



The Federation of Children's Book Groups

# Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2015

## The Day the Crayons Quit

announced as winner of the Red House Children's Book Award



Hundreds of children and book fans gathered at the Southbank centre on 21st February for the **Red House Children's Book Award 2015** presentation ceremony.

As in previous years the ceremony was preceded by a lunch for the authors and illustrators of the top ten nominated books and children from our groups, and the presentation of the portfolios to the authors and illustrators. The portfolios contain artwork and writing produced by children around the country in response to all of the books, and are always well received.

Both the portfolios and the awards ceremony were presented by TV presenter Helen Skelton, and the winners in each category were as follows:

**Younger Children and Overall Winner: *The Day the Crayons Quit***

Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers

**Younger Readers: *Demon Dentist***

David Walliams and Tony Ross

**Older Readers: *Split Second***

Sophie McKenzie

Unfortunately neither Oliver Jeffers nor Drew Daywalt were able to be at the ceremony as both live in New York, but their publisher collected the award on their behalf. Both were absolutely delighted with their win.

Everyone had a great time on the day.

**Congratulations to all the winners!**

red house  
children's  
book award!

[www.fcbg.org.uk](http://www.fcbg.org.uk)

## inside

- National Share A Story Month
- Harry Potter Night
- Group News



# A WIZARDLY EVENING IN SOLIHULL

Solihull Children's Book Group held a Harry Potter night in conjunction with Waterstones, Solihull on the evening of Thursday, February 5th.

"We invited 40 local school children who all came with a parent and the event was completely free. Tickets were issued on a first come, first served basis and children were encouraged to come in fancy dress but we didn't make it obligatory.

The programme for the evening was as follows: We started at 6pm with a welcoming talk and the sorting hat ceremony. Just like at Hogwarts the children were sorted into the four houses, Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Slytherin and Hufflepuff, and given a sticker to wear to indicate their house. All of the activities enabled the children to earn house points (which we monitored using beads in a jar) culminating in a final counting at end of the evening - Hufflepuff House won the most house points!

There was then a round robin system of activities based on ideas from the Harry Potter night tool kit: Hogwarts objects Treasure Hunt and word search activity. Readings from the book followed by a word game "I went to Diagonal Alley and I bought ....." Petrified Potters, based on musical statues followed by a drawing activity.

We also had a Potions corner and some Harry Potter themed refreshments! The table was laden with dragons tears, phoenix feathers, Scabbers tails, thestral wing scales, bugs and beetles and hokey leaves". Drinks were made using fizzy water and food colouring.

All of the children received a certificate and the winners had a dip into the lucky "bug" bag. It was very successful and we've had plenty of positive feedback."



## The Phoenix Children's Comic Festival 2015

2nd-3rd May 2015

Now in its third year the Phoenix Children's Comic Festival is returning to Oxford in May, hosted by the Story Museum. The festival is an annual celebration of both The Phoenix and the wider world of comics for children, and this year's line-up promises to be bigger and better than ever. There will be plenty on offer for children and adults of all ages - including the chance to take part in comic workshops, live shows, comic jams, magic, storytelling, interactive theatre, printing, fabulous food and more. Learn more about Dastardly Villains, Swashbuckling Adventures, Monster Mayhem and lots of Silly Stuff. And, of course, get to meet some of your favourite Phoenix artists too!

If you're interested in finding out more you can visit <http://www.storymuseum.org.uk/whats-on/phoenix-childrens-comic-festival-2015/> where you will find information on how to book tickets, the workshop programme and more. More information about the Phoenix can be found at <http://www.thephoenixcomic.co.uk/>.

