

Newsletter



CHILDREN'S
BOOK AWARD
2018

AND THE WINNER IS...

The Explorer, written by Katherine Rundell and illustrated by Hannah Horn (Bloomsbury) was announced as the overall winner of the Children's Book Award at a lively ceremony on 9th June. The Explorer also won the Books for Younger Readers category. Katherine Rundell and Hannah Horn will each receive a silver acorn and be able to keep the silver oak tree trophy for the coming year.

The category winners received an engraved glass book as their prize. The other winners were:

Books for Younger Children category: *I Dare You* written and illustrated by Reece Wykes (Andersen)

Books for Older Readers category: *I Have No Secrets* written by Penny Joelson (Electric Monkey)

Congratulations to all our winners and all the other shortlisted titles. However, it can be said that everyone was a winner really as they all received a wonderful personalised portfolio of contributions from the children who voted for them.

The Union Jack Club in London played host to the ceremony again. It was attended by over a hundred children and adults – a mixture of representatives from our local groups, the shortlisted authors and representatives from their publishers, some previous winners, members of our national Executive and last but by no means least our amazing MC, Steve Cole, who entertained everyone with his ukulele and some very funny jokes about fruit.

Unfortunately, neither Katherine nor Hannah were able to attend, but Katherine sent a lovely video message thanking everyone for voting, adding, "I can't say how grateful I am. It's so exciting!"

Our thanks go to Steve Cole, all the shortlisted authors, everyone at the Union Jack Club, HarperCollins, who sponsored the wine, and Newham Bookshop, who ran a very successful pop-up bookshop.

Thanks also go to the 12 testing groups, whose hard work during the year produces the shortlist, and the rest of the FCBG groups who also get involved in the shortlist voting. This year we generated a total of almost 150,000 votes!

A full report and more photos have been published on the website <http://childrensbookaward.org.uk/>

Short-listed authors in attendance



Reece Wykes & Alice Broadway meeting young fans



STEVE COLE



WINNING BOOK WITH TROPHY



Exciting times for our Children's Book Award!

The Federation of Children's Book Groups is delighted to announce a sponsorship deal with **BookLife Publishing** for the Children's Book Award for 2018.

Since the withdrawal of sponsorship by the equity partners of The Book People in 2015, the award has been funded entirely by the Federation. Prudent management of costs, coupled with sponsorship for rail travel from the Rail Delivery Group for 2017, has meant that the award has continued to run with great success, but a financial commitment from non-fiction publishers and book distributor, BookLife, based in Kings Lynn, means that Sarah Stuffs, Children's Book Award Co-ordinator and Julia Miller, Federation Sponsorship Manager, can work with the BookLife management team to improve our web site, our publicity and our award for schools and families not only within the Federation but also beyond.

BookLife has already shown its commitment to the award and to the Federation by donating £1,000 worth of books to Jo Williams of Aldbourne CBG, who won our raffle at conference. It has also given £500 worth of books to our new professional member, the Bath Children's Literature Festival, which is working closely with its partner schools to involve them in the Top Ten voting for 2018.

Our publishers, who support the Children's Book Award by sending copies of each book to our twelve Tester groups, are also financially supporting the Top Ten. Coupled with contributions from the tester groups and the BookLife sponsorship, the Children's Book Award will be in a healthy position as we start our countdown to its 40th anniversary in 2020!



GOLDEN NATIONAL NON-FICTION NOVEMBER 2018

Food and Festivals Around the World

The theme we have chosen for National Non-Fiction November (NNFN) for this special 50th Anniversary Year is 'Food and Festivals Around the World'. The global perspective and the focus on food links directly with the theme for National Share a Story Month, which recently celebrated a world of stories, looking at food in stories and exploring the basic 'ingredients' required for a good story. Stories feed our imagination and our need for telling and listening to stories is a basic element of being human, regardless of where we come from or live, and contributes to our sense of belonging and well-being.

