

TEEN LIBRARIAN

Monthly

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Editor: Matthew Imrie

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Editorial

Welcome to TLM 2007! I would like to wish everyone a happy new year and the best of luck with working with Teens; and if you are involved in anything interesting (and lets face it - just about anything involving Teens is bound to be interesting) please let me know! This month's author interview is with Cathy Hopkins, who will be speaking at the *Lets Hear it for the Girls* literary event organised by Piccadilly Press

This month's newsletter is a fairly link-intensive issue but I think that it makes for interesting and informative reading. If you can think of any ways in which the newsletter can be improved – please let me know – all e-mails to: editor@teenlibrarian.co.uk

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Sharing Experience

I would like to begin this newsletter for a plea: to everyone who runs groups to share their experience with those who have not been involved for any great length of time or are in need of ideas. I have spoken to a number of people who are interested in hearing about what goes on in other groups. If anyone is interested in contributing please send it to the usual e-mail address: editor@teenlibrarian.co.uk

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Library Clubs Playstation Club

The Playstation Club has been going since January 2005, and was originally promoted through an A5 flyer placed among the Playstation games at Strood library. The flier invited teenagers aged 12 - 19 to attend a Playstation Tournament a few weeks hence, and asked them what kind of games they liked playing. Within 2 weeks, 12 boys had signed up and I had to start a waiting list. All of them said they liked sport games, some said quest games, some shoot 'em ups, and others said combat.

During the first session they played Pro Evolution 4, which is a football game, and 6 games were played one after another. The 6 winners then played each other, and one overall winner eventually emerged. The losers had their own secondary tournament to ensure that everyone played at least twice. Other games played are Dynasty Warrior, Worms 4, NBA live, Super Monkeyball Deluxe, Tekken 4, Ratchet and Clank, Star Wars 3, Fifa Street, and Buzz. Quest games are not really suitable in this context because they are designed for one player to solve in 40 hours or more.

After each session 4 prizes are given in the form of vouchers for £3.50 to be redeemed against Audio Visual library stock. Prizes are given to the overall winner, one runner up, the winner of the losers' tournament, and one prize is reserved for anyone who writes a book review or is particularly helpful in setting up and packing up.

Refreshments are provided in the form of crisps, soft drinks and fruit; there is a table full of teen books (graphic novels, music, cars, etc) for the boys to browse when they are not playing, which is actually most of the time.

If the boys win a prize, they have to take out one book for each piece of audio-visual material that they choose to redeem their voucher against.

All the boys have a better perception of the library, visit it more frequently and read more since joining the club.

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Mailing Lists

Graphic Novels in Libraries (Graphic Novels)

Just for Young Adult / Adult Librarians! Share reviews and resources for collection development of your graphic or comic novel section.

To subscribe send an e-mail to: GNLIB-L-subscribe@topica.com.

For more information on this list go to:
<http://www.angelfire.com/comics/gnlib>

Teen Advisory Groups - Advisory Discussion (TAGAD-L)

Discussion forum for the advisors of any public library teen advisory group or board.

To subscribe send an email to:
tagad-l-subscribe@topica.com

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Fulfilling their Potential Conference 2007

As the government is formulating plans for a new Youth Offer, it's crucial that the powerful things libraries offer young people are recognised and built on. This conference looks at how libraries' work is changing through Fulfilling their Potential, a national programme to transform young people's use of public library services. Find out more about the innovation happening through the programme, and the impact libraries' work is having on young people's lives in local communities.

Come to the Fulfilling Their Potential Conference to explore:

- The unique contribution public libraries can make to the Youth Offer
- What young people want from public libraries and what it takes to put them at the heart of service planning, design and delivery
- Lessons learned in the first 2 years of Fulfilling their Potential and how the programme will develop over the next 2 years
- How the active involvement of young people can contribute to community engagement strategies within public library services and the wider local authority
- How local, regional and national partnerships can help public libraries transform their work with young people
- How the most socially excluded young people can be actively and positively involved in shaping library services, building their personal skills and self-esteem as a result.