## Once Upon A Time: A Short History of Fairy Tale

Marina Warner

Towards the end of last year I was lucky enough to attend a short lecture by Marina Warner, discussing her latest book *Once Upon A Time: A Short History of Fairy Tale*. Many of the books (and indeed films and TV) that I enjoy as an adult draw upon this foundation of stories well-known, read or listened to as a child - and it is clear that I am not alone. Both the talk and the book cover some of our best known stories, drawing both on the tales as traditionally told and their interpretations and appearances, however transformed, in modern media. Starting out from the world of Fairy, *Once Upon A Time...* covers the history of our interaction with fairy tales, from early collectors to modern adaptations, examining our shifting interpretations of them, the resonance that they have in any particular given time period, and our continued fascination with them. A little book, that is definitely worth a read, for anyone who shares an interest, not only in fairy tales, but in our relationship to them.



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We are delighted to announce that the theme for NSSM 2015 is Dragons!

We are sure this exciting topic will lend itself to a whole host of story-telling events, craft activities and workshops or puppet shows. The culture of Chinese, Welsh and Viking dragons could be explored, dragon models made and stories and poems written about shy, fearless, friendly or frightening dragons. There could be research into the science of dragons (could they really fly?), exploration into myths and legends about dragons and suggestions about what a dragon would like for tea.

The ideas are endless and we are really looking forward to hearing about the events and activities planned for the month of May. Do keep us informed at [nssm@fcbg.org.uk](mailto:nssm@fcbg.org.uk). If groups let us know about their events, they will be entered into a prize draw and the information posted on the web site. Publishers have offered us copies of dragon books and we have been given dragon illustrations for prizes too.

We encourage book groups to organize dragon themed short story or poetry competitions and the winning entries can be celebrated on the [NSSM page of the FCBG website](#).

A pack of ideas and suggestions will be sent to each book group and links to useful resources and downloadable material will be available on the NSSM page of the FCBG website. The pack will also be available for download. There will be a list of dragon stories recommended by the FCBG executive.

Look out for several interesting blog posts from dragon story writers, illustrators and storytellers during the month.

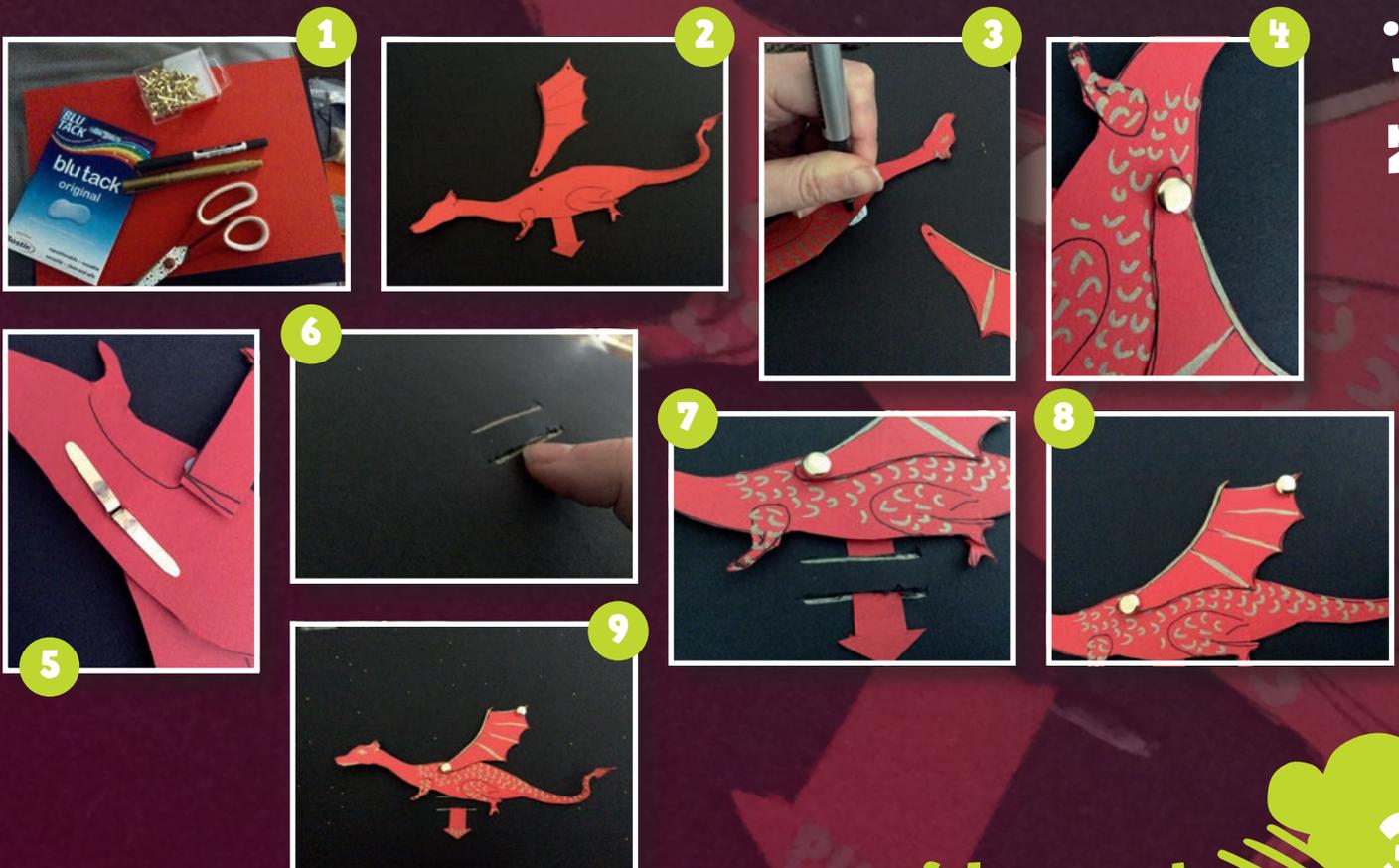
We wish you all an exciting and dragon inspired month of May!

