

### The Federation of Children's Book Groups

# Newsletter



The winners: Rick Yancey, Jennifer Gray and Axel Scheffler

### Red House Children's Book Award 2014 Winners announced

Overall and Older Readers The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey

Younger Children

Superworm by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler

Younger Readers Atticus Claw Breaks the Law by lennifer Gray

The announcement was made at the annual Red House Children's Book Award Ceremony, held at the Southbank Centre in February as part of the Imagine Festival. You can read more about the day over the page...

2014 RHCBA winner describes winning the award as the 'most special experience.'

"Wow, I had my practice shower speech but... When I did learn about this award, I tried not to get my hopes up, because I have won a few awards back in the States but when I heard what this award was and what it's about and... these were the same feelings I had sitting here today...

It is such a unique relationship between an author and his or her readers. It is so special, it is so unique because we write the books but you truly wn them. And for each one of you the book is something a little bit different. It's a communal experience and at the same time it is so intimate, it is so special that bond between a reader and a writer. And writing itself is so, so... solitary, you're in your own head in this world that you created and sometimes you don't know, you don't know "will I be understood", "will they feel what I'm feeling at this moment" and that's the yearning that keeps you going.

So to get an award like this is the most special experience I've had as a writer because it's from all of you. It's from the people that I am sharing this

experience with and to be recognised and honoured in this way is something that is really special to me, beyond words. So thank you very

The Book People have also posted a video of Rick Yancey's speech on their YouTube channel, where you can also find the video of Julia Donaldson and her brave volunteers singing the Superworm song: https://www.youtube.com/user/TheBookpeople

#### National share a story month

#### Make May a month of 'Imagination and Inventiveness'

How will you celebrate?

For this year's National Share a Story Month, the Federation have joined up with Dahl & Dahl and Puffin to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Everyone involved has been thinking hard to come up with ideas of how we can all get involved and celebrate (and they're not all about chocolate!) So far suggestions include:

- Writing poems, songs, complete re-imaginings of the story...
- Getting crafty designing sweet wrappers, making top hats, making your own miniature version of Wonka's chocolate factory...
- Dressing up become a character, wear that top hat you made, why not do some acting while you're at it?

The possibilities really are endless!

There will be lots of information available for groups, with more ideas for events, activity packs and lots more excitement. Keep an eye on the FCBG website for details of what's going on, and don't forget to keep us all up to date with what you're up to,

however small.



www.fcbg.org.uk



### inside

- More about RHCBA 2014
- Exciting Exhibitions
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## RHCBA 2014 About the Day



It was a bright and beautiful day on the Southbank for this year's annual Red House Children's Book Award ceremony. As ever, members of Federation Groups from around the country made the (in some cases incredibly epic) journey into London for the celebration, with the promise of a delicious lunch and lots of interesting authors to meet once they got there.

This year the Federation were delighted to welcome Top Ten illustrators and authors Tony Ross, Jeanne Willis, Rachel Bright, Axel Scheffler, Helen Stephens, Jennifer Gray, Alex T. Smith, Anne Cassidy and Rick Yancey and also past winners, Korky Paul, Elizabeth Laird, Lee Wildish and Andrew Weale to join them in celebration, with only a few sadly unable to make it on the day, including Julia Donaldson, Eoin Colfer and Norman Messenger, Following an opportunity for us all to get our books signed, the authors were presented with one of the traditions of the RHCBA - beautifully put together portfolios of letters, artwork and writing produced by testers around the country all relating to their book.



delicious truly meal (with no less than three Following choices for dessert) we all set off to the Queen Elizabeth Hall, for the award ceremony itself, eager to find out the winners!

