

Children's Libraries in the UK: Challenges and Opportunities

Enfants et jeunes en bibliothèques: regards européens conference

Lyon Nov 2012

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Consultant and Trainer,
Children's Books, Libraries and Reading



Children's Libraries: Challenges

- Changed political landscape
- Large scale budget reductions
- Library closures
- Reduction in staffing
- Changes in education and for schools
- New models of delivery



Children's Libraries: Challenges

- How do we
 - save money/reduce budgets?
 - evidence our value and impact?
 - make our voice heard?
 - meet the needs of children & young people in our communities?
 - deliver creative and quality services?
 - Find opportunities to keep children and young people reading / using libraries?



THE BIG BOOK BASH 2012

SUNDAY 15TH JULY 10.00AM - 3.15PM

COUNTY HALL MATLOCK DE4 3AG



*Followed by the Derbyshire
Young Achievers Awards for
Children in Care*

2012 is a year to celebrate, the Games come to London and the BBB comes back to Derbyshire for it's ninth glorious year.

Celebrating books, illustration, reading and storytelling, this looks set to be another RECORD BREAKING day out for all the family.

Derbyshire Big Book Bash for Children in Care

- Corporate planning group
- Consultation with young people re programme
- Authors & performers plus input from young people
- Bookshop / Book Voucher
- Displays and exhibitions




Derbyshire Big Book Bash for Children in Care

Big Book Bash Lyrics & Lines

Lyrics & Lines is the poetry competition of the Big Book Bash

Winning poems written by Aurora, Caitlin, Courtney and Jermaine - illustrated by Tony De Saulles

A dream is a wish your heart makes when you're fast asleep.
In dreams you will lose your heartache -
No matter how long you sleep.
A dream is not good or bad
But some people may get more bad than good
And some people may get more good than bad.
So, no matter how bad your dream is,
when you wake up you are O.K. and
Someday your good dream will come smiling through




Approved for Primary 5/6 ages for the winning poem in The Big Book Bash Lyrics & Lines Poem - July 2016, 2021
Approved poem for the Big Book Bash by Tony De Saulles, illustrator of the award-winning Horrible Science books published by Scholastic

This pain isn't ever seen
in first-time playing games
like a train
going around bending people
who want some fame
in that too learn
I guess so as my name for someone

yeah that's right
from down in the night
in a dynamite
in glowing up in the night
just want a sign
just a glint of light
that's what's right
in burning up in the night
no-one-to-see might
I will fight in the light
and when I get the light

you'll be as you know
you'll be as you know
this was just a name
now I hate myself
will you forgive me please?

so I let him go
saying I don't know
in a crowd
flying up ahead
death looking at me
I would be dead
that's what he said
so I let him off the hook
and we start all over again
(what a plan...)



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Approved poem for the Big Book Bash by Tony De Saulles, illustrator of the award-winning Horrible Science books published by Scholastic

Winning poems were illustrated by Tony De Saulles, illustrator of the award-winning Horrible Science books, published by Scholastic






I had a family that didn't care
And I didn't mind what I wear
As my clothes were **tattered** and **teared**
My shoes were **broken**
As I lay on my matry bed
Lying there in **DREAD**
In a way I was a mother to my sisters and brother
she should of loved us like a proper **Mother**
At school I was no ordinary child
I used to stand out from the rest all playing about **ANY**
Hopefully mother will regret taking **DRUGS**
From that day forward we didn't get many **bugs**
They want to be **perfect** I thought
But in **posser** care I got taught
The people I was with now I call my **proper** family
Getting **bugs** and **bugs** all the time
Receiving **love** which is divine
We have **everything** we have been hoping for
And maybe even more
I can have hope and faith now the **world** is a better place
There is more to life than care
I promise I never

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Approved poem for the Big Book Bash by Tony De Saulles, illustrator of the award-winning Horrible Science books published by Scholastic

THE DARK
THE DARK IT WILL FRIGHTEN YOU TO DEATH
IT WILL EAT YOU UP! IT TAKES NOTHING LEFT
IT GOES IN YOUR CLOTHES AND UNDER YOUR BED
MOVES QUIETLY BECAUSE IT WANTS TO BE FED
IT COMES AT NIGHT ON YOUR PARK
SO TRY AND LOOK OUT FOR THE DARK
IT'S ALWAYS HERE NIGHT BY NIGHT
SO TRY AND FIND A NICE BRIGHT LIGHT
LOOK IN YOUR CLOSET
AND WHAT YOU MIGHT FIND
A DEATH NOTE UNDERNEATH



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DERBYSHIRE
County Council
Improving life for local people



Derbyshire Big Book Bash for Children in Care - Impact

- 2012 – over 800 children, carers and volunteers attended
- 74% said the children had taken up the Summer Reading Challenge
- 75% visit the library more often
- 94% said the BBB has lead to them sharing books more and children showing more interest in books