Look out for the latest news on the FCBG website <http://www.fcbg.org.uk/national-share-a-story-month/> or email Louise at [nssm@fcbg.org.uk](mailto:nssm@fcbg.org.uk)

## How to create a flapping dragon card:

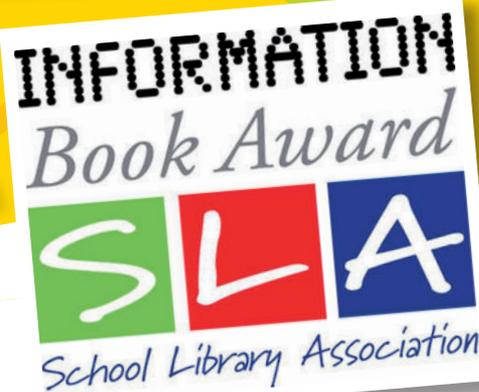
You will need: A4 white or coloured card x 2, scissors, split pins x 2, pens and pencils and a small lump of blu-tack or similar

1. On either white or coloured card draw the parts of the dragon. Draw the outline of the dragon's head, body and tail. Draw a long tab onto the base of the body – this will be used to move the dragon. Draw the wing separately. (You could use a template to make this easier.)
2. Fill in the details – eyes, scales, etc. If using white card colour in your dragon. Also mark the point on the body where the wing will meet it, a point on the wing where it will join the body, and a point on the wingtip, which will be attached to the card.
3. Cut out the dragon's body, remembering to leave the tab, and the wing.
4. Using a pen or sharp pencil and the lump of blu-tack create a hole in the dragon's body, at the point marked earlier. Repeat for the 2 marks on the wing.
5. Using a split pin attach the dragon's wing to its body.
6. Take your second piece of card and create a slit for the tab to go through. Put the tab through this slit, leaving some space between the slit and the dragon's body – this is important to allow the dragon to move later.
7. Position the wing and mark where you want the wing tip to attach to the card. Create a hole at this point using the same method as earlier.
8. Using the second split pin attach the wing tip to the card.
9. Try moving the dragon up and down by pulling the tab – you should be able to see your dragon's wing moving!
10. Add any extra decoration you would like – I chose to make it look like mine was flying through the night sky.