Food is also a necessary requirement: for keeping healthy, and in the case of children, for growing and developing. It is also associated with celebrations and festivals around the world. Young people enjoy having the opportunity to grow their

own food and to learn how to prepare food and cook for themselves, and we hope that one of the outcomes of NNFN will be the creation of some fabulous recipe books to share. We also hope that the theme will provide an opportunity for children to explore the everyday food enjoyed at home and by different cultures, in addition to finding out about the special foods associated with the festivals of the major religions.

It is always the aim of NNFN to highlight some of the best non-fiction titles currently available and celebrate the enjoyment of reading information for personal interest and pleasure. We are looking forward to discovering books about healthy eating, growing, making and preparing food and the food associated with different cultures and religions which will feed our young readers' natural appetite for knowledge!

Look out for more information, ideas and resources in the run up to NNFN here:
<http://www.fcbg.org.uk/national-non-fiction-november/>



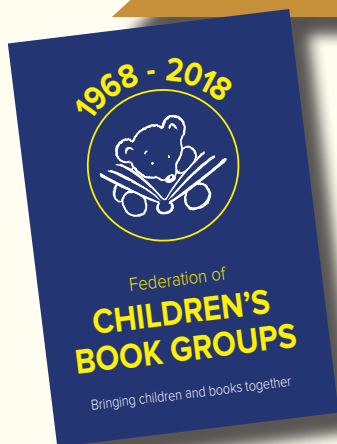
Photo courtesy of David Bartlett

Anne Wood speaking at the Federation's 50th birthday party which she hosted at Foyle's of London on 6th June.

See the next issue for more details of the evening.



1968-2018 The History of the Federation of Children's Book Groups



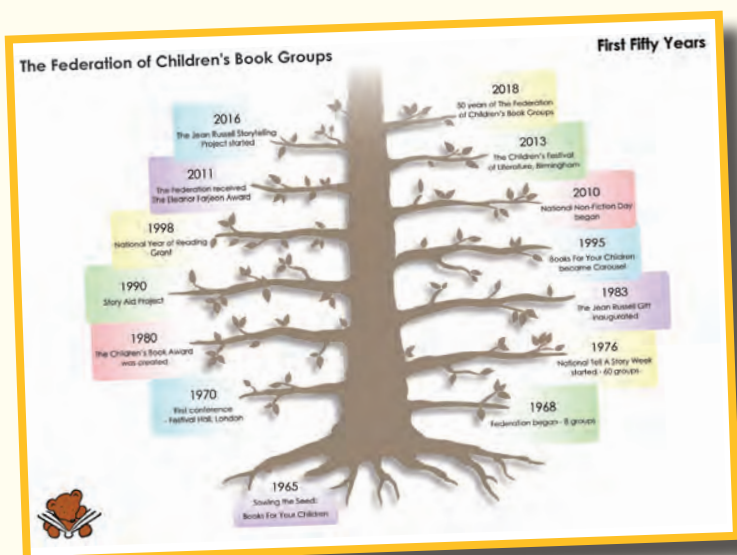
Karen Hellewell, Louise Stothard and Julia Miller explain how the book of our history came to be written.

The process of compiling all the information for the History Project was lengthy and time-consuming. There were certainly times when it felt like wading in glue, but we were constantly inspired by the passion of everyone who had gone before us and who shared our mission of bringing children and books together.

Quite often each of our initiatives began in a similar way, stemming from the passion and determination communicated by one person to bring more children and books together and most started in a small way. NSSM for example, began as National (thinking big already) Tell A Story Week. After all, we can all tell a story, whether parent, grandparent or godparent. This initiative rapidly widened with book group support, launches, fund raising and sponsorship to become truly national in scope. However, the ephemera which turned up in unlikely places was fascinating. Read the recent blog about the history of NSSM on our web site to learn more.

The display boards

Anne Wood's generous sponsorship through the Ragdoll Foundation of the History Project included publicity and while we have displays at Conference for delegates it was decided that a set of display boards would be created to enable Groups and Federation delegates at other Conferences to spread the word. We wanted to cover the initiatives which form the backbone of the FCBG but which would be easy to access. We decided on six boards: bright, colourful and informative with the tree below at the centre.