The ceremony was presented by old RHCBA hand James Campbell, who put the nominated authors and illustrators through their paces with plenty of questions. All of the illustrators were called on to do some

drawing live on stage, allowing us to glimpse their different techniques. Whilst most chose to draw the characters from their books Alex T. Smith took the opportunity to

introduce us to his dogs, and Helen Stephens was joined on stage by her 5 year old daughter. We were also treated to a few videos, one introducing us to the strange (but beautiful) Land of Neverbelieve, and Julia Donaldson sending a heartfelt message of thanks for Superworm's Category win, complete with a rendition

After all the build up, the announcement of The  $5^{\text{th}}$  Wave as this years overall winner was greeted with thunderous applause and the now habitual party blowers.

The Book People have posted a video of Rick Yancey's speech on their YouTube channel, where you can also find the video of Julia Donaldson and her brave volunteers singing the Superworm song: https://www.youtube.com/user/TheBookpeople

### We also had this report of the day from members of the Waveney Valley Children's Book Group

"One of our members, Allison Copeman an LRC Manager in a secondary school, and her two sons, Luke and Jake, attended The Red House Book Awards on Saturday 22 February. They travelled on the train and visited the sites of London including Big Ben and The London Eye before the event.

They met all the authors shortlisted and were able to speak to them and get their autographs. They were very pleased when illustrators Tony Ross drew them the Annoying Elephant and Axel Scheffler drew them Superworm. Last year's winner, Andrew Weale, asked the boys for some ideas for a follow up to Spooky Spooky House. Jakes favourite author is Alex T Smith, writer of the Claude books and Jake was very excited to be able to sit next to Alex at lunch. Alex talked all about his ideas for his books and drew Claude especially for Jake. Luke and Jake enjoyed the lunch of pizza, kebabs, shepherd's pie, banoffee pie, chocolate brownies and stripy jelly. The desserts looked too good to eat!

After lunch we walked over to the Southbank Centre for the award ceremony. Each author in attendance spoke about their books and some demonstrated their drawings or read from their books.

The overall winner was Rick Yancey with 'The 5th Wave' which was Allison's favourite.

It was a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyable."

More photos and information can be found on our website at http://www.fcbg.org.uk/red-house-childrens-book-award/ http://www.fcbg.org.uk/photos-from-the-red-house-childrens-book-award-ceremony-2014/

http://www.fcbg.org.uk/more-photos-and-a-video-from-thered-house-childrens-book-award-2014





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# A ROUND UP OF OTHER CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS

The first few months of the year are a very busy time for awards, with lots of announcements of winners and shortlists. Here's a look at what else is winning the prizes.

#### Scottish Children's Book Awards (Scottish Book Trust)

At the beginning of March the winners of Scotland's largest Children's Book Prize were announced at a special ceremony at Glasgow's Mitchell Library, attended by 800 young people from all over Scotland.

A celebration of the best of Scottish writing and illustration for children, the Scottish Children's Book Awards are judged in 3 age categories - Bookbug readers (3-7), Younger Readers (8-11) and Older Readers (12-16) - and are run by Scottish Book Trust in partnership with Creative Scotland. The shortlist is comprised of books published between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013 by authors or illustrators living and working in Scotland, and is chosen by a panel of booksellers, teachers, librarians and, most importantly, children. Children across Scotland are then invited to read the shortlist of three books in their age category and to vote for their favourite

Fife-based best-selling author Chae Strathie won the Bookbug Readers category (3-7 years) for his picture book *Jumblebum*, which was illustrated by Ben Cort and published by Scholastic.

Edinburgh-based children's author Janis Mackay won the Younger Readers Category (8-11 Years) for *The Accidental Time Traveller*, published by Kelpies.

Debut author Claire McFall, based in the Scottish Borders, won the Older Readers Category (12-16 Years) for Ferryman (published by Templar). Claire's current job as an English Teacher means that she has been on the other side of the awards in previous years, encouraging her pupils to vote and even attending the winner's ceremony with her class several years ago.