# THE SLA INFORMATION BOOK AWARD

Helping highlight excellent information books for children



Tricia Adams of the SLA writes:

This is the fifth year that we have been running the SLA Information Book Award

with the generous support of our sponsors – Hachette Children's books. We started in 2011 with very tentative steps wondering if publishers would support another award. We are pleased to announce they most definitely do! Our sponsors comment 'Hachette Children's Group are proud to be the sponsors of the SLA Information Book Award. We value the special attention this award gives to the vast range of inspirational information books that are published each year by such talented authors and illustrators, and the opportunity it gives for children to vote for their favourite in each category. It also provides us as publishers the opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the librarians who continue to be such enthusiastic champions of information books for children of all ages in their school libraries.'

The award is split into three categories: Under 7, 7 – 12 and 12 – 16. The judges are looking for information books that will stimulate interest, have an innovative approach and/or format, have child appeal, be up to date in approach as well as have value (for education and enjoyment) going forward. The books must show use of appropriate pictures, language and topic for the age group and the synergies between text, layout and illustration must create a stimulating whole. The books must be published in the previous year and, although the books may be part of a series, they need to be able to be read as standalone works.

The award has always had two strands to it – the Judges choices, which are announced in a Longlist around early March, and then a Shortlist about a month later. But it is at the shortlist stage that we invite children to get involved via their reading groups in schools or libraries. We create an online voting form for the (usually) nine titles – three in each of the age categories then groups can decide on their favourites and vote. Groups do not need to vote in every category as groups may not be age appropriate for some of the books. These votes are tallied at the end of the process, then the books' authors and illustrators are all invited to the award ceremony when there are awards for each category plus an overall winner from both judges and children's choices. Some years children and judges agree – many years they do not! It all adds to the value and the choices for excellent information books for the future.

We'd like to extend an invitation to you, as FCBG Children's Book Groups, to join us in the Children's Choice voting for the 2015 winners. Voting usually opens in mid-June and then closes immediately before the actual award ceremony in the autumn (dates are currently being negotiated, but will be announced very shortly to give you time to fit them into your planning schedule.) We also produce resources for use with groups or classes that can be used with the books – and this year plan to produce resource sheets for every shortlisted book, as well as the more general information that is already available. To see what has gone before do look at our website <http://www.sla.org.uk/information-book-award.php> (each year has a separate page). Peters Books and Furniture usually produce packs of the books each year at a very generous discount, if they are not already included in your collections.

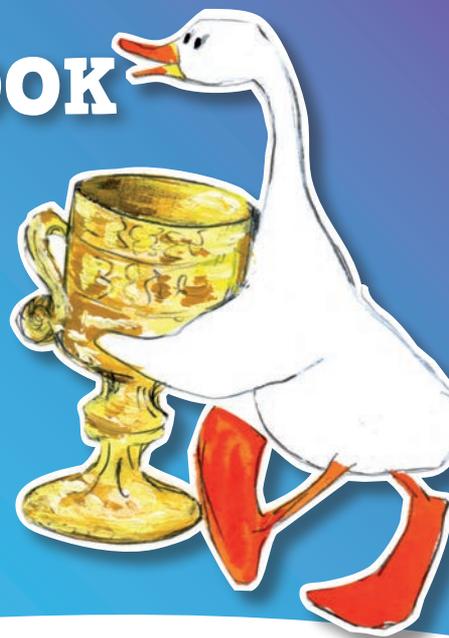
I do hope you'll feel you want to give it a try this year - so watch out for the announcements coming soon. Do get in touch if you want to clarify anything – [info@sla.org.uk](mailto:info@sla.org.uk)



# SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS 2015

Ross Collins, Alex McCall and Cathy MacPhail were announced in early March as the winners of the 2015 Scottish Children's Book Awards during a special ceremony at Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms, which was attended by about 600 children. The Glasgow-based author and illustrator Ross Collins won the Bookbug Reader's (3-7 yrs) category for the illustrations in picture book *Robot Rumpus*, which was written by Sean Taylor and is about what might happen in a world where robots are there to do everything for us. Alex McCall, who at 21 is one of the youngest published authors in Scotland,

won the Younger Readers (8-11 yrs) category for his first novel *Attack of the Giant Robot Chickens*. The book, published by Kelpies, is packed with adventure and plenty of chicken jokes – a sequel will be published later this year. Cathy MacPhail, who is a previous winner of two Scottish Children's Book Awards (in 2006 for *Roxy's Baby* and in 2010 for *Grass*) won the Older Readers (12-16 yrs) category for her young adult thriller *Mosi's War* - published by Bloomsbury, it is a novel set in Glasgow and exploring the terrifying world of child soldiers.



## CARNEGIE AND KATE GREENAWAY SHORTLISTS ANNOUNCED

March also brought the announcement for the shortlists for the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals. Congratulations to all who made the shortlists, which you can find below. The winners will be announced in June.



### CARNEGIE:

Brian Conaghan - *When Mr. Dog Bites*  
Sarah Crossan - *Apple and Rain*  
Sally Gardner - *Tinder*  
Frances Hardinge - *Cuckoo Song*  
Elizabeth Laird - *The Fastest Boy In The World*  
Tanya Landman - *Buffalo Soldier*  
Geraldine McCaughrean - *The Middle of Nowhere*  
Patrick Ness - *More Than This*

### KATE GREENAWAY:

Carlin, Laura (illustrator)  
Davies, Nicola (text) - *The Promise*  
Alexis Deacon (illustrator)  
Russell Hoban (text) - *Jim's Lion*  
William Grill - *Shackleton's Journey*  
John Higgins & Marc Olivent (illustrators)  
Marcus Sedgwick & Julian Sedgwick (text) - *Dark Satanic Mills*  
Catherine Rayner - *Smelly Louie*  
Chris Riddell - *Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse*  
David Roberts (illustrator)  
Sally Gardner (text) - *Tinder*  
Shaun Tan - *Rules of Summer*

## HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARDS 2016

We would like to offer author Elizabeth Laird and illustrator Chris Riddell our congratulations, as both have been nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Awards 2016. The Awards are presented every other year by the International Board on Books for Young People, and honour a 'living author and illustrator whose complete works have made a lasting contribution to children's literature.' With their distinguished and lengthy publication history we agree that both well deserve their nominations.

Elizabeth Laird is a much-travelled writer with a deep interest in the traditional tales of other cultures. Her book *Kiss the Dust* won the Children's Book Award in 1992.

Chris Riddell is among the few illustrators for children who have won the CILIP Kate Greenaway Award more than once: for *Pirate's Diary* in 2001 and *Gulliver's Travels* in 2004. *Ottoline and the Yellow Cat* was a Category Winner of the Red House Children's Book Award in 2008.

Pam Dix, the Chair of IBBY UK said, "We are very proud to nominate two such distinguished creators of children's books. Liz Laird's books offer young people compassionate insight into some of the world's thorniest human conflicts and Chris Riddell's imagination, sharp wit, and drawing skills make him one of our most exciting illustrators for children and indeed for adults."

# Events

## STORY MUSEUM, OXFORD, DRAW ME A STORY

Opens 31st March

Following the extended run of their last exhibition *26 Characters*, The Story Museum is about to open its doors on an all new exhibition. Draw me a story will feature artwork by well-known illustrators such as **Emily Gravett, Quentin Blake, Korky Paul, Mini Grey** and more and give its visitors the chance to learn about all of the processes behind picture book illustration, how a character progresses from sketch book page to printed work, and to watch live illustrators at work in the 'illustrator zoo'.

<http://www.storymuseum.org.uk/visit/whats-inside/draw-story/>

## SEVEN STORIES

Whilst their Newcastle home is closed for the next few months, completing renovations in time to celebrate their 10th anniversary, Seven Stories continues its programme of touring exhibitions: *Mystery, Magic and Midnight Feasts - the Many Adventures of Enid Blyton* will, this summer, be setting up camp at *Plymouth City Museum*.

