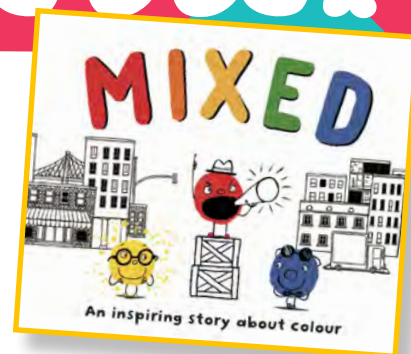


Autumn/Winter 2019

The Federation of Children's Book Groups Newsletter



And the Winner is **Mixed** by Arree Chung



The delightful picture book *Mixed*, written and illustrated by Arree Chung and published by Macmillan, was announced as the overall winner of the Children's Book Award at a hugely entertaining ceremony in London on 8th June. Arree holds the silver oak tree trophy for the coming year, and gets to keep an engraved silver acorn as this year's winner. As winner of the **Books for Younger Children** category he also received an engraved glass book.

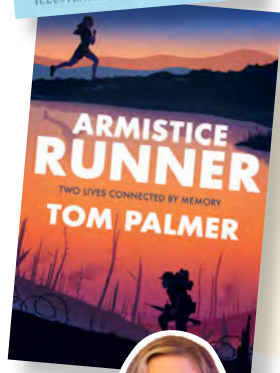
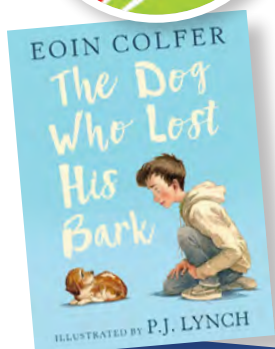
The other category winners were:

Books for Younger Readers category:

The Dog Who Lost His Bark, written by Eoin Colfer and illustrated by PJ Lynch (Walker)

Books for Older Readers category:

Armistice Runner written by Tom Palmer (Barrington Stoke)



We were delighted that Arree was able to come over from his home in the USA to be with us on the day. 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.

We moved to a new venue for the ceremony this year thanks to our 2019 sponsorship from **BookLife Publishing**. The Copthorne Tara Hotel in Kensington played host to over 130 children and adults – a mixture of representatives from our local groups, the shortlisted authors and representatives from their publishers, Pick of the Year authors, previous winners and members of our national Executive. Many of our guests wore colourful hats in honour of Sarah McIntyre, our amazing MC, who taught us all how to draw Grumpycorn and delighted us with her illustrations interpreting the books.

Our thanks go to Sarah, Arree, all the other shortlisted authors, everyone at the Copthorne Tara Hotel, BookLife, HarperCollins, who sponsored the wine, and Newham Bookshop, who ran a very successful pop-up bookshop.

We were delighted to receive sponsorship for the Children's Book Award from BookLife Publishing for 2018 and 2019. The relationship has been very positive and we are hugely grateful for the opportunities this has given us, especially to hold a bigger ceremony and extend the reach of the award through improved online voting.

BookLife
PUBLISHING



How the Children's Book Award inspired a school



Children's Book Award

The Federation of Children's Book Groups
Registered Charity 268289

As a newly appointed reading for pleasure lead in a large three form entry primary school, I was looking for ways to maximise the children's exposure to quality books without breaking a modest budget. Imagine my delight to find that we were part of the Children's Book Award under the guidance of Fiona Brady of the Harrogate Group.

We appointed **Reading Champions** to make sure that every book was read and opinions were shared; the younger children had all of the books read to them, so overall our votes were truly representative of our school. Within one term, the whole ethos around reading for pleasure had shifted and there was such a wonderful debate around book selection and opinion.

The momentum that we gained from engaging from the judging process reached a climax when we were invited to attend the **Children's Book Award Ceremony**. Four lucky Reading Champions were selected to attend. Despite an early start, the children spent the journey buzzing with anticipation.

On arrival, the children had the opportunity to buy books from the shortlisted authors before taking our seats at a table with one of the authors. The children were super excited about this as many had read Lisa Thompson's books before! The children also got chance to meet other authors and illustrators including Tom Palmer, Catherine Doyle, Vashti Hardy, Alex T Smith and Arree Chung.

