

# Lewes Children's Book Group

## Newsletter Autumn 2011

### AGM

Our **AGM** is on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January** in Lewes Library, refreshments at 7 for 7.30pm start. Book group member, Laura Atkins will be giving a talk entitled:

#### **What's the Story? Issues around Diversity and Children's Publishing in the UK**

While there are more books featuring children from diverse backgrounds published than there used to be, what is the current state of "multicultural" publishing in the UK today? Do books adequately reflect the population of the UK in all its diversity? Laura Atkins worked as an editor of multicultural picture books in the US, and is now a Senior Lecturer at the National Centre for Research in Children's Literature (NCRL) at the University of Roehampton in London. She will talk about her experiences as an editor, as well research she has carried out on this issue.

This will be followed by the **AGM**

**Non-members are very welcome to join us for the talk, which is free of charge.**

We are looking for new members of the committee for 2012. We meet about 6 times a year in members' houses, often in a morning (young children can come along and play whilst we meet!) but timings depend on what suits those on the committee. Being part of the committee gives you a chance to contribute ideas for future events and develop the Book Group. You don't have to take on a specific role and can contribute as much you are able (everyone has busy lives!). If you are interested in joining the committee, then please phone Diana Rogers on: 474964 or email Jenny Maidment on [jennymaidment@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennymaidment@yahoo.co.uk) If you don't feel able to join the committee at this time but have some good ideas or suggestions about events / fundraising, please do contact us.

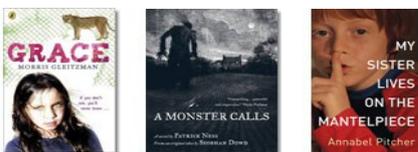


This is the only national book award voted for entirely by children. Children have been reading and reviewing books all year long and these are their favourite ten. Now we need lots more children to take part and help choose a winner.

Children who want to vote need to read all the books in a category and then complete a voting form, numbering the books from 1 – 3 (or 4 for the picture books). Voting forms can be downloaded from our website and need to be returned to Diana Rogers, 48 South Way by 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Even if your child doesn't vote, it's worth borrowing the books from the library (children can reserve books free of charge) or buying them from Bags of Books as they come highly recommended by other children. There are details of the longlist on the Red House website, under 'Pick of the Year'. Please be aware that the books in the older readers category cover some hard-hitting subjects and are suitable for the 12+ age group.

<http://www.redhousechildrensbookaward.co.uk>



#### **Younger Children**

Rollo and Ruff and the scruffy little bird by Mick Inkpen  
Don't Worry Douglas! by David Melling  
Peely Wally by Kali Stileman  
Scruffy Bear and the Six White Mice by Chris Wormell



#### **Younger Readers**

One Dog and his Boy by Eva Ibbotson  
Sky Hawk by Gill Lewis  
Brilliant World of Tom Gates by Liz Pichon



#### **Older Readers**

Grace by Morris Gleitzman  
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness  
My Sister Lives On The Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher

For more information look at: <http://leweschildrensbookgroup.weebly.com>  
or phone Diana Rogers on 01273 474964

Illustrator and author of, amongst others, the *Old Bear and Little Bear* picture books, **Jane Hissey**, lives locally and is a member of Lewes Children's Book Group. We asked her to tell us about a favourite book from her childhood and whether it had influenced what she in turn read to her children.



### Enid Blyton in an apple tree.

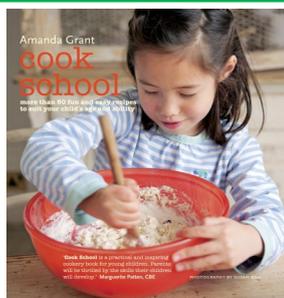
As a child my favourite place to read was sitting up high in an old Bramley apple tree in my grandmother's garden. My brother, sister and I each had a favourite forked branch where we would wedge ourselves for hours on end. I loved reading the Enid Blyton 'adventure' series; 'Valley of Adventure', 'Mountain of Adventure' etc. I can remember my excitement each week when we visited the library in our local town in Norfolk. Enid Blyton and Arthur Ransome were both prolific writers and I always found a new book to borrow, by one or the other, and would begin to read it in the library while my mother chose her books. I could never wait to get it home.

When I became a writer and illustrator myself, and had a family, we read these books to the children and they loved them too. The night before we were all due to travel to the USA on a three week booksigning trip, I spent five hours, when I should have been packing, recording myself reading 'Five go to Kirrin Island' by Enid Blyton. Throughout the trip, on any long journey by car or plane, the children listened on headphones to the recording, with rapt attention. (They were 5 and 8 at the time) One of our drivers, taking us to yet another event, asked what they were listening to and had not heard of Enid Blyton. "It must be an amazing book," she said, as the children had been silently listening for about three hours. Well not amazing; not even particularly well-written, and probably a bit dated now, but, like all the Blyton books, just a very good story that makes you want to read more... and even write your own!

Jane Hissey

### Cook School by Amanda Grant

*a review by the Driver Family & neighbour Alex Eyles aged 12*



We all loved this new book written by local food writer and Lewes Children's Book Group member, Amanda Grant. There are over 50 recipes in all and sections for three different age groups. Amanda says cooking is a brilliant way of learning for children as it requires many different skills including numeracy weighing and literacy. Most importantly it builds confidence and is a fun thing to do with friends and family.