Running from **Wednesday 17 June - Saturday 5 September**, the exhibition offers visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the worlds of Blyton's best known works – *The Magic Faraway Tree*, *The Famous Five* and *Noddy* amongst them – and to look over Seven Stories' unique collection of Blyton's original typescripts and illustrations. Great news if you missed it in Newcastle.

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/>

## DISCOVER

Once there was...*The Wonderful World of Oliver Jeffers*  
until Sunday 6 September  
2015

This year at Discover story centre, take the chance to explore **Oliver Jeffers'** magical worlds in an exhibition that brings his fabulous picture books to life. Featuring the worlds of **How to Catch a Star, Up and Down, Lost and Found** and **The Way Back Home**, you can spend a day recreating your favourite scenes. Why not take a trip to the seaside, row a boat, make friends with a penguin and an alien, visit the Lost and Found office and watch as stars magically appear, all whilst still in London.

Details at [www.discover.org.uk/oliver-jeffers-exhibition](http://www.discover.org.uk/oliver-jeffers-exhibition)

## YOU MAY HAVE MISSED:

World Book Day Teen Fest  
website - [www.wbdteenfest.com/](http://www.wbdteenfest.com/)

Although World Book Day is over for this year, there's still plenty of interesting things to watch and read on the World Book Day Teen Fest website. Highlights include blog posts by Annabel Pitcher and Sophie McKenzie, authors favourite playlists and videos galore featuring DIYs and an inside view of the publishing industry.

## Blue Peter Book Awards 2015

*The Silly Book of Side-Splitting Stuff* and *The Spy Who Loved School Dinners* win the Blue Peter Book Awards in 2015. The awards, which celebrate the best authors, most creative illustrators and the greatest reads for children, are managed by Booktrust.

More than 200 children from ten schools across the UK took part in voting to decide the winners in each category. *The Spy Who Loved School Dinners*, written by Pamela Butchart (whose book *Baby Aliens Got My Teacher* was nominated for the 2015 Red House Children's Book Award) and illustrated by Thomas Flintham, has won the Best Story Award. *The Silly Book of Side-Splitting Stuff*, written by Andy Seed and illustrated by Scott Garrett, won the Best Book with Facts Award.

## COMING UP:

**YALC**, the UK's first Young Adult Literature Convention will return this year. An initiative of current Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman, which was held for the first time in 2014, the event was the first large-scale public literature convention dedicated entirely to teen and Young Adult books to be hosted in the UK, and it saw thousands of young people attending a weekend of events celebrating reading.

YALC 2015 will take place as part of the London Film and Comic Con, which this year runs from Friday 17- Sunday 19 July at Olympia, London. Names released so far include Cassandra Clare, Arabella Weir, Charlie Higson and Patrick Ness, as well as Malorie Blackman herself.

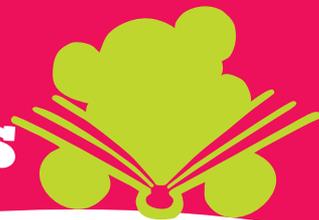
More information can be found at <http://www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/yalc>

## AND DON'T FORGET:

The next Children's Laureate, who will hold the post until 2017 will be announced on 9th June.



# NEWS from the groups



A quick round up of what our other groups have been up to since our last issue.

## DUNDEE AND AREA CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUP

has been busy with a variety of events. First, Pamela Butchart, one of their members and the winner of the Blue Peter Book Award 2015, entertained 2 primary school classes with readings and activities from her book *Baby Aliens Got My Teacher*. A Primary 6 class with some of her biggest fans was given an exclusive talk about her newest book *My Head Teacher Is A Vampire Rat*.

They also organised a big event with author, film maker and mountaineer **Matt Dickinson**. He gave very motivating talks to hundreds of school pupils in Perth and also showed some of his amazing film clips to hundreds of Secondary Pupils in Dundee.

They are now focussing on organising the winner's party for the authors shortlisted for this year's Red House Children's Book Award and hope to provide something special for both the authors and the children.