The children were particularly excited to meet author and illustrator Sarah McIntyre, who drew wonderful portraits for all the children. She was also the MC for the event and kicked things off with a masterclass of drawing and a quiz for the children. She was absolutely hilarious and did such an amazing job of hosting the event.

After a buffet lunch during which the children and authors also mingled, the awarding of portfolios began. Each book group presented a shortlisted author a collection of works that has been completed by children and inspired by their book. The authors were extremely grateful and seemed quite taken aback by the work and effort that have gone into the portfolios.

Then it was time for the main awards! With every award, the author had photos taken with children, showing how they were integrated in every stage of the event.

Scarlett, one of our Reading Champions, summed up the day well when she stated: *"It was amazing to represent our school at the Children's Book Award ceremony. The authors and illustrators were so welcoming and friendly -they inspired me to write more and showed me that anyone can write if they try."*

In a time where school budgets are tight and high stakes assessment is becoming more prominent, the Children's Book Award is a reminder that reading, above all else should be enjoyed and celebrated. Developing a lifelong love of reading is something that should be at the heart of every School and I for one know that the Children's Book Award ceremony will be remembered by all the children in attendance for a long time.

Harrogate CBG Willow Tree Primary School at the CBA

Alex Strzeszewski (Year Four Teacher) and Abigail Earle (Year One Teacher) took four lucky children along to the Copthorne Tara in London where the ceremony was held. They were Katharine Makin (10 Years), Sophie Weare (9 Years,) Scarlett Ritchie (11 Years) and Finn Winship (10 Years.)

Children and Teachers all met at Harrogate Train Station at 0645 (very early start!). They then took the train to the London's Kings Cross and caught the underground to Kensington High Street, which was a short walk away from the venue.

On Arrival, the children had the opportunity to buy books from the shortlisted authors and then we all moved through to the main hall. In the main hall, they sat at table seven. Seated at their table was shortlisted author for the 'older readers category' Lisa Thompson, author of *The Goldfish Boy* and *The Light Jar*. The children were super excited about this as many had heard of her books and read them before! They got to ask her lots of questions and she was amazing with them. It was also during this time that the children got chance to meet other authors and illustrators including Tom Palmer, Catherine Doyle, Vashti Hardy, Alex T Smith and Arree Chung.

The children were particularly excited to meet author and illustrator Sarah McIntyre, who drew wonderful portraits everyone. She was also the MC for the event and kicked things off with a masterclass of drawing and a quiz for the children. She was absolutely hilarious and did an amazing job.

At lunch time, the children were treated to a buffet lunch and they ate this with the authors, publishers and illustrators. It created a very relaxed atmosphere and was wonderful to see children mixing with the authors / illustrators.

After lunch, the awarding of portfolios began. This is where each book group gives a shortlisted author a collection of works that has been completed by children and inspired by their book. Willow Tree were responsible for giving Duncan Beedie his portfolio on behalf of Harrogate Book Group. This was kindly collated by Fiona Brady (Chair of Harrogate Book Group). He was extremely grateful and seemed quite taken aback by the work and effort that had gone into it.

After all of the portfolios were awarded it was time for the main awards! It was a wonderful day which the children and teachers will remember for a long time!

The day was so inspirational for the students of Willow Tree Primary School. It was wonderful to see the authors and illustrators speak so freely about their works and engaging with the children throughout the day. Reading for pleasure is such a vital part of a child's education and organisations such as 'The Federation of Children's Book Groups' help to foster and harness this love for reading.

Alex Strzeszewski, Willow Tree Primary School Teacher

It was the best day of my life. To have fifteen authors and illustrators all under one roof was an absolute honour. If I could go again every year, I would!

Finn Winship
(10 years old)



Conference 2019



Sam Thomas, member of Ipswich CBG and now our Website and Blog Co-ordinator, shares her experience of this year's conference.