#### Blue Peter Award winners were announced on World Book Day

Best Book with facts was won by Tony Robinson for the second time for the WWII instalment in his Weird World of Wonders series. Best story was won by Katherine Rundell, for her second novel Rooftoppers. Judge Marcus Sedgewick had this to say of her book: "Rooftoppers is a lovely book - free and imaginative, original and touching. The judges loved the way it defies

genre and convention, and it's a fantastic winner for the Blue Peter Book Award." The announcement was made during a special Newsround bulleting, with the awards presented during the World Book Day episode of Blue Peter. Judges announced for inaugural Book Trust **Best Book** Award In February Book Trust announced the judges for the inaugural Book Trust Best Book Award with Amazon Kindle The list includes Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman, Julia Eccleshare, Louise Rennison, and Lauren Child and TV presenters Cerrie Burnell. Andy Akinwolere and Mel Giedroyc, as well as other well-known names. The awards will be presented in 5 categories: 4 age groups (0-5, 6-8, 9-11 and 12-14) and an award for innovations in online literature. After the announcement of the shortlist Children across the country will be invited to vote for the overall winners in each category. All the judges were facing a busy month of reading as the shortlist was due to be announced on 27th March - visit www.booktrust.org.uk to find out their picks! Finally, The Kate Greenaway and Carnegie shortlists were announced 18th March (after our deadline) - but you should be able to find out what books made them at www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk



# Our Festival of Children's Literature

It seems a very long while ago, but back in November, we held a Festival of Children's Literature at Birmingham Conservatoire. The event was held in celebration of our 45th year, and our win of the Eleanor Farjeon award a couple of years ago, and aimed to bring together literature with other art forms.

The day was a huge success, with everyone enjoying talks, performances and workshops from David Almond, Michael Morpurgo and Emma Chichester Clark, James Mayhew and Clara Vulliamy. It was fantastic to see so many of the Federation's supporters from over the years there, including founder Anne Wood, and we hope that everyone enjoyed it as much as we did!

If you weren't able to make it, we hope that these photos will give you a little insight into the day.

Thanks to Zoe Toft and Ros Bartlett for their role as organisers, and of course to the staff at the Conservatoire.

### Beyond Books!

As I write this the Federation's annual conference is still a while away, but I'm already getting excited about all the things we'll learn and the different perspectives that all the speakers will bring (and we really can't wait to share it all with you in the next issue...)

In the meantime though, we've been thinking about the Conference theme: **Books** and **Beyond!** and where beyond books might take us...

#### Oh, the places we'll go...

The capacity for a work of fiction to transport us to any place and any time is one of the delights of reading. Many places that we visit in books are inspired by or based on places that exist in real life and are there to be visited and enjoyed. Most are very well known - the Hundred Acre Wood, Lyra's Oxford, King's Cross Station – but I'm sure there's still plenty to discover! The Guardian launched an interactive map of literary locations around the country in May 2012, which can be found here: http://www.theguardian.com/books/interactive/2012/may/31/best-bookshops-map

What books are set near to where you live? Is there somewhere described in the book that you recognise? Did any famous authors live nearby? What places could you visit?

#### And the things we will see...

Adaptations of children's books are currently hugely popular on stage and on screen.

Currently showing in Shoreditch is an adaptation of Pullman's retelling of fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm. The website promises an immersive experience, allowing viewers the opportunity to brush shoulders with characters from fairy tales, as they move around within the storytelling environment, literally stepping into the world of the tales, which has been created by the theatre company in Shoreditch Town Hall's basement. Whilst the performance is described as suitable for young and old, its nature might make it less suitable for some younger children.

More information can be found at http://www.grimm-tales.co.uk/

Also currently showing is the Musical version of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*: http://www.charlieandthechocolatefactory.com/





Over the last few years technology has moved on in leaps and bounds, and it is becoming hard to ignore the developments in digital publishing that have occurred since the appearance of the first e-reader. From the usability of the touchscreen, to the inclusion of technological aspects to traditional printed books, the digital world now has a lot to offer to the young reader...

First of all, what is an app? It is a programme developed for use on a smartphone or tablet, and in digital publishing terms usually involves a storytelling aspect.