Derbyshire Big Book Bash for Children in Care - Impact

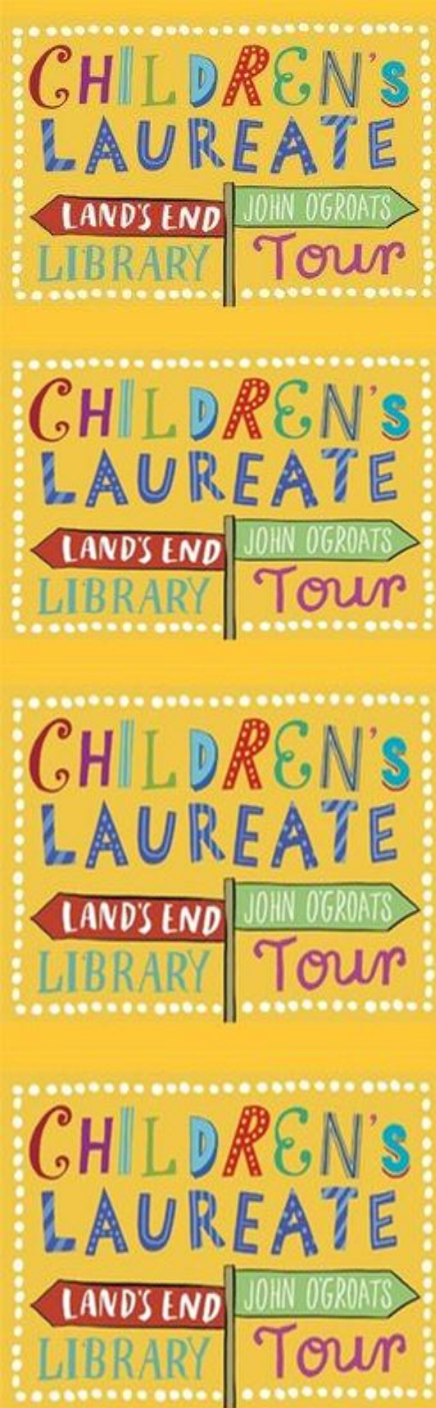
- Incredible, inspirational, exciting – author Andrew Newbound
- An extraordinary event, run by extraordinary people and attended by extraordinary children – author Phil Earle
- We were proud to be part of the BBB – Orion Children's Publishers and Author Francesca Simon



UK Children's Laureate

www.childrenslaureate.org.uk

- Example of national partnership initiative that is raising the profile of children's books and libraries
- Managed by Booktrust, sponsored by Waterstones
- Awarded every two years to an eminent children's author or illustrator to celebrate outstanding achievement in their field.
- Current Laureate 2011 to 2013 is Julia Donaldson - Julia's big themes: drama, music, stories for deaf children and LIBRARIES - all linked to the pleasure and richness to be gained from reading



Julia Donaldson



“I’m determined to support libraries, perhaps by doing a John-o-Groats to Lands End libraries tour! I shall of course lend my voice to the campaign to halt the cuts and closures which I see as so damaging to our children and their future.”



Children's Laureate Library Tour

- Booktrust and Julia's publishers supported the Laureate Library Tour
- Libraries visited: 35 in 7 weeks
- Miles travelled: 3120
- Children met – nearly 4,000
- Time spent signing books: 65 hours
- TV appearances: 6
- Items of media coverage (not including broadcast): 250+



Children's Laureate Library Tour



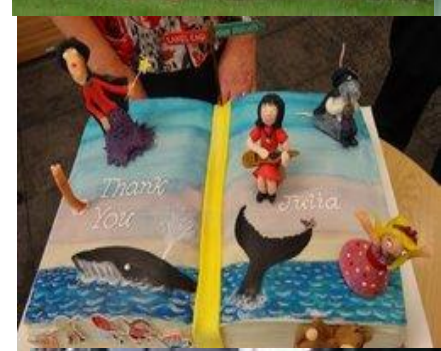
- Feedback from a child in Wirral

- "It was absolutely marvellous. "Julia was wonderful and we were just so thrilled we were chosen to be part of the tour."
Library Manager



Children's Laureate

- Tour was an overwhelming success
- Exciting opportunity for libraries to work in partnership with Children's Laureate, Publishers, Booktrust as well as local schools and families and bookshops
- Raised the profile of libraries and highlighted their importance for children
- Demonstrated impact libraries can have
- Sold lots of books
- GOT CHILDREN READING