In April, I attended my first annual FCBG conference, which this year took place in the beautiful grounds of Woldingham School, one of the oldest girls' schools in the country, in the stunning Surrey countryside.

The weekend was full of authors and cake! It was delightful to see authors new to me, like Frank Cottrell Boyce, and to be entertained with such a range of activities, from the informal and entertaining poetry evening on the Friday, to the panels discussing diverse topics like middle grade readers, non-fiction and the wider importance of representation in children's books and to the seminars offered on the Saturday afternoon. There were real 'fandom' moments like hearing Francesca Simon talk, meeting Nick Sharratt and Holly Smale, and celebrating anniversaries like *'Giraffes Can't Dance'* with Guy Parker Rees.

For me personally it was an extremely fulfilling experience. As well as the amazing authors, illustrators and publishers, it was important to meet fellow like-minded, book-loving attendees who all inspired me further than I thought possible. I love my job as a primary school librarian and I am always eager and determined in my role but conference really took my interest and knowledge in books to the next level through its offering of such a variety of talent from the world of children's literature, all of whom shared the common goal of ensuring maximum enjoyment of all the delegates. I would definitely attend Conference again!



FCBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

SAILING FORTH - MAKING CHOICES EXETER UNIVERSITY, APRIL 17-19TH

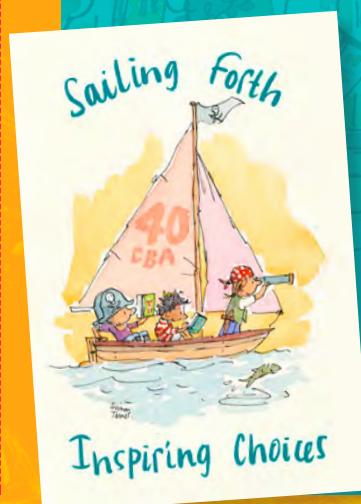
It is the Plymouth Group's pleasure to welcome you all to the West Country for Annual Conference in the year when the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower is being celebrated.

We have invited authors and illustrators from the South West such as Emma Carroll, Tom McLaughlin, Chris d'Lacey, Claire Barker and Clare Helen Welsh, as well as many others, to set us on a course for a great weekend.

It is the 40th Anniversary of the CBA so we will be including a chance for local school children to come along to a special event on the Sunday morning and lots of past winners of the event will be present.

Simon James fires the starting pistol on Friday evening followed by a fish and chip supper with poetry and sea shanties to follow.

Ahoy me hearties, you are in for a treat!



40

As you probably know, it's the Children's Book Award's 40th anniversary in 2020. We have plans in hand, including celebrating at the conference in Exeter.

There will be more on these plans later in the year. For now, we'd like to appeal to you to share your memories of the award over the years as we're hoping to make a special portfolio to celebrate the anniversary.

If you would like to submit something, please contact CBA Coordinator Sarah Stuffins on sarahstuffins@hotmail.com with details of what you would like to submit so she can start planning how to put this together.



National Share-a-Story Month 2019

Tricia Adams

Thank you to everyone for their involvement and enthusiasm for the NSSM 2019 theme of travelling tales. We had lots of entries for the various competitions and these were all judged to find the winners!

Winners were:

A Favourite Journey

Young Readers: Evie and Menah, joint winners from Bridgewater School, Newcastle

Younger Teens: Dali from Neatherd School, Norfolk & Holly from Arden, Solihull

Library Display

Winner: Neatherd High School Library, Norfolk

Runner Up: Bishop Stortford College, Hertfordshire

Book prizes were sent to the schools just before the end of summer term.

We want to express our huge thanks to the publishers who have supported this National Share-a-Story Month, either with prizes, proof copies, tasters, bookmarks, postcards, posters or reading list suggestions – all much appreciated! These include Alana Max, Bloomsbury, Chicken House, Dorling Kindersley, Faber & Faber, Graffeg, Hachette Children's Group incl. Orion Children's Books, Macmillan Children's, Nosy Crow, Old Barn Books, One World, Otter-Barry Books, OUP, Pauline Hazelwood & Saddletank Books, Penguin Random House including Puffin, Rock the Boat, Usborne.

