

Lewes Children's Book Group

Newsletter Spring 2014

Help us celebrate our 40th birthday!

14 June 2014, Corn Exchange

To celebrate 40 years of bringing children, books, writers and illustrators together, Lewes Children's Book Group is holding an event on 14 June in the Corn Exchange, Fisher Street. You will have the chance to meet:

Emily Gravett (*Monkey & Me, Orange Pear Apple Bear & many more*)

Christopher Lloyd (*What on Earth? wallbooks*)

Ali Sparkes (*SWITCH, Frozen in Time, Shapeshifters & many more*)

Steve Cole (*Astrosaurus, Cows in Action, Slime Squad*)

Founder member, and award-winning author, **Gillian Cross** (*Demon Headmaster, Wolf, After Tomorrow & many more*) will open the day.

We'd love to see friends old and new, their children and grandchildren. Do you remember?

- The Day of Magic and Mystery (1976)
- The Circus Day at the Phoenix Centre (1983)
- Painting the Play Bus with Jan Pienkowski (1986)
- Cooking with Amanda Grant

Or meeting Philippa Pearce, Michael Morpurgo, Jeremy Strong, Ronda & David Armitage, Korky Paul, Charlotte Voake...

Come and share memories and birthday cake!

There will be lots of things to make and do, books, refreshments, and our scrapbooks to reminisce over.

Booking information

Tickets will be available from the Tourist Information Centre in Lewes in May and will cost £3 per child's ticket per session. Accompanying adults are free.

If you are a member of Lewes Children's Book Group you are entitled to 2 free children's tickets in total. Email Jenny at lcbg@gmail.com to reserve your tickets by the end of May.

Look out for our 40th birthday celebration leaflets for more information.

We need your help!

If you are able to spare some time to help on our big day, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please contact Diana on 01273 474964 or Jenny: lewescbg@gmail.com



Thank you!

Our birthday celebrations have been facilitated by kind donations from the Chalk Cliff Trust and Bexhill Children's Book Festival.

New look for LCBG

You may have noticed the new LCBG logo at the top of the page and on our website and Facebook page. This was very kindly designed for us by Lewes-based designer Michael Munday – look out for the logo on our posters and our new membership leaflets.

AGM 2014: Reading the Future

The AGM was held on 29 January 2014 in the Lecture Room at Lewes Town Hall when around 25 people came to listen to Tom Bonnicks of independent publisher Nosy Crow give a talk entitled **Reading the Future**.

Nosy Crow came into existence at the same time as the iPad. From the start they wanted to take advantage of the technology to enhance the reading experience. A passion for quality led to their decision to make original apps instead of trying to squash existing picture books into a small electronic format.



The process of developing an app is collaborative. Nosy Crow have a team of people working in-house – a full time artist, animatronics, and a software engineer. It is a different process to planning book; you can't have a linear narrative and can't control the order in which some of the dialogue happens.



Fairytales are ideal as publishers can use the stories for free. They also have international appeal (only a quarter of apps are sold in the UK) and you can bend the story without confusing children as they understand the outline of the plot.

Original artwork and music is commissioned, with characters often having their own musical motif. Staff had observed that their children liked to listen to older children reading, so all the audio is done by children. It is a long, complicated and expensive process: an app can be a staggering 100,000 lines of code! It is a very competitive market, with £2.99 being the top price charged. This means that developing a series is more cost effective, as coding and ideas can be re-used.

Listening to Tom talk, I realised how much Nosy Crow care about their audience. It isn't just another way to make money – they really do want to ensure that reading isn't the most boring thing a child can do on an iPad. nosycrow.com

Jenny Maidment

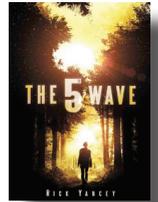
LCBG Committee 2014

The following people were elected to the Committee for 2014:

Jean Burke (Chair) 01424 224810
Jenny Maidment (Secretary) 01273 486764
Diana Rogers (Treasurer) 01273 474964
Dafna Bartle, Vivienne Macey, Maggie Turner
Natasha Witts, Ana Guevara (Library link)



In February, the overall **Red House Children's Book Award** was presented to Rick Yancy for his book 'The 5th Wave'.



LCBG Chair, Jean Burke, took her daughter and granddaughter Meg (who had voted on her favourite picture book) to the Award Ceremony and lunch beforehand. Children present each category winner with a portfolio of work compiled by children countrywide and are able to have books signed by any of the authors present.

Meg (aged 7) found this trip to the Children's Book Award ceremony to be an amazing experience and was very inspired by the whole thing. She had tested the picture books and was a little disappointed that she wasn't presenting the portfolio to the author of her chosen book, but Helen Stephens was lovely and Meg enjoyed being able to present the portfolio with two other children.

It was a very well organised event and we were able to get our books signed before we went to lunch. A very enthusiastic Meg was completely bowled over to be sitting next to Rick Yancy at lunch and was able to chat to him while they were eating.

Meg wrote: "I enjoyed seeing all the authors and having my books signed – that was my favourite bit, getting the books signed. I was very excited when Rick Yancy used my question in his thank-you speech and I felt very proud to be doing the presentation."

She was so inspired by the whole event that on the train home she started writing a story about aliens which she discussed with a very obliging passenger sitting opposite. She took all the signed books and other bits and pieces that she had collected into school the following week to tell her class about it all. These have been framed and hang in her playroom. She has now decided she is going to be an author rather than a librarian and is busy at the moment writing playscripts!

Our next book swap

will be on **Saturday 24 May**,

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!