A very quick glance at the 'Kids' section of Apple's Appstore shows a wide variety of apps available, including digital versions of well-known books (such as The Hungry Caterpillar) and educational games - often to help with maths and language skills. Amongst the educational apps there is a whole range of non-fiction options - the Identitree Starter Kit, published by Redundant Software, particularly catches my eye (it turns out to be exactly what it sounds like - a guide to identifying trees whilst you're out and about, but very much aimed at the American market).

Many apps developed for children are very interactive, with some storytelling apps involving a lot of mini game-like activities that allow the reader to get involved in the story – examples are Nosy Crow's Jack and the Beanstalk and Cinderella, where children can help lack out with cleaning the cow before taking it off to market, or help Cinderella to clean up after her stepsisters and get them all ready for the ball. Cinderella offers the reader three choices after starting up the app - Read and Play, which includes the interactive elements, Read to Me, where the story is narrated, and Read by Myself, which allows the reader to read at their own pace.

Publishers are also finding ways to use apps to supplement the worlds of their printed books, allowing readers to unlock special content if they have a smart phone, or providing a different medium for glimpsing the world around the books. One example of this is Cornelia Funke's MirrorWorld app, which accompanies her books Fearless and Reckless (www.mirrorworldnovels.com). The app is described as "a compendium of living stories that expand on the fantasy world... [combining] cinema, storybook and interactive elements." The reader has the opportunity to make many choices, not just choosing the tale, but also whether to read, watch or listen to it.

At the other end of the spectrum are pure games, though even these can involve elements of storytelling, or the germ of year is a game called Tengami, which enters the miniature world of a Japanese style pop-up book. The game is entirely without narration, lending an air of complete mystery to the hero's journey through the strange and beautiful landscape, but completion of each of the quests is rewarded by a haiku which summarises something about the level just finished. A lot of thought has been given to the nature of pop-up books and how they work, with an acknowledgement that being inside a digital world the rules can be bent slightly, allowing the player/reader to journey deeper into the 'pages' and world of the book.

Thinking about the scope, the possibilities that exist in the digital world, it is clear that this doesn't just provide children with new ways of experiencing stories, but also with new jumping off points. It provides the possibility of glimpsing what might be happening around the edges of the page and exploring the depths of the world within the book, but it can also provide new questions, new characters and new ways of telling stories...

With all the recent news about plans for children to learn how to code, and develop their own games, it is quite heartening to think that with games, there will probably come stories.





# 26 Characters The Story Museum, Oxford 5 April - 2 November 2014

26 characters from children's story are portrayed by some of Britain's best-loved writers and storytellers in a unique photographic installation at The Story Museum, Oxford. Awardwinning authors, including past and present Children's Laureates and a bestselling poet invite visitors to meet their fictional heroes. Malorie Blackman becomes the Wicked Witch of the West, Terry Pratchett achieves outlaw status as Just William, and Neil Gaiman gets stripey as a well-known woodland creature. Visitors of all ages are invited to go on a journey though some intriguing spaces - literally full of character - and make the acquaintance of a cast of characters, from Anansi to Boromir and all the way to Oz. Other authors taking part are Steven Butler, Cressida Cowell, Kevin Crossley-Holland, Ted Dewan, Julia Donaldson, Jamila Gavin, Frances Hardinge, Charlie Higson, Anthony Horowitz, Katrice Horsley (Storytelling Laureate), Shirley Hughes, Terry Jones, Geraldine McCaughrean, Michael Morpurgo, Philip Pullman, Michael Rosen, Katherine Rundell, Francesca Simon, Holly Smale, Clara Vulliamy and Benjamin Zephaniah.

Award-winning photographer Cambridge Jones has captured a gallery of rogues and rascals, wizards, witches and wild things, which unfolds through The Story Museum's atmospheric and unfinished buildings. 26 Characters also features authors talking about their heroes and the magic of stories. Read and hear, new works specially created for the exhibition by Jamila Gavin, Geraldine McCaughrean and others, read by actors Olivia Colman and Christopher Eccleston.