Next year the theme is 'The Planet we Share' and we will be looking at this in a very inclusive sense, including matters of climate catastrophe and endangered wildlife. Watch out for more news soon.

Development Planning

by Diane Gaunt

A huge thank you to everyone who completed our membership survey during March and April. The **National Executive Committee** has listened carefully to the comments made and has drawn up a development plan which will enable us to address all of your needs and to put the Federation in good health for the next 50 years!

You said: the website needed developing in a number of ways so we have made this a priority. We have drawn up a wish list, sought quotations for tenders and commissioned a rebuild of our website, so watch this space!

You said: we should have a greater national profile so that we can bring more children and books together. Annie Everall is going to oversee our publicity and marketing strategy, and she is drawing up a dedicated plan of action. Did you see Arree Chung, our Children's Book Award winner, interviewed on BBC Breakfast the day after the ceremony? We plan to make the most of the Children's Book Award's 40th birthday next year, seeking additional funding so that we can celebrate in style! We are also investigating recruiting a high profile patron who can help to get our name out there.

You said: you want more support at group level. We have a dedicated strand of our development plan looking at making the creation of groups easier and more streamlined, as well as at facilitating the sharing of ideas and contacts for existing groups, partly through our new website.

You said: communication could be better if we e-mail directly to you, rather than asking group Chairs to do this on our behalf. We have changed our e mail provider so that this is more straightforward at our end, and we will be asking you for your data to enable direct emails.

You said: we should stop using acronyms which assume everyone knows them, so we will be making a concerted effort to stop doing that and to refer to initiatives by their full names. We have tried to do this in the Newsletter and in all of our communications. Forgive us if we inadvertently revert to bad ways - we are trying to help each other with this!

You said: we needed to update our social media strategy and we are actively seeking a volunteer to oversee this. If you or someone you know has the necessary knowledge, skill and time to help us, please don't be shy in letting us know.

Some of you said you hadn't received UpdaTED as individual members, so our National Secretary contacted you personally to update our records. Please remember we ask annually for updated details and always appreciate a prompt response as this enables us to ensure we send things to you correctly. Some of you said you did not want to receive such frequent e mails from our website blog: these are only sent when you sign up for them, and you are able to unsubscribe very easily should you choose to. We cannot do this for you unfortunately.

Many of you sent very heart-warming messages of thanks for all of the work which volunteers on the National Executive Committee do. We really appreciated your kindness. Thank you!



NATIONAL NON-FICTION NOVEMBER

Marc Thomas

For National Non-Fiction November 2019, we've chosen the theme "Transport and Travel Around the World." There's already a truck load of activity ideas and recommended books on the FCBG website, and a caravan of blog posts on their way for November, with fascinating pieces from a diverse group including travel writers, adventure bloggers, historians and illustrators.

For this year's competition we took inspiration from the work of renowned visual artist James Gulliver Hancock. James has illustrated the wonderful books "How Airports Work" and the soon to be published "How Trains Work," both from Lonely Planet Kids, who have generously sponsored some wonderful prizes. These include a family trip to a vintage railway for the winning child, and an author visit for the organising group, library or school! To win the competition, we want children to design a vehicle of the future, showing us how it moves, what it can carry, and perhaps thinking about how it might be powered sustainably.

For full details about the competition, and all the recommendations and ideas for a successful Non-Fiction November, visit the Federation's website and look up National Non-Fiction November under "What we do on a national level." Whatever you get up to this November, we hope you'll help us encourage and support children in reading non-fiction books for pleasure!



WELCOME TO THE *Executive Committee*

We are very fortunate to have been joined on the National Executive Committee by a number of talented, committed colleagues. In this newsletter, we highlight three of them.

ROSIE PIKE – Membership Secretary

I started my career as a Children's Librarian in the London Borough of Brent and worked there in many of their libraries over the next thirteen years. A move to Hertfordshire saw me changing to school librarianship and working in the Prep School Library there for the next twenty years until retiring this July. This job involved relocating to a new library six years ago and also organising for the last ten years a week-long Festival of Literature. This has grown in stature, bringing the world of children's books to many of our local schools as well as to the local community and to the school's own pupils. Making connections between children and books and their authors has been a consistent passion throughout my career and is what I look forward to continuing with in the Federation of Children's Book Groups.