Alex made apple toffee tarts he found the instructions easy to follow but short. He says pastry is considered advanced for children but the book made it easy. It was quite a contrast having the sweetness of the toffee and the tang of the apple. The tarts were eaten so quickly he only ate one.

Guy aged 11 years made scones for 10 of his big brother's friends on Bonfire night he added paprika and cheese they were a great success. Guy found the photos showing each stage very helpful as he is a visual learner.

**We will be buying this book as I can see some fantastic recipes for all of us.**

Vivienne Macey

We are members of the Federation of Children's Book Groups (<http://www.fcbg.org.uk/>). Their conference is called **Worlds within Words** and is at Bradfield College, Reading on 13th-15th April 2012. There will be the chance to meet authors and illustrators and find out what other groups are doing.

**IBBY is the International Board on Books for Young People** and next year their International Congress will be held in London. For more information on the work of IBBY look at [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org) or see Carousel page 32.

## Membership is still only £12 if you live in Lewes!\*



Despite prices going up all around, we have managed to keep membership of the book group at the same rate.

### The benefits of membership include:

- \* 15% discount off books at Bags of Books in Lewes.
- \* 10% discount off all books at Much Ado Books, Alfriston.
- \* **Carousel** - a nationally produced magazine with news and reviews of children's books.
- \* National Conference with the chance to hear high-profile children's authors and illustrators.

Being a member also helps us fund the regular Book Swops and author events that we hold.

A big thank-you to Bags of Books and Much Ado Books for their support.

**Membership is due for renewal in January - please help us by paying promptly.**

\* £16 if you live outside Lewes.

## Our next Book Swop

Will be on **Saturday 11th February**, 10.30-12.30 at the Nutty Wizard Café (opposite Bags of Books on South Street) for ages 0-12+.

**Bring books to swap – no money allowed!**

## Book Sale

We need to raise funds to carry on the work of Lewes Children's Book Group and are holding a book sale on **24th March 2012** at the Nutty Wizard Café. Please contact Diana or Jenny (details on front page) if you can donate any children's books in good condition.

**On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 16 young people came along to the poetry workshops we held and wrote some wonderful poetry.** Lewes-based poet, Sonya Smith, inspired them and guided them through the process of writing a poem based on a list. Here are some of the poems written on the day:

**My Best Friend**

A pizza that looks plain on the outside but has a really interesting and kind of exploring inside,  
a day in July which is always changing weather from cold, grey and wet to warm, sunny and shiny.  
Firework night where fire torches blaze but are also gentle and at the end fireworks shoot into the sky and leave you feeling in an excited, adventurous mood.  
A big, red, glossy smile sometimes having wild, orange, little sparks of fire coming out the sides,  
a little fish never feeling the cold until in the very icy depths of a big, round, green-bottomed paddling pool.  
A volcano forever bursting into explosions of sparkly, silver bubbles otherwise known as giggles,  
a determination to carry on whatever happens.  
A Pink furry rug with sparkly, silver tassels.  
A free, young, spark of sun never having to follow any rules of direction and always learning something new.

**by Elizabeth Archer (who is 9)**

**She is ...**

She is a plaster ready to heal  
An elephant, loving and caring for family and friends  
A cottage in the middle of a forest, ivy and honeysuckle all over  
A big old oak tree, wise in old age  
A box of jokes,  
laughter in each and every one  
She is a single drop of rain water, joined by many that love her  
A book, exciting on every page  
This is my Grandma!

**By Aoife**

**Harry**

He is a sofa which is used often and has brown, detailed patterns on its sides.  
He is chicken which is spicy with no sauce, sitting to be cooked.  
He is fire burning his way through his objective waiting for its next target to burn and to regain friends with.  
He is a small boat picking up a few people and leaving the others in despair whilst the passengers on board are having fun.  
He is a heavy coat from the 50s which is waiting to be worn for an important event.

**By Alex Monson**

**My Best Friend**

She is a comfortable armchair to sit in for a rest,  
She is a rainbow full of colour and joy,  
She is a warming pizza with a wide range of toppings,  
She is a summer breeze to refresh you,  
She is an excited squirrel climbing a tree,  
She is a best friend to me.

**By Esme Bailey**

**My Best Friend**

Like the sunrise time and time again  
Every week of every day  
Like the cool blue river always flowing safely guiding me out to sea  
Like a cuddly fluffy living room rug with aqua and indigo stripes  
Like the calmest Shetland in the stable always honest and fun to ride  
Like the firework showers you get at the finale, sparkling bursts  
Always there always there for me

**by Freya (aged 10)**

**It Is**

It is an old sofa with featherless cushions that has been sat on too many times and is covered in spiders.  
It is a broken down Model T Ford who's paint is peeling off and is covered in rust.  
It is a pouring rain shower that comes when you don't want it and doesn't come when you do want it.  
It is a plate of week old blue cheese that has gone past it's sell by date.

And finally, it's a.....

**By Tom Van Howe**

**Membership Renewal 2012**

**Please complete & return this slip with cheque or cash (£12 Lewes, £16 postal) to Diana Rogers, 48 South Way, Lewes, BN7 1LY.**

**Name:**.....

**Address:** .....

**Postcode:**.....**Tel:**.....

**Email address:** .....

Your email address can help us save money (and paper!) and is useful to remind members about Book Swops and events. By providing your email address you agree to be contacted occasionally by email about Lewes Children's Book Group events. We will not pass your details onto any other individuals or organizations.