Surprises along the way include a talking throne and the chance for children (adults too) to think about their own favourites, dress up and add their photograph to a digital gallery.

26 Characters is accompanied by a varied programme of author and story-related events for all ages and more information can be found at <a href="https://www.storymuseum.org.uk">www.storymuseum.org.uk</a>



# Moving Stories Children's Books from Page to Screen 05/04/2014 - 27/04/2015

Seven Stories

Developed in partnership with National Media Museum in Bradford, this new exhibition showcases innovative and influential film and television adaptations inspired by children's books. The exhibition will focus on different aspects of storytelling and plots and featured stories include Alice in Wonderland, The Gruffalo and The Borrowers as well as fairy tales including Snow White, Cinderella and Shrek.

There will be lots of rare and intriguing objects on display, many for the first time, offering visitors a chance to see manuscripts, illustrations, storyboards, costumes and film footage. Exhibition highlights include: Roald Dahl's original annotated notebooks from *Fantastic Mr Fox* — displayed alongside puppet's from the 2009 film, directed by Wes Anderson; original manuscripts and illustrations from *The Borrowers* and *Mr Stink*, both adapted by the BBC; a sketch of *Snow White* taken from *Snow White* and the *Seven Dwarfs*, the first ever feature film created by Disney in 1937.

# Daydreams and Diaries: The Story of Jacqueline Wilson The V&A Museum of Childhood 5 April - 2 November 2014

This touring exhibition from Seven Stories is a celebration of all things Jacqueline Wilson, and gives you a chance to find out about her childhood, her early career and what inspires her to write.

The exhibition features original notebooks, childhood toys, school reports and diaries. It also includes extracts and illustrations from some of her best-loved books including *The Story of Tracy Beaker, The Illustrated Mum* and *Hetty Feather.* The exhibition also offers you the opportunity to explore a re-creation of Jacqueline's childhood bedroom or make notes for your first novel on a chaise longue just like hers!

Find out more at: http://www.museumofchildhood.org.uk/

And we should also take this opportunity to congratulate Dame Jacqueline Wilson on her appointment as Chancellor of Roehampton University, a role which she will take up in August this year. She has been a Professorial Fellow of the University since 2008 and teaches on both the Children's Literature and Creative Writing Master's degrees offered by the University's Department of English and Creative Writing.

## NEWS from the groups

As always, we are really eager to hear what YOUR group has been up to, so please keep in touch!

#### OXFORD

Ways into Reading
Autumn Conference, 12th October 2013

What an exciting action-packed day it was! How did we manage to pack it all in? We took the theme of ways of getting children reading by less conventional means and we certainly learned a lot. Beginning with Professor Victor Watson, (http://www.lauracecil. co.uk/pages/Clients/Clients Fiction/ Watson/Watson home.html) formerly of Homerton College Cambridge, who talked to us about his fascination with series fiction and the reasons it helps children to feel safe, where each new book is like entering 'a room full of friends.' We then enjoyed a thought provoking talk about Project X and the role of reading schemes in the lives of 21st century children from Andrea Quincey of OUP.



After coffee we enjoyed a taste of the ways that author Tracey Corderoy (http://www.traceycorderoy.com/) engages children on school and festival visits with costumes, craft, animals and LOTS of imagination, and heard about *The Phoenix Comic* (http://www.thephoenixcomic.co.uk) (a real comic not a TV tie-in magazine!) and how it engages children in the pleasure of reading.

After an excellent lunch we had more treats in store, firstly Vineeta Gupta talking about creating the Oxford Children's Dictionaries from the children's corpus (http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/creating-a-children-s-dictionary) and then the wonderful Andy Mulligan (http://www.andymulliganbooks.com/) talking about Dangerous Books and the role edgy fiction can play in drawing in the reluctant older readers.

Finally we all enjoyed a special storytime

with the lovely Bill Laar, (http://www.educationimprovementcompany.co.uk/our-people/) ably demonstrating that enthusiasm and storytelling are important in bringing children and books together.