FIONA BRADY

Originally from Cumbria, I worked in my local public library before moving to Yorkshire in 1977 where I completed a BSc in Information Science at, the then, Leeds Polytechnic. Graduating in 1980, my first employment was in Wakefield Careers Office working with young people and finding them placements through the Youth Opportunities Programme.

I had married my husband John in 1978 and when I became pregnant with my first daughter I left the Careers Office and only went back to work seven years later when my second daughter started school. I was appointed Librarian at a local secondary school on a part time basis

and very quickly realised that I had found my calling. Unlike public library work, as a school librarian you are involved in every aspect of library work and over the last 20+ years I have become passionate about the need for excellent library provision in schools and encouraging reading for pleasure.

I became involved with Harrogate Children's Book Group a number of years ago and took on the role of Chair two years ago. For the last year I have also been Testing Coordinator. In addition to the Book Group I am also Chair of the Yorkshire and Humberside School Library Association and the local Harrogate and District School Librarians' Support Group.

I retired in 2014 but find myself busier than ever! I live in a small village in North Yorkshire with my husband of 41 years and for the first time in my life I am commuting to London for Executive and CBA meetings: quite scary for a small town girl!

I am looking forward very much to working on the Executive and planning for the next 50 years of the Federation.



MARC THOMAS

A little over 20 years ago my family was signed up as a member of the Aldbourne Children's Book Group on my wife's first day of teaching at the village primary school (thanks to former FCBG Chair Jo Williams!) Throughout the intervening years I've witnessed just how valuable that membership has been for our two children. They've grown up attending Book Group events, meeting authors and illustrators, participating in creative activities, and of course, surrounded by the best books! My wife Sophy and I have been joint chair of ACBG for the past three years: it's been hard work, but incredibly rewarding.

Similarly, taking on the coordination of National Non-Fiction November has been a great honour, but also a revelation. Growing up making regular treks down to Crouch End Library to borrow knowledge books, I can't say that many of those I found were written with the enjoyment of the reader in mind. The non-fiction books I've seen over the past year have been consistently wonderful; beautifully illustrated, written with passion and humour, exactly what National Non-Fiction November was conceived to celebrate. So, despite my jealousy, I've been thoroughly enjoying reading them all, and helping to promote the reading of non-fiction books for pleasure.

THE AMBASSADORIAL ROLE OF THE CHAIR

Over the last few months I've had a number of opportunities to represent the Federation at some of the key events in the children's book world, and on one particular day in June, I attended no less than three! Starting with a meeting of the judging panel for the School Library Association's Information Book Award (SLA IBA) at Carmelite House, the headquarters of Hachette UK who sponsor this annual award. After selecting the three category winners and the overall winner (which will be announced early in November alongside the Children's Choices), we all transferred to the SLA's School Librarian of the Year Award ceremony at the Millenium Gloucester Hotel, Kensington. The three school librarians who had been shortlisted for their outstanding work were celebrated with impressive citations and films, before Ros Harding of The King's School Chester was announced as this year's winner. The third and final event of the day took place that evening at Walker Books, where The Brandford Boase Award for debut authors and their editors was also celebrating its 20th anniversary along with the Henrietta Brandford Writing Competition for Young Writers. An exciting new writer Muhammad Khan (*I Am Thunder*) and his editor Lucy Pears (Macmillan) were presented with the 2019 award.

I count being able to support these kinds of initiatives and events an immense privilege and pleasure, but they also offer important opportunities to network and raise FCBG's profile. With this very much in mind, I have also attended the Building A Nation of Readers workshop at the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE); the SLA annual conference in the company of Annie Everall who did a sterling job on the FCBG stand; the Book Trust's Lifetime Achievement Award which was presented to the amazing illustrator Jan Pienkowski; the Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award (CLIPPA) which was won by Steve Camden for 'Everything All At Once' (also great for older readers); and the announcement of the new Book Trust's Children's Laureate, the irrepressible advocate of reading and writing, Cressida Cowell.

