoss.com

As well as their own website, Lewes have also started their own group facebook page, where you can keep up with all their most recent news.

dress up in traditional Indian dress. There will also be some Indian inspired crafts, a raffle and a bookswap.

OXTED CBG

Back in October Wendy O'Mahony ran an illustration workshop with a group of Oxted members. Here's what she had to say afterwards:



I gave them the daunting task of becoming the new illustrators for a selection of Roald Dahl books, giving them excerpts which described certain of his characters in true Dahl-esque detail. The young illustrators picked their favourite and every one of them produced vivid, characterful creations using drawing pens, watercolour pencils and some wonderful collaged nasty bits in a couple of Mr Twits' beards. It was marvellous to see the variety of responses to the brief and I'm sure you'll agree that we may well have some future illustrators in our midst. Move over Quentin Blake! *Image copyright Wendy O'Mahony*

ALDBOURNE CBG

After ending 2012 with a bang and a fizzle of fireworks at their bonfire party, so far this year Aldbourne have been enjoying themselves organising book clubs testing for the RHCBA, and bedtime stories session for their youngest members, as well as a few of them coming along to the Award Ceremony at the Southbank. They were also hoping to organise a book swap at one of their local schools in celebration of World Book Day!

IPSWICH CBG had this to say in their January newsletter:

"You may have noticed that we have not had many author events recently, but there is a very good reason for this, the Committee are busy organising the 2013 FCBG Conference - The Power of the Page."

Which I think is quite fair enough! Thank you to everyone for their hard work, and we look forward to hearing all about it in the next newsletter.

ST ALBANS CBG

Have sent us news of their next few events. They've got all their Sunday Stories at the Museum, which are aimed at under 7s, planned out! The next few are:

Sun 24 Mar - (National Science Week) - Washing Day stories and other scientific facts.

Sun 28 Apr - Have you heard about The Rabbit Problem? Come and find out more, then listen to other Emily Gravett stories followed by activities.

Sun 19 May - (National - Share-a-Story Month) Pop in for Power of The Page stories with pop-ups galore.

They are also all looking forward to the Luton Hoo Book Festival – for more on that see over the page.

And please do remember to keep us up to date with what your group is up to!

Don't forget that you can keep up with events on the website www.fcbg.org.uk and many of the groups now have their own website where you can find even more ideas!

LUTON HOO CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Tickets are now on sale for the **Luton Hoo Children's Festival**, which takes place 21st April 2013.

With spaces called 'The Pavilion of Possibilities' and 'The Creative Cart Shed,' and no fewer than three 'Action-packed tents of Activities' as well as a previous Federation chair on the organising committee, it's clear you can expect a lot from this festival. Authors and illustrators putting in an appearance include James Mayhew, Jackie Morris, Jane Simmons, Jonathan Meres, Alex T. Smith, David Melling and Sally Gardner, and lots more besides!

For more information visit:
<http://www.hoobookfest.org.uk/>

Booktrust's new campaign to Get Dads Reading

Booktrust has launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the importance of dads as reading role models for their children, and to encourage dads to find time each day to read with their children. As part of the Booktrust campaign dads can get their hands on a whole range of resources and guidance about how to get the most out of reading with their children. Author James Patterson is spokesperson for the campaign.

You can find out more about it at:
<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/children/get-dads-reading/>

New Children's Literacy Charter From Beanstalk

Children's literacy charity Beanstalk has published a "Charter for Children's Literacy", calling for action to improve reading standards. Authors including Children's Laureate Julia Donaldson and Charlie Higson are backing the charter, with HarperCollins sponsoring the initiative.

Among its recommendations, the charter calls on the government to fund a trained reading helper in every primary school, and to supply each primary school with a library, with library facilities to be included in Ofsted inspections.

The full charter can be downloaded via the Beanstalk website, at www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk/news-and-media/latest-news/charter

Next issue: October 27th 2013

Please send all group news, ideas and photos to Rebecca Knight: news@fcbg.org.uk
Please note my new address: 6 Lizman's Court, Silkdale Close, Oxford, OX4 2HE

Follow us on Twitter @FCBGNews, and on Facebook and don't forget our website: www.fcbg.org.uk

Editorial Team –Rebecca Knight, Daniella Gluck, Ellie John, Jessica Knight and Louise Stothard

© Federation of Children's Book Groups 2013. All rights reserved.

News From OTHER AWARDS

The Blue Peter Book Awards Shortlist

Best Story

The Boy who Swam With Piranhas - David Almond, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers (Walker Books)

Hero on a Bicycle - Shirley Hughes (Walker Books)

Tom Gates – Genius Ideas (Mostly) - Liz Pichon (Scholastic)

Best Book with Facts

Horrible Science: House of Horrors - Nick Arnold & Tony De Saulles (Scholastic)

Walter Tull's Scrapbook - Michaela Morgan (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

Fantastic Mr Dahl - Michael Rosen, illustrated by Quentin Blake (Puffin)

By the time you're reading this the winning books will already have been announced, so if you want to know who won what then check out <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/articles/blue-peter-book-awards-2013>

The Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2013 Shortlist

The Waterstones prize was created as an award for new and emerging talent in children's writing. Now in its ninth year, the prize consists of three categories: picture books; fiction for ages 5-12; and teen books.

Picture Books

Rabbityness – Jo Empson (Child's Play)

Lunchtime – Rebecca Cobb (Macmillan)

The Journey Home – Frann Preston-Gannon (Pavilion)

The Worst Princess – Anna Kemp & Sarah Ogilvie (Simon & Schuster)

Oh No George! – Chris Haughton (Walker)

Can You See Sassoon – Sam Usher (Little Tiger)

Ages 5-12

The Secret Hen House Theatre – Helen Peters (Nosy Crow)

The Wolf Princess – Cathryn Constable (Chicken House)

Chronicles of Egg: Deadweather and Sunrise – Geoff Rodkey (Puffin)

Wonder – R.J. Palacio (Corgi Children's)

Barry Loser: I am not a Loser – Barry Loser (Jelly Pie)

Atticus Claw Breaks the Law – Jennifer Gray (Faber Children's)

Teen

Insignia – S.J. Kincaid & Sammy Yuen (Hot Key)

Ketchup Clouds – Annabel Pitcher (Indigo/Orion Children's)

Seraphina – Rachel Hartman (Corgi Children's)

Skin Deep – Laura Jarratt (Electric Monkey)

Geekhood: Close Encounters of the Girl Kind – Andy Robb (Stripes)

Throne of Glass – Sarah J. Maas (Bloomsbury)