Matt (next to a picture of Mount Everest) in action at Harris Academy in Dundee.

## OXFORD CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUP

John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford play specialist Erica Watson, is given over £100 worth of new books by Oxford Children's Book Group committee members, **Erica Davis**, **Jackie Holderness** and **Moira da Costa** to celebrate World Book Day. Each book has an Ex Libris book plate with the new OCBG logo designed by illustrator **Terry Milne**.



Oxford book presentation

## GETTING READING READING

Sent out some invitations to their members via Owl Post, for an event in celebration of **Harry Potter Book Night**. Attendees were invited to come to a lecture on 'The Philosophy of Harry Potter' dressed as a Harry Potter character and were sorted into Hogwarts' houses on arrival.

They are now turning their attention to planning their 10th Birthday Celebration, which will take place on 16th May – we look forward to hearing all about it!

## OXTED CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUP

Author **Megan Rix** entertained children at a number of their local schools this autumn. They have also been running bookstalls at a variety of local community events. Their Facebook page continues to grow in popularity – and hosts details of all of their upcoming activities, as well as information about children's books and other book-related events.



Megan Rix

## SOUTH BUCKS CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUP

### Tasty Travels

South Buck's Children's Book Group's culinary Autumn Half Term event, celebrated a Global variety of good things to eat, for **National Non-Fiction November**.

What a wonderful, tasty afternoon of fun and imaginative activities, which came to life so creatively as most children eagerly chomped on delicious and mouth watering morsels from around the world, while also encouraging some more tentative children to be courageous and taste unfamiliar foods:

Italian Amaretti biscuits, Japanese sushi, Swedish cinnamon buns, coconut & pineapple from the Caribbean, Mexican avocado & chilli based guacamole and exotic

Indian spices of garlic & coriander naan bread and mango chutney.

The children also enjoyed making fabulous food inspired crafts from Indian tiger masks, salt dough Mexican suns & skulls (Day of the Dead), tropical flower garlands, Scandinavian reindeer, Oriental origami water lilies and Italian pizza toppings.

Purposeful concentration and dexterity was needed for the chopstick challenge game.

**The World Quiz** encouraged the children to explore the atlases, maps and non-fiction books to discover fun facts, while searching for the fascinating answers. A delightful event with a relaxed and very friendly atmosphere, which fostered much interaction between the parents, adult helpers and children involved. In fact everyone was so eager to complete the quiz, that we had some difficulty clearing the hall at the end of the afternoon. The exasperated cry some half an hour after the session should have finished, "Please give me the New Zealand book. It's the last answer I need", marked a successful conclusion to our National Non-Fiction November.

Many thanks to our young helpers, **Ben** and **Oliver** for a fantastic gingerbread house demonstration, following their "Bake Off" competition at school and Rosie for photos of our event.

They have also, more recently, hosted "**Puppy Dog Tales**" an event celebrating some very special doggy birthdays with delightful stories, wonderful songs and fun, puppy dog inspired, craft activities and quiz. Four-legged friends were welcome!

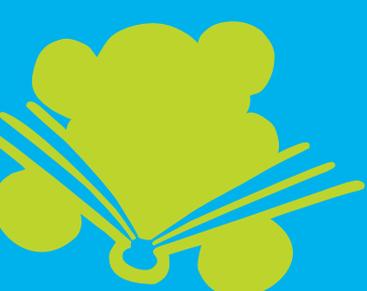


Gingerbread House



Decorating





## A Brief Reminder

This is my last issue of the newsletter, so from now on please direct all newsletter enquiries and content to **Chris Routh**, of Reading CBG. You can email her at: [Chrisrouth@leightonpark.com](mailto:Chrisrouth@leightonpark.com)

Also, there will be no Summer Issue of the newsletter – as outlined in the last issue we have made the decision to drop down to two issues per year. The next issue should be with you in the Autumn. In the mean time you can still keep up with all our news on Twitter, Facebook, and – of course – our blog!