We don't have many opportunities to talk publicly about the work of the Federation, so I was delighted that our seminar about the Jean Russell Storytelling Project was included in the programme for the United Kingdom Literacy Association's International Conference in Sheffield. It was delivered to a packed audience by the project's Coordinator Julia Miller and myself, and served as a fitting finale to a fantastic project which has reached literally thousands of children around the country. By the time you read this I will have made a presentation about the SLA IBA and National Non-Fiction November at the IBBY Conference at CLPE. Before that, the Y7 & 8s in the school where I work will be reviewing the SLA IBA shortlists and submitting votes for the Children's Choice category during their library lessons; and I am really looking forward to participating in the award ceremony in London. Look out for the announcement of the winners on the FCBG Blog!



GROUP NEWS



PLYMOUTH CBG

Patchworks with Plymouth CBG
Hilarie Medler

Plymouth, like Ipswich, has been very lucky to host a trail of painted elephants around the city centre this summer. The elephants have been part of a fund raiser for St Luke's hospice, inspired by the wonderful stories of David McKee about 'Elmer' the Patchwork elephant who celebrated his 30th birthday this year. It has been amazing to watch how the messages about celebrating difference, helping others and thinking outside the box have challenged everyone's thinking. On Elmer Day in May, Anne Bradley and Hilarie Medler from the Plymouth Group, read stories in the Central Library and at Herd HQ where the painted elephants were stored. Families came along to listen and join in with activities based around the stories.



In July, local school children were invited along by the Plymouth group to Herd HQ where they enjoyed Elmer stories, took part in a specially written Elmer Stomp and were able to have a close look at the painted elephants before they went out on the trail.



Later that month, Hilarie Medler and Libby Allman were invited to attend the official launch party of the campaign where David McKee came along to see all the elephants together before they were displayed around the city. When asked where the inspiration for Elmer had come from he said, "At that time I was into painting in blocks of colour and I liked elephants so I put the two together."

That doesn't quite explain the humour and magic which make the stories so special.



Since then, children and their families, have enjoyed Elmer picnics (Patchwork Picnics) at a tennis club gardens overlooking Plymouth Sound and listened to lots of the stories in their schools. Adults too have enjoyed being read to - all part of the Elmer magic!

IPSWICH CBG

Shirley Imlach

A busy and very enjoyable time was had by all at the Holywells Family Fun Day at the end of July. There was plenty for the children to see and do with everything from ducks to donkeys and even dinosaurs!

The activities organised by Ipswich CBG were in demand and children had lots of fun designing Elmers - making ears and, the most popular, Elmer masks complete with a party blower trunk! Apart from a brief shower while setting up, the weather was fine with the only chance of getting wet coming from a prowling velociraptor!



Nick Butterworth has always been a supporter of the Ipswich CBG and over the years his events have proved very popular. It was no different when he joined them to celebrate 30 years of 'Percy the Park Keeper'. Children and adults alike enjoyed the evening with Nick's dog impersonations and one of a boiling kettle, as well as his drawings and storytelling, sharing Percy's most recent adventure - 'One Springy Day'.

Every entry included a raffle ticket and four lucky people went home with a signed drawing from the evening. No birthday celebration would be complete without cake and there was plenty, all guarded over by Fed Ted kitted out in his special Percy outfit for the occasion! A lovely event and great to see another generation loving the stories of everyone's favourite park keeper!



SOLIHULL CBG

Phyllis Gaunt

On Wednesday 12th June Solihull Children's Book Group celebrated their twentieth birthday with a meal at Haig's Hotel, Balsall Common. Members of the original and existing committees were joined by Diane Gaunt from the executive committee of the Federation, Steve Smallman, author and illustrator, together with many long serving friends and supporters.