Just as children grow, so the growth of the tree reflected the burgeoning of the Federation and this formed the organising principle and structure of the book. Its advantage was it kept a chronological focus while allowing plenty of space for expanding to mention other off shoots. There could have been a whole book on the creation of booklists and anthologies for example.

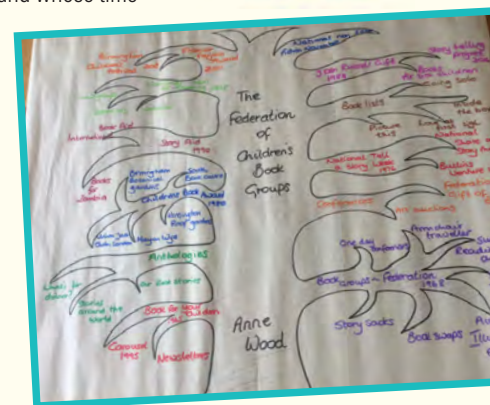
We have two sets of our display boards which can be used by any group during your 50th year celebrations. Contact Karen on karenhellewell@outlook.com to book a set for your event.

So how did we end up with this?

This diagram evolved from the apple tree logo designed by Louise Comfort for the Conference in Grantham in 2012. We all liked the metaphor of a tree growing and Louise Stothard initially drew a tree with branches.



This was further refined by Jon Kiefert who designs for Ragdoll Productions and whose time and insight was lent to us by Anne Wood. We wanted the tree to continue past the top of the book to show the continuance of the FCBG, stressing this was the first 50 years and by including the date against a coloured background, we had a style that we could echo in each of the display boards by using the same colour as a background colour for that particular subject board.



We worked with Jon and Anne to ensure that the tree diagram had a balance of years and initiatives, that it included every major national initiative that is still in existence, and that it highlighted other major Federation events and projects over the 50 years.

Make sure you have your copy of the book celebrating 50 years of the Federation, which develops the theme of the tree and describes all our major initiatives and events from 1968 to 2018. To order more copies contact Karen at karenhellewell@outlook.com





NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

LINCS CBG

Hayley Sanderson

Iguana Boy visits schools

On Thursday 19th April, the LCBG welcomed **James Bishop**, author of his debut book 'Iguana Boy... saves the WORLD with a triple cheese pizza'. James visited 2 local Primary schools and had a fantastic response from over 300 Key Stage 2 children.

James and the LCBG are looking forward to James' return visit when he releases his second book 'Iguana Boy...saves the WORLD in thirty seconds or less'

IPSWICH CBG

Shirley Imlach

Story-telling Supper

The historic St. Peter's by the Waterfront, with a backdrop of the Ipswich Charter Hangings, made a fitting venue for our **Kevin Crossley-Holland** storytelling supper. He enthralled the audience talking about his passion for Beowulf and Anglo-Saxon, reading from his latest book 'Norse Myths' and sharing Jeffrey Alan Love's striking, evocative illustrations.



This was our first event in the Federation of Children's Book Groups' 50th Golden Anniversary year and we were delighted that Chris Routh, FCBG Vice Chair, made the journey from Reading in order to join us. Fed Ted in his new Viking outfit oversaw the evening!



HARROGATE CBG

Fiona Brady

A Celebration of Golden National Share a Story Month and the 50th Anniversary of The Tiger Who Came To Tea

On Sunday, 6 May we were delighted to host a celebration of these two important events by holding a storytelling session along with activities and a tea party in honour of our little tigers.

We were also pleased that Georgia from Imagined Books in Harrogate joined us with a selection of books from around the world and, of course, TTWCTT.

Tiger masks were made, stories were listened to, very attentively, and to round off the afternoon we all tucked in to a tea fitting for a tiger. Fed Ted certainly enjoyed meeting his new friends!

The event was so popular that we plan to hold another one later in the year for all those who couldn't get in!