Who's it for?

- Chief Librarians and Heads of Children's and Young People's public library services

- Local authority Children's and Young People managers responsible for the development of the Youth Offer
- People from library bodies and library partners

Booking your place:

Places cost £120 + VAT per delegate - they are limited and bookings will be taken in date order, so early booking is recommended.

http://www.readingagency.org.uk/projects/children/fullfilling_potential.html

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International Manga Competition

Librarians who run Manga Clubs in their Libraries may be interested in passing this information on to any members who are aspiring Mangaka:

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of its manga anthology Morning, Kodansha has announced a new International Manga Competition to look for new manga talents from around the world.

The new competition is part of Kodansha's Manga Open competition, and was announced in the Morning special issue in ten languages. The deadline for the International Manga Competition is May 31st 2007. Below is a translation of the rules and information of the competition: One title will receive the grand prize, the winner will receive 5,000 dollars, and the winning work will be printed in Morning and published in Japan as a tankobon. Two runner-ups will receive 2,000 dollars each, for two titles, and their titles will have a chance to be printed in Morning or released online in the webzine E-Morning.

Rules

- All manga submitted need to be between 12 to 50 pages.
- The work needs to be a previously unpublished title, or have not been printed commercially.
- Both coloured and B&W manga are accepted.
- The manga must be drawn 270x180mm on an A4 paper.

CD-ROM and other digital media are accepted, but a printed copy must be included. A contestant's native language will be accepted as the text; however, the text needs to be written clearly.

For more details go to:
<http://comipress.com/news/2006/12/22/1199>

Teens and Censorship

Sarah McNicol of Evidence Base has produced a report on Teenagers' views on censorship in Libraries. To view the report, follow this link:

<http://www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/docs/censorship-teenage-focus-groups-report.pdf> to download a copy of the report – it makes interesting reading.

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Adobe Youth Voices

Adobe Youth Voices is a global philanthropic initiative that empowers youth in underserved communities worldwide to comment on their world using multimedia and digital tools to communicate and share their ideas, demonstrate their potential, and take action in their communities. Adobe Youth Voices shows the power technology brings to learning and enabling youth to think creatively, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively — critical 21st century skills.

Adobe has organized a unique collaborative of leading youth media non-profit organizations with strong track records, global experience, and a common vision, including Arts Engine, Listen Up, Educational Video Centre, What Kids Can Do, and iEARN.

This program is currently running in the USA and in the UK. For more information go to:

http://www.adobe.com/aboutadobe/philanthropy/youthvoices/ayv_year1sites.html

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Teen book Video Awards

Top Filmmakers and animators from across the US competed to create book videos for three of the hottest teen books of 2006. On November 29th, winning videos were streamed over Bebo as well as across many other distribution channels. To view the winning entries go here:

http://www.thebookstandard.com/bookstandard/events/teen_book_video/index.jsp

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What did the detective do when he didn't believe the librarian's story?

He booked her!

Teen Chaos

A recent article in the New York Times highlighted the problems that latchkey kids can cause in libraries. To view the article follow this link:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/02/nyregion/02library.html?pagewanted=1&r=1&ei=5094&en=20a29f81a13e1cb3&hp&ex=1167800400&partner=homepage>
(registration may be necessary)

If you are unable to access the article but would like to read it, please e-mail me and I will forward you a copy – editor@teenlibrarian.co.uk

I am also interested in hearing from any librarians that are having problems with teens and any measures that have been taken to rein them in.

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Website Section for Teen Library Groups

I am working on setting up a section on the website for Teen Library Groups to come together and interact online. I am currently holding a competition for Groups to design a page layout – all designs will be showcased on the site and there will be a vote to determine which page will be used. All groups (Reading, Manga, Gaming etc) are allowed to participate.