They reminisced with Pat Tate, their original chair, who told them about the early days based in Solihull Library; their launch event with a young rising author illustrator called Nick Sharratt and the many and varied events put on over the years. Phyl Gaunt, the present chair shared developments over the past four years saying that their base has moved to Waterstones Solihull but their focus remains the same as it was twenty years ago: "bringing children and books together." The evening concluded with a great friend of SCBG, Steve Smallman, cutting the specially commissioned cake. The original design for the cake was produced by Maryam, a student from Langley Secondary School Solihull. Thanks to everyone who battled through wind and rain to get to the party. A good time was had by all and here's to the next twenty years of Solihull Children's Book Group!



SOUTH BUCKS CBG

Steve Cole author event by Elvan Clarke

Steve Cole, a life-long fan of Dr Who and living the dream job as editor of Dr Who is also the author of 'Astrosaurs', 'Cows in Action', 'Aliens Stink', 'Adventure Duck', 'Young Bond' and 'Magic Ink'.

It all sounds very serious but Steve had a wonderful exciting side to him at the South Bucks Children's Book Group event in High Wycombe, as part of National Share a Story Month during the Wycombe Arts Festival.

Steve was the host of the Children's Book Awards in 2018 and, luckily for us, he proactively approached Izzy Legg, our Chair with a very excited, "Oooh, South Bucks, you cover my area," and from there, we had an author more than willing to come and work with us which was just wonderful.

The sold out event on 11th May was bursting at the seams. Such a charming and exuberant character had the children squealing with laughter at his, what felt like a performance rather than a workshop at Downley Community Centre.

Steve's ukulele solo went down an absolute hit and his make believe cucumber character 'Dracu Cumber' released the audience, adults included, into hilarity.

We were so pleased to see the children grinning as they left the hall after having their book signed by and photo taken with Steve.

It was almost 20 years to the day that the SBCBG had been established and this author led event was a great way to mark our charity's fantastic milestone.

HARROGATE CBG

Gruffalo's 20th Birthday

We had a lovely time celebrating The Gruffalo's 20th birthday a few weeks ago. The children loved this classic and were engrossed making their very own Gruffalos. Fed Ted loved hearing about The Gruffalo's Child!



ANOTHER NEW GROUP!

It is with real pleasure that I announce the opening of a new group for the FCBG at Salisbury Plain. They are holding their opening event on Saturday September 21st in a local school and I would like to wish them well. No doubt we will hear all about this in our next Newsletter.

We also look forward to hearing about Oxford's one day children's conference on Saturday October 12th.

If anyone has any great ideas for enlivening their AGMs, do get in touch with the Lewes group.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY

Early January Costa Book award winners announced
Early 2020 Lollies (Laugh Out Loud) Awards announced
28th Costa book of the Year announced

FEBRUARY

1st Deadline for the first round of voting for the Children's Book Award
6th Harry Potter Book Night
Imagine Children's Festival, South Bank, London tbc
14th International Book Giving Day
27th Scottish Teenage Book Prize announced

MARCH

YA Book Prize shortlist announced
2nd Children's Book Award Top Ten announced
5th World Book Day
5th Blue Peter Award
6 - 11th Belfast Children's Festival
17th - 20th Bournville Bookfest
19th Carnegie & Kate Greenaway shortlist announced
27th - 5th April Oxford Literary Festival

APRIL

14th Shortlist for Jhalak Prize announced
17th - 19th FCBG Conference
'Sailing forth: Inspiring Choices'
Exeter University
23rd World Book Night

**Deadline for the next issue:
Monday 24th February**

Next Issue: Round up of NNFN
The Annual Conference
Celebration CBA's 40th Anniversary
And more...

Please send all your group news,
high resolution photos and top tips to
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where you can subscribe to our blog!

CAN YOU PLAY A NATIONAL ROLE IN THE FEDERATION?

We are very keen to talk to anyone who is interested in the possibility of joining the Executive Committee this year. We are currently looking to fill the roles of **Publications Officer** and **Social Media Co-ordinator**. Please contact Chris Routh, chrisrouth2@gmail.com if you are interested in supporting us in this way.

Executive Committee

The next Executive meeting will be on Saturday **11th January 2020**. 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. The AGM takes place at conference on 18th April 2020.

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