READING CBG

Sarah Stuffs

Collaboration with the Museum of English Rural Life

Reading CBG is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the FCBG with an exhibition at the Museum of English Rural Life. The exhibition focuses on the history of the FCBG, highlights the amazing success of Michael Morpurgo's books in the CBA and also features some gems from the children's literature collection of the University of Reading. In association with the exhibition, the group held a launch day with **Jo Cotterill** at the museum and arranged a talk by children's literature consultant **Prue Goodwin** about rabbits in children's literature. The exhibition continues until 31st July and is open during the museum's normal opening hours <https://merl.reading.ac.uk/event/celebration-childrens-books>

NORTH SOMERSET CBG

Success for North Somerset Member

Congratulations to Mendip Green Primary School, recipients of a Whole School Award (Highly Commended), at the inaugural Egmont Reading for Pleasure Teacher Awards. North Somerset Children's Book Group member **Sue Wilsher** accepted the award on behalf of her school.



The award, which celebrates teachers who successfully promote and encourage children's reading for pleasure, both within and beyond the school setting, was presented by **Michael Rosen**. Sue is also one of the driving forces behind the North Somerset Teachers' Book Awards.

DUNDEE CBG

Margaret Blow

Golden Ted had an outing in Dundee in February with author **Andy Seed**, who entertained hundreds of school pupils in 3 primary schools. As ever, Andy was engaging, funny and inspired many to read. Golden Ted certainly enjoyed his outing arranged by the Dundee and Area Children's Book Group.



OXFORD CBG

Jackie Holderness

Silver and Gold!

On 5th May at the Story Museum in Oxford, the OCBG committee turned up wearing silver, to celebrate the Oxford Children's Book Group's 25th anniversary. There was also a lot of gold to mark the FCGB's 50th, so we had a 'double whammy' and twice-as-blingy reason to party!

There were all the ingredients needed for a birthday party: gold and silver balloons; bunting; crafts; dressing up opportunities in the Museum's talking throne room; fairy fizz to drink; and crisps, popcorn and cake! Most of the children (and grown-ups) made their own gold and silver crowns to wear, and decorated golden treasure chests with jewels, because, I am sure we would all agree, a great book is like a valuable, much-loved and often-hoarded treasure!

The OCBG was delighted to welcome, as a special guest, former headteacher and author **Neil Griffiths** who enthralled us with his story about Itchy Bear. Neil is the original inventor of Storysacks, which have figured large in our group over the last two years, because we have already

made and donated over 45 Storysacks to our local JR Children's Hospital school, and we are told that the young patients love learning with them!

We were all mesmerised by the golden-themed King Midas story, written and read by award-winning author of over 175 children's books, and long-time member of OCBG, **Geraldine McCaughrean**. Local author-member, *Cas Lester*, then entertained everyone with her series of books about the naughty Fairy Nixie.

The prolific children's punster and poet, **John Foster**, who was a founder member of OCBG, was invited to help fellow founder member, **Maira da Costa**, cut the huge and stunning birthday cake, which displayed the three logos which OCBG has used over the last quarter of a century.

Altogether, we had over 80 people come for the afternoon. Thanks to the generosity of the Story Museum and the committee's hard work, it seems the party was a good way to celebrate the last 25 years of regular and special events, through which we have reached out to thousands of children, to encourage them to read and to love stories and books of all kinds. Bringing children and books together is always worthwhile, so here's hoping that we can keep going for another 25 years....?!

TOP TIPS FROM AROUND THE GROUPS SHARED AT CONFERENCE 2018!

VENUES:

Try contacting the Education officer at your local National Trust property. They are keen to include children's events in their programme and will publicise online. (Lincs have an event happening at Belton House during October half term). Use museums and art galleries in your area for storytelling sessions and author/book events. Birmingham, Reading, Harrogate and Oxford have done this successfully.

EVENTS:

Book swaps work well in schools. Collect the books in beforehand and maybe issue 50p book tokens to help with purchases. Lewes, South Bucks and Birmingham report these are relatively easy, no cost events. Picnics with Fed Ted could be popular, particularly with a royal theme!

IDEAS:

Simple story sacks can be made for children in hospital using cushion covers to store the cleanable items alongside the book. These were gratefully received from the Oxford group at their local children's ward.