More recently Oxford have welcomed back Tracy Corderoy as part of their World Book Day celebrations. In their own words: Tracy is amazingly talented and we all had a varied and very lively two hours. Tracy had brought inspiring costumes (made by herself) and showed her fantastic skill in keeping 60 children enthralled with her imaginative story-telling and acting ability.

The books Tracey talked about were Hubble Bubble Granny Trouble, Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam and The Glorious Granny Bake-Off. Inspired by the illustrations in The Glorious Granny Bake Off, the children also had an opportunity to show their talents in a draw a magical and fantastical cake competition.

Also great fun was the craft activity that Tracey had brought with her, which involved the children making a cauldron with a pop-up frog on a broomstick. To round off the party there was an excellent tea and a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all.

On World Book day itself we were delighted to take author Jo Cotterill to the first of several visits to local schools she is undertaking for OCBG, this time to Henry Box school in Witney, where she met members of the Book Club informally and then enthralled the whole of year 8 talking



### South Bucks

Enjoyed some amazing autumn fun in celebration of National Non-Fiction Day, as we explored the wonders of nature at our fun-filled, interactive afternoon, with hands on craft and quizzes.

We were pleased to welcome our special guest, Bucks Nature Warden to our Botanical session who delightfully explained how to appreciate trees and identify different types by their leaves and seeds.

The room was filled with calming scent as the children enjoyed making fragrant

lavender wardrobe hangers, experimented with wind dispersal of seeds and created and used a dichotomous key to help identify different plants. The children made their own newspaper plant pots and then planted a wide range interesting bulbs and seeds to take home and grow - hands in the potting compost was a favourite activity! The children also looked up fascinating botanical facts in a selection of beautifully illustrated books about their chosen planted seeds or bulbs, ready to start writing their Seed Diaries, which they took home with them. A lovely spread of ages joined in, the teens often helping the younger children.

Each child, regardless of background, ability or level of confidence, was able to join in fully with a range of stimulating and enjoyable activities throughout our two hour

session, supported by adults who were enthusiastic about their topic.

Refreshments of cakes and biscuits, shaped and decorated like flowers, were much appreciated and enjoyed by everyone.

Copies of the Vegetable-Growers Calendar, from Garden Organic, were all eagerly accepted by

adults & children, boding well for the future of vegetable production in South Bucks!



#### Aldbourne CBG

have been snuggling up in their pyjamas and sipping some cocoa at their regular Bedtime Stories event, and celebrated World Book Day with a big book swap!

#### **Ipswich CBG**

were looking forward to welcoming Marcus Sedgwick to talk about his new book – his first for adults – A Love Like Blood, a dark and compelling thriller about how a man's life can change in a moment.

#### Lewes CBG

have been carrying on enjoying their regular book swaps, offering all their members a chance to try something new.





# DANDELION CLOCKS

An interview with first time novelist Rebecca Westcott, billed to be a hit with fans of Jacqueline Wilson, Cathy Cassidy or Annabel Pitcher. Read all about her inspirations, how it feels to be published, and what she's planning next (and read a short extract from Dandelion Clocks)! http://www.febg.org.uk/dandelion-elocks/

### OKSA POLLOCK

Oksa Pollock has been described as the French answer to Harry Potter, and has had enormous success. The first in the series of 6 books was published in English last summer, the second, The Forest of Lost Souls, came out earlier this year. Last month the two authors, Anne Plichota and Cendrine Wolf, contributed a guest post to our blog. http://www.febg.org.uk/oksa-pollock/

Not able to join us at our Conference this year? Many of our speakers have written guest posts for us, so you don't miss out completely!

### Deadline for the next issue is June 7th 2014

Please send all group news, ideas and photos to Rebecca Knight-Morgan: news@fcbg.org.uk Revecca Knight-Morgan, news @cog.org.uk 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 where you can

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#### The next Executive meeting will be on May 17th 2014

All meetings are held in London, Please contact Sarah for further information at least two weeks in advance if you wish to attend as an observer.