## NEXT ISSUE:

Red House Children's Book Award 2016  
Top Ten, National Non-Fiction November  
and more!



Deadline for the next issue is  
September 30th 2015

Please send all group news, ideas and photos to **Chris Routh**, [chrisrouth@leightonpark.com](mailto:chrisrouth@leightonpark.com)

Follow us on Twitter @FCBGNews, and on Facebook and don't forget our website: [www.fcbg.org.uk](http://www.fcbg.org.uk) where you can subscribe to our blog!

Editorial Team: Rebecca Knight-Morgan, Louise Stothard and Jessica Knight.

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Designed and printed by The City Press Leeds Ltd.

# Executive Committee 2014-2015

If you'd like to know more about the members of the Committee then visit the Committee page on our website – where you can read about where we come from, and some of our favourite books.

### Chair

Sarah Stuffins  
32 Washington Road, Caversham  
Reading  
Berks, RG4 5AA  
0118 947 8486  
[sarahstuffins@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahstuffins@hotmail.com)  
Reading CBG

### Vice Chair, CPO

Jane Etheridge  
123 Frederick Road, Cheam, Sutton  
Greater London, SM1 2HT  
020 8641 8173  
[etheridgejs@talktalk.net](mailto:etheridgejs@talktalk.net)  
Oxted CBG

### National Secretary

Karen Hellewell  
10 St Laurence Road  
Bradford on Avon  
Wiltshire, BA5 1JG  
[info@fcbg.org.uk](mailto:info@fcbg.org.uk)  
0300 102 1559  
Aldbourn CBG

### Treasurer

Julia Miller,  
Baie Lazare, Low Road  
Barrowby  
Lincolnshire, NG32 1DJ  
01476 562915  
[Julia.miller@cognitivefitness.co.uk](mailto:Julia.miller@cognitivefitness.co.uk)  
Lincs CBG

### Minutes Secretary

Christine Leggett  
23 Dorset Close  
Ipswich  
Suffolk, IP4 3BJ  
01473 251417  
[cleggett@claydonhigh.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:cleggett@claydonhigh.suffolk.sch.uk)  
Ipswich CBG

### RHCBA Co-ordinator

Wendy Gilham-Skinner  
Lyncroft, 38 Bicker Road  
Donnington  
Spalding, PE11 4XP  
[Wendygilhamskinner@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Wendygilhamskinner@lincolnshire.gov.uk)  
Lincs CBG

### Group Liaison Officer

Rosanne Bartlett  
65 Worcester Street  
Norton, Stourbridge  
West Midlands, DY8 1AX  
01384 376292  
[cbartlett@earls.dudley.gov.uk](mailto:cbartlett@earls.dudley.gov.uk)  
Dudley CBG

### Booklists/Website

Melanie McGilloway  
47 Derham Park  
Yatton  
Somerset,  
BS49 4EA  
[yeovalleycbg@gmail.com](mailto:yeovalleycbg@gmail.com)  
Yeo Valley CBG

### NNFN/Blog

Zoe Toft  
44 Jerome Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
Birmingham, B72 1SR  
0121 354 2976  
[Zoe.toft@kuvik.net](mailto:Zoe.toft@kuvik.net)  
Dudley CBG

### NSSM

Louise Stothard  
Manor Barn  
68, Church Street, Helmdon  
Northants, NN13 5QJ  
[louisestothard@aol.com](mailto:louisestothard@aol.com)  
Oxford CBG

### Social Media/Newsletter

Chris Routh  
3 Morlais, Emmer Green  
Reading  
RG4 8PQ  
[Chrisrouth@leightonpark.com](mailto:Chrisrouth@leightonpark.com)  
Reading CBG

### Newsletter

Rebecca Knight-Morgan  
61 Bailey Road  
Oxford  
OX4 3HX  
[rebeccajaneKnight@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccajaneKnight@gmail.com)  
Oxford CBG

The next Executive meeting will  
be **9th May 2015**.

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.

