

Autumn/Winter 2020

# The Federation of Children's Book Groups Newsletter

40th Anniversary 1980-2020



## The 2020 FCBG Children's Book Award

On 10th October, we opened our online doors and held the 2020 CBA ceremony virtually. We were joined by the fabulous **Sarah McIntyre** and **Philip Reeve**. They treated us to a very special short story written and illustrated for the CBA, based on the antics of their fabulous character, Kevin the Roly Poly Flying Pony. Sarah also taught us all how to draw some of the characters from the books.

With help from Philip and Sarah, some of our child voters announced the four category awards and the overall winner and it was lovely to hear from all our winners. The actual prizes and the portfolios will be presented to the winners in due course.

The ceremony and 12 short films showcasing each of the shortlisted books, with contributions from each author and illustrator and responses from our child voters, can be viewed at <http://fcbg.org.uk/childrens-book-award/>

The **Overall Winner** and winner of the Confident Readers category is **D-Day Dog** written by Tom Palmer and published by Barrington Stoke.

"Finn and I would just like to say a massive thank you to everyone who voted to make D-Day Dog the Federation of Children's Book Groups, Children's Book of the year. We are absolutely thrilled. We would like to thank the children who voted, everyone in the Federation and my publishers, Barrington Stoke for publishing D-Day Dog in the first place. This is definitely the highlight of my career so far."

Tom Palmer

The other winners were:

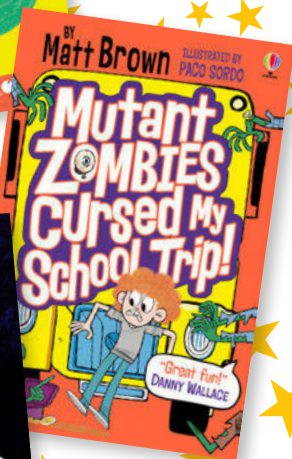
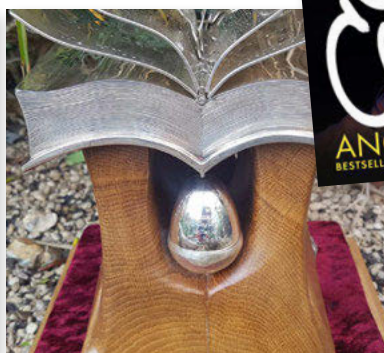
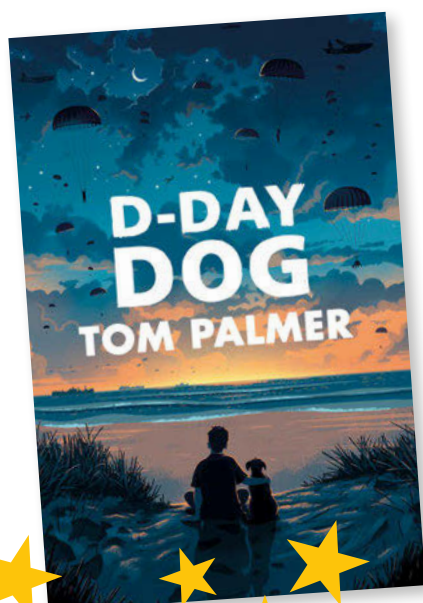
Books For Younger Children: **The Runaway Pea**, written by Kjartan Poskitt and illustrated by Alex Willmore, published by Simon and Schuster.

Books For Young Readers: **Mutant Zombies Cursed my School Trip**, written by Matt Brown and illustrated by Paco Sordo, and published by Usborne Books.

Books For Older Readers: **On The Come Up**, written by Angie Thomas and published by Walker Books.

We would like to thank the Ragdoll Foundation for their kind donation to the CBA.

**Sarah Stuffs, National Coordinator CBA**







# Taking Part in the CBA Testing 2020

**Herts CBG is one of the CBA Testing Groups and we have always enjoyed taking part in the longlist and shortlist testing for the Children's Book Award.**

Each year, schools in Hertfordshire take it in turns to host a CBA Discussion Morning. We were particularly excited that this year, for the special 40th Anniversary of the awards, there would be four categories to celebrate. So we decided to run three discussion mornings, one each for Cat 2, 3 and 4 hosted by Manor Lodge School, The Marlborough Science Academy and Ridgeway Academy. Sadly Covid-19 made that impossible, with students being sent home before many of them had a chance to read the shortlisted books.

We were delighted when the Federation announced that the CBA Ceremony would go ahead as a virtual event. At least we could watch the ceremony even if we couldn't be there in person as in previous years. Sarah Stuffsins the CBA Coordinator invited testing groups to film our children and young people reviewing the shortlisted books. Ridgeway Academy students Megan and Jamie, along with The Marlborough Science Academy students Stephen, Chloe, Katie and Jaiden rose to the challenge and agreed to be filmed talking about the shortlisted titles. Stephen's comments were typical of the students' experiences: *"The feeling of being recorded was nerve-racking at first since it was the first time doing anything like this, but as I got into it the more comfortable it became talking about books I enjoy. It was an opportunity I am glad I took as books are my passion and I would love to do it again."* Stephen aged 17.