Fed Ted's Golden Travels

A snapshot of some of Fed Ted's Travels during his golden anniversary year.

Penny Loveday, an individual member, took Fed Ted and Old Fed Ted to New Zealand where they visited Pohutu Geyser.

Karen Hellewell took him to Pisa where he met lovely police officers on duty.

The Two Steves took him to this school in Brunei.

Please keep sending your Fed Ted photos to info@fcgb.org.uk



Meet The Federation's New Chair



What a privilege to be taking over as Chair of the Federation of Children's Book Groups during the year of our Golden Anniversary celebrations!

Bringing children and books together has been at the heart of my own work as a children's librarian over the last 40 years. I've worked in public libraries, for the Berkshire Education Library Service, at the Reading and Language Information Centre and am currently enjoying my 15th year as school librarian at Leighton Park School in Reading. I have been lucky enough to work with inspirational colleagues like progressive librarian Peggy Heeks and erudite reading and literacy consultant Prue Goodwin, as well as all my fellow librarians and teaching colleagues who have shared the same vision. Since reaching the Honours list for School Librarian of the Year in 2015, I have been involved in a variety of exciting projects with the Book Trust - most recently as a 'sifter' for the Blue Peter Book Awards - and for the last two years, as a judge for the School Library Association's Information Book Award. Each undertaking has proved to be a great way to keep up with current children's publishing; while being a member of Reading Children's Book Group and working in a secondary school has helped to ensure I keep in touch with what young people enjoy reading.

I have no doubt that everyone involved in FCBG shares my passion for children's books and promoting reading for pleasure. We can't assume, however, that the parents and teachers we encounter are all as well-informed about the great books available for their children, just because of the wider access to information afforded by new technologies. Our publications and national initiatives provide a fantastic range of opportunities and resources for Children's Book Groups to use to spread knowledge and enthusiasm about books and reading in their local communities. As members of FCBG, we are all very well-positioned to be able to make a significant contribution to bringing children and books together.

I am therefore really looking forward to working with the Children's Book Groups with a view to building on the strong foundations laid down by Anne Wood and seeing the development and growth of our already excellent work in the future. Long live Fed Ted and bring on the cake!



www.fcbg.org.uk

CONFERENCE

As someone who has been encouraged over many years to come to Conference I was definitely not disappointed. I was one of the later delegates to arrive at Queenswood School (thanks to work and the M25!) but was still greeted with a smile and welcomed as if I had known the group for longer than I had.

There were enthralling conversations with a huge variety of authors, illustrators and publishers, hosted professionally by Joy Court, Kate Wilson (founder of Nosy Crow books), Alice Curry and Zoe Toft. The writers and illustrators included Patrice Lawrence (Orange Boy) and M.G. Leonard (Beetle Boy), Zeb Soames, James Mayhew, Jackie Morris, Lydia Monks, Zaro Weil, Hayley Scott, Tom Pollock, Tony De Saulles, Meg McLaren, Lizzy Stewart, Robin Stevens and Katherine Woodfine, Chitra Sounder and Mehrdokht Amini. We learned about their inspiration, their early careers and the processes their work goes through. We also learned more about the publishers' challenges and how they meet them. We were entertained by a host of publishers pitching their favourite new titles within a tightly monitored two minutes!

Two time Children's Book Award winner, **Dame Jacqueline Wilson** treated us to her journey as a writer from her early days, her first rejections, her life as a journalist, her big break with *The Story of Tracy Beaker* right through to her most recent novels which are set in the Victorian era, something that Jacqueline has always been

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE OUR ANNIVERSARY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND OUR SPECIAL GUESTS!

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE WEBSITE - AS BELOW.



A FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
THE THREE LAUREATES

A TREASURY OF SONGS WITH JULIA DONALDSON
(WITH A GUEST APPEARANCE FROM THE GRUFFALO)
THE CELEBRATED JACQUELINE WILSON
AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR CHRIS RIDDELL

**SATURDAY
3RD NOVEMBER 2018
THE ROYAL BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE**



FOR TICKETS GO TO WWW.BCU.AC.UK/CONCERTS

E 2018

Helen Heaton gives us her impressions of her very first Federation of Children's Book Groups Conference.

fascinated by. She also teased us with an insight of what readers are to expect from Tracy Beaker as a mother (to be released later in the year) and the new adventures of Hettie Feather and Rose Rivers.

We managed to fit in a very supportive and inspirational Book Group meeting in between seminars and cocktails!

The gala dinner in the evening was attended by Sarah Crossan (YA writer) and four times Children's Book Award winner, **Michael Morpurgo** who treated us to a reading of his short story: 'The Owl and the Pussycat' - a tale of lost love and theatre in a primary school setting! It was highly entertaining and was a masterclass in how to be a great storyteller. He was also officially presented with the Children's Book Award Trophy. The dinner itself was a triumph and the catering staff at Queenswood School had gone above and beyond to serve us some excellent food.

The Art Auction after the gala dinner raised just over £4000.

Due to illness, Judith Kerr could not join us so instead we were given an intimate insight to her work by her manager and friend Phil Perry.

We were shown early snapshots and drawings of Kerr's (where it was clear that she had talent even from an early age) and

were able to see the development of some of her best loved characters in 'The Tiger who Came to Tea' and 'Mog'.

The conference was ably rounded off by author (and expert storyteller) Kaye Umansky who entertained us with poetry, storytelling and rapping of some of her writing. Her amazing and imaginative writing came alive with her array of voices and characters. Her reading of 'Pongwiffy' was unforgettable!

It was a highly enjoyable and entertaining conference where I learnt so much about the publishing world, the wonderful world of children's writers and illustrators and the collective love there is for children's books and getting children to love the books they read. I went away clutching too many books and vowing to acquire others! The bookshop and the publishers' exhibition very conveniently supplied most people's book needs.

I hope to return to conference next year!



Photos courtesy of David Bartlett.

Save the date!

We are delighted to announce that next year's conference will be held at Woldingham School in Surrey, 12th - 14th April 2019.

7

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

2
22

Little Rebels Book Award
CLIPPA winners announced

JULY

4
6

Branford Boase Award
winner announced
UKLA Book Awards
winners announced
Telling Tales at Shakespeare's Globe
YALC at Olympia, London

27-29
27-29

AUGUST

11-27

Edinburgh International
Book Festival

SEPTEMBER

28 - 7 October

Bath Festival of Children's Literature

OCTOBER

4
20

National Poetry Day
Lincs CBG Children's Book Day
at Belton House with Ali Sparkes,
Megan Rix and more!

NOVEMBER

3

All month

FCBG 'Three Laureates'
children's event,
Birmingham Conservatoire
National Non-Fiction November,
organised by FCBG
SLA Information Book Award
announced
Royal Society Young People's
Book Award winners announced

Deadline for the next issue is
Monday 3rd September 2018

Next Issue: Golden NSSM
History book launch
Jean Russell project news
and more...

Please send all your group news, high resolution
photos and top tips to hilarie.medler@btconnect.com
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don't forget our website: www.fcbg.org.uk where you can
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Spreading the Word about FCBG

Between them since the last edition of the newsletter, Jane and Chris have attended a number of book launches and publisher events, as well as representing the Federation at several Book Award events. Chris has embarked on her national tour of Book Groups and we have all been involved in the conference, the GCBA and the launch of the Federation's history book combined with a celebration of its work in London. It has been a busy but wonderful year so far... and there is still work to be done on the Jean Russell project and the 3rd November children's event in Birmingham!

Executive Committee

The next Executive meetings will be on Saturday 7th July and Saturday 13th October. All meetings are held in London. Please contact Chris Routh for further information at least two weeks in advance if you would like to attend as an observer.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Are you interested in playing a part in the Federation of Children's Book Groups at a national level? We are currently looking for people to oversee publications and to co-ordinate National Non-Fiction November Coordinator.

Please contact Chris, chrisrouth2@gmail.com if you are interested in supporting us in this way.



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