The current page can be found here: www.teenlibrarian.co.uk/teens.htm

Rules:

1. HTML and .CSS coding is allowed
2. The page must contain a links section
3. No copyrighted images can be used without permission
4. Closing date for the competition is 10 May 2007

Submissions can be e-mailed to me at editor@teenlibrarian.co.uk
Any ideas or comments about the proposed section are welcome.

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Submissions

If anyone would like to submit an article or idea for inclusion in the newsletter, please e-mail it to editor@teenlibrarian.co.uk.

Eight Questions with... Cathy Hopkins

Q1. What made you decide to write for Teenagers?

After a 'feast of famine' no. of years as a writer, on the advice of my agent, I did a couple of sample chapters for publisher, Brenda Gardner at Piccadilly Press. She commissioned the first book in the Mates Dates series for the teen market. Since then I haven't looked back and that first book became a series of twelve which has sold over three million copies and is in twenty-three different countries. Pretty good incentive to continue writing for that market!

Q2. How do you get into the heads of your characters?

Rather strangely, it's the other way round. I think they live in my head and it's a question of accessing them. It's rather a worry really...

Q3. Do you know instinctively what will appeal to Teens or is it more a hit or miss process?

My agent, the late Rosemary Bromley suggested that I write for teenagers after reading something that I wrote. She phoned me up and said in her deep husky voice, "Cathy, I think you've found your literary voice and it's that of a teenage girl." She proved to be right, as the books I've written for teens seem to appeal. I think if I 'tried' to write for teens, I would fail dismally.

Q4. What is the most satisfying part of the writing process for you?

The emails and letters I get from readers who have enjoyed the books in particular, the girls who write to say they don't normally like reading but have read all my books. That's very satisfying.

Q5. Do you ever read the works of other Teen/YA authors? If yes what can you recommend?

Yes. I read loads, fictional and fantasy. I think it's a particularly rich time for teen books at the moment and there are so many good ones out there. I particularly like Louise Rennison's books, they make me laugh. And I like Sue Limb's books too for the same reason, she really brings

back what it was like to be a teenager. And Louis Sachar's book *Holes* is a gem.

Q6. Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?

Bits of all of them.

Q7. What are you working on at the moment?

The first book in a trilogy to be called *Cinnamon Girl*. The first one in this series will be out next spring.

Q8. Do you ever do Library visits to Teen Reading Groups? If yes, what is the best way to get into contact with you or your agent about it?

Yes I do. It is best to get in contact with Mary Byrne at Piccadilly Press as she arranges all visits. Her email is: mary.byrne@virgin.net

AN INVITATION FROM PICCADILLY PRESS

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS!

1 FEBRUARY

6.00pm – 8.30pm

Foyles (Gallery)

113-119 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0EB

Brenda Gardner, Publisher and MD of Piccadilly Press, in association with the London YLG, invites you to an evening of discussing, debating and celebrating books about and for *GIRLS*. Piccadilly Press is proud of the huge enthusiasm for reading generated by these books, sometimes described as "pink" books. This evening, we are Pink and Proud!

Headlining the evening will be **CATHY HOPKINS**, international bestselling author of *MATES*, *DATES* and *TRUTH, DARE, KISS OR PROMISE*. Cathy's books have sold an astonishing **THREE MILLION COPIES** and been translated into over 25 languages. Piccadilly Press will launch Cathy's new series, **CINNAMON GIRL** in March so come along and be the first to hear her talk about it. Joining Brenda and Cathy on the panel will be **LIZ ELWES**, author of the great new series, **STYLE SISTERS**, and **JONNY ZUCKER**, creator of stuntgirl **VENUS SPRING**, the action-adventure heroine for "tweens".

Also present on the evening will be several other Piccadilly authors, including debut author **Sophia Acheampong**, whose book *GROWING YAMS IN LONDON* has recently