Authors Aloud UK

- 'Reading for Pleasure has been revealed as the most important indicator of the future success of a child' OECD 2002
- Research consistently demonstrates that children who read confidently are better placed to achieve higher literacy and life skills
- Meeting an author, illustrator, poet or storyteller in real life and hearing them convey their passion for their work can fundamentally alter a child's relationship to books and ignite a life-long love of reading



Authors Aloud UK

- New company specialising in arranging authors visits to schools, libraries, conferences and festivals and trainers - UK and internationally
- Deal with the bookings & arrangements
- Information pack about the chosen author provided in advance – biography, teachers notes, tips to help the day run smoothly and suggestions for follow up work
- Over 70 authors, illustrators, poets, storytellers and trainers signed up



www.authorsalouduk.co.uk

@authorsalouduk

Authors Aloud UK

Bringing stories, poetry and illustration to life

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Welcome to Authors Aloud UK

We are a company that specialises in arranging bookings for authors, poets, illustrators and storytellers to visit schools, libraries and other venues in the UK or abroad. What better way to encourage reading for pleasure in your school or library, than by having a top-quality speaker enthuse and motivate your students about the joy of reading? From nursery, through primary and secondary to adults, we will have a range of speakers to meet your needs.

Investment in the enjoyment of reading turns average readers into keen ones (Department for Education)

Authors Aloud UK will streamline the whole process of booking a guest for your event by handling all the set up arrangements as well as providing you with detailed background information on your guest and guidelines on running a successful event. Our fee is included in the invoice sent to you after the visit to limit unnecessary paperwork.

Meeting an author, illustrator, poet or storyteller in real life and hearing them convey their passion for their work can fundamentally alter a child or young person's relationship to books and ignite a life-long love of reading. An author visit can contribute to the recommendations in the 'Moving English Forward' Ofsted report of March 2012. This encourages schools to develop policies to promote reading for enjoyment.

"I must have visited many hundreds of schools and libraries over the last thirty years. I think author visits are a wonderful way of engaging children and encouraging them to become keen readers"

Dame Jacqueline Wilson



Download [A Guide to Organising an Author Visit](#)



We provide speakers for:
School and library visits
Conferences
Writers Workshops
Festivals
INSET Training

[Search for our Authors \(opens new page with results\)](#)

Google Custom Search

Google search

Latest News...

Congratulations!



Congratulations to a number of our authors who are on the CILIP Carnegie Medal longlist. They are:[...]

Two more authors join Authors Aloud UK



We're delighted to welcome the excellent Katherine Langrish and Jonny Zucker to the list. Katherine[...]



Other initiatives

- Banksfield Chronicles in Calderdale
 - Libraries working with Museums and Arts
 - Lynne.hackett@calderdale.gov.uk
- South East Olympic Reading Relay
 - Linking books and reading to the Olympic & Paralympic games values
 - Sarah.mears@essex.gov.uk
- Stories from the Web
 - National online reader development initiative
 - www.storiesfromtheweb.org
 - www.storiesfromthewebschools.org
 - www.storiesfromthewebfamilies.org
 - Debbie.mynott@birmingham.gov.uk



Other initiatives

- Northern Children's Book Festival
 - Collaboration between 12 Local Authorities in the North East of England
 - Largest free children's book event in Europe, 30 years old in 2013
 - Janice.hall@newcastle.gov.uk
- My Voice UK project
 - www.readingagency.org
 - 6,000 young people working alongside librarians setting up creative reading and writing events in local communities
 - 18 regions of the UK, 30,000 young people taking part in the real & virtual events



Other initiatives

- Cumbria Stories on a Saturday / Sunday
 - Children 5 – 7 to come and share stories they'd read with other children,
 - Get a loyalty card stamped plus an incentive for each visit
 - Deb.holden@cumbria.gov.uk
- Staffordshire Libraries Young Teen Fiction Book Award
 - Book award for 11 – 14 year olds
 - Books nominated by young people
 - Winner chosen by young people voting
 - Celebration award day
 - Sue.ball@staffordshire.gov.uk



Conclusion

- Time of great change for libraries and librarians in the UK
- Difficult times can make us feel that everything is 'doom and gloom'
- We have to find ways of making those changes work for us and look for opportunities
- Even in the most difficult of times there are always shining beacons of light and innovation – today you are hearing about a few of them



Conclusion

- UK children's author Anne Fine says 'the more we read, the richer we become'
- Becoming readers enriches the lives of children and young people. For many children, libraries and librarians are the route by which they become readers and the road that forms their reading journey
- Need to acknowledge and deal with the challenges but keep looking for the opportunities and never lose sight of the fact that we can each make a difference



Conclusion

Now more than ever we need to believe in the importance of what we do.

We need to be advocates for that belief, because the children in our communities need librarians to be their champions and libraries (real and virtual) to be their inspiration points for their reading journeys and their lives.

We can't let them down!



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