My colleague Sharon Nixon LRC Manager at The Marlborough Science Academy said: *"It was certainly a challenge this year from getting the shortlisted books to the students to read, to collecting their votes and then trying to get some video reviews. I was delighted that four of our Herts CBG students were included in the final films and I really enjoyed the virtual ceremony."*

I also enjoyed watching the filmed book reviews and author interviews in the run-up to the Awards Ceremony on 10th October. It really added to the anticipation and enjoyment of the final event. It really added to the anticipation and enjoyment of the final event and, like Sharon, I enjoyed watching the live event.

I felt that the Federation and the CBA team really pulled out all the stops to make this 40th Anniversary Children's Book Awards 2020 a very special event indeed. The filmed book reviews which were introduced by Sarah Stuffsins really added an extra dimension to the whole event and I hope that will be included in future events regardless of whether we have a virtual or actual awards ceremony. Well done and compliments all round, especially to all the young people involved, our fabulous presenters and the brilliant film crew who put it all together.

**Denise Lawrence Librarian, Ridgeway Academy Welwyn Garden City.**



## National Share-A-Story Month Myths, Magic and Mayhem

We are excitedly planning National Share a Story Month for 2021. The theme for May is Myths, Magic and Mayhem- an all-encompassing theme which allows us to have plenty of fun in planning events, competitions and giveaways. The publishers have been contacted and already offers are pouring in from over 30 who are keen to be involved in promoting brilliant stories around our theme.

Having had a sneak peek at new titles coming in 2021, we can assure you this is one celebration you won't want to miss!

Group packs are being compiled and will be mailed out in the new year with digital copies available on the website. We have a few competitions in mind to get students engaged and excited and the prizes are wonderful!

More details will follow and we hope you are looking forward to Myths, Magic and Mayhem in May 2021!

**Erin Hamilton and Tricia Adams**  
Coordinators, National Share-A-Story Month



# The Planet We Share

Ten years ago, Adam Lancaster, who was Chair of the Federation at the time, launched National Non-Fiction Day, in association with Scholastic. It soon became clear that one day wasn't enough and four years later, the celebration of all things factual was developed into a whole month and renamed National Non-Fiction November. Scholastic still contributes to our programme, but over the years we have worked closely with other publishers who have sponsored the competitions including Hachette, Lonely Planet Kids and Walker Books who are supporting this year's competition for KS1 children alongside Troika Books who are supporting the poetry writing competition for KS2 and 3 students. You will find the full details on our website.

Every year we try to involve and represent as many publishers of non-fiction as we can through our programme of blogs, book reviews and resources. These range from well-established publishers like Usborne or the Quarto Group with its multiple imprints, to smaller up and coming publishers like UCLAN and Five Quills. Although the focus is on information books, fiction is also included. Picture books, poetry and novels often provide a good way in to learning about or initiating a discussion about the chosen theme. Look out for blogs by Nicola Davies, M G Leonard and Steve Cole whose recent books explore conservation, plastic pollution and environmental issues.

We realise that this is a challenging year for groups in terms of organising events, but we hope that you are still able to promote and make use of the ideas, resources and book list on the website and that you can also encourage your members to enter the competitions.

It's equally challenging for public and school librarians. However, the secondary school where I work is planning to mark the month in a variety of ways:

- We will be inviting students in Y7, 8 and 9 to enter the poetry writing competition, which we will launch during our regular library lessons currently being delivered to year group bubbles in their classrooms;
- the Head of English is organising a NNFN assembly involving members of staff from different departments, which will be filmed and delivered virtually to the whole school;
- we have organised a whole school Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) session, to be held during a PSHE lesson, using *i newspapers* supplied free of charge by the paper (see the resources list on the FCBG website for more information);
- the English Department is gifting *Question Everything* (b small) to all the Y8 pupils to compliment the English scheme of work which covers fake news and support our Approaches to Learning course;
- we will be creating posters of individual non-fiction titles recommended by staff, which will be displayed on classroom doors (downloadable bookmarks, bunting and posters are still available from 2019 on the FCBG website);
- the library team will be creating colourful posters showing a range of different information books, including books on The Planet We Share theme, which we'll display around the school;
- the library will be running non-fiction quizzes for our book clubs, delivered in year group bubbles.

What we do has built up over the years. But it proves that even with the impact of COVID-19 it is still possible to shine the spotlight on non-fiction during November 2020.

## Chris Routh, Coordinator National Non-Fiction November

*Chris is stepping down as Coordinator for National Non-Fiction November and we would like to thank her for all her hard work in putting together such a fantastic event this year.*

*We are delighted to announce that Lizzie Hall will be taking over the role of Coordinator from next year.*

## Meet our Executive Committee members



### Lizzie Hall – Coordinator National Non-Fiction November

As a child my parents instilled in me a love of books. I looked forward to our weekly trips to the local library but never thought I would end up as a librarian. After ten years of working in magazines and no longer wanting to commute as I had a young son, I got a part-time job in a local public library. I spent six years in public libraries and then moved on to work as a librarian in a local secondary school. I am now the Prep School Librarian at Bishop's Stortford College and the Festival Coordinator. I also have a weekly column in the Bishop's Stortford Independent promoting reading in our community. I am very excited to be part of the Federation of Children's Book Groups and the National Non-fiction November Coordinator.

### Erin Hamilton – Facebook Manager and National Share-A-Story Month

Hi, my name is Erin Hamilton and I am a teacher turned librarian and reading advocate. I am based in Suffolk and am a member of the Ipswich Children's Book Group. I have loved reading since I was very young, cherishing my time spent in libraries and bookshops. I want to encourage a life long love of books and reading with my own children as well as those in my local schools. I can often be found reading, tweeting about books or blogging about books! I currently manage the FCBG Facebook page and am working alongside Tricia Adams on NSSM 2021, with the new theme of Myths, Magic and Mayhem!



### Anne Bradley – National Secretary

I have recently retired to Wales after many years as first a primary school teacher and later as a lecturer in Primary ITT. I have been a member of FCBG for 30 years, being involved with the Plymouth group, with testing and organising events. I am very happy to work alongside the executive committee as I am very proud of the work of the federation. I have always had a passion for inspiring children to develop their love of reading. It is important to share stories with children and I aimed to engender this philosophy in my university students. This also led me to establish an MA in Children's Literature at Plymouth Marjon University. Although retired from teaching I remain an active researcher into children's reading enjoyment and ways to positively encourage this!

## Group News

### Ipswich CBG Shirley Imlach

The group in Ipswich have recently been part of the Ipswich Arts Association's virtual event Arts in Celebration, an online programme of local arts and performance. They have been involved with the literature section where six local children's authors (Francesca Amour-Chelu, Beverley Birch, Ruth Fitzgerald, Sophie Green, Ann-Marie Howell and Lisa Thompson) kindly recorded videos for the group to submit. This event has now been extended until the end of November.

### Harrogate CBG Fiona Brady

We were delighted and excited when we realised that our 40th anniversary coincided with the 40th Anniversary of the CBA. We had planned a series of events, including a one day festival in June, but these obviously had to be put on hold. In the absence of live events we concentrated on promoting some wonderful online storytelling sessions by our local libraries, authors and publishers via our facebook page and twitter. We hope to be able to rearrange our anniversary celebrations in 2021 and we will be running a series of competitions for our members throughout the year.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### January

4th Costa Book Award Category Winners  
26th Costa Book of the Year announced  
Early 2021 Lollies (Laugh Out Loud) Awards announced

### February

4th Harry Potter Book Night  
14th International Book Giving Day  
18th Carnegie & Kate Greenaway longlist announced

### March

YA Book Prize shortlist announced  
4th World Book Day  
4th Blue Peter Award  
5th-10th Belfast Children's Festival  
18th Carnegie & Kate Greenaway shortlist announced  
31st Scottish Teenage Book Prize winner announced

## FCBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

Woldingham School 8th-10th April

It was with a heavy heart that, due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, we took the decision to postpone our 2021 annual conference, scheduled for April 2021, to 2022. We will be returning to Woldingham School and look forward to seeing everyone there!

Further details will follow in our Spring Newsletter.

**Deadline for the next issue:  
Monday 22nd February 2021**

**Next Issue:** National Non-Fiction November  
National Share-A-Story Month

Please send all your group news, high resolution photos and top tips to [groupliaison@fcbg.org.uk](mailto:groupliaison@fcbg.org.uk)

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where you can subscribe to our blog!

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## Executive Committee

The next full Executive meeting will be on **Saturday, 16th January 2021**. All meetings are currently being held via Zoom. Please contact [chair@fcbg.org.uk](mailto:chair@fcbg.org.uk) for further information at least two weeks in advance of the meeting if you would like to join as an observer.

## CONTACT LIST

Please note that we have changed our email addresses as follows. We hope this makes it easier for people to contact us, and that it will help continuity when roles change. Please use these addresses from now on.

### Chair

**Diane Gaunt**

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Dudley CBG

### Vice chair, National Share-a-Story Month

**Tricia Adams**

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### Treasurer

**Jane Etheridge**

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### National Secretary

**(to be ratified at AGM)**

**Anne Bradley**

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### Membership Secretary

**(to be ratified at AGM)**

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### Minutes Secretary, Newsletter

**Fiona Brady**

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### Children's Book Award Coordinator

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### Group Liaison Officer

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### Conference Programme Organiser

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### Facebook Manager, National Share-A-Story Month

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### National Non-Fiction November

**Lizzie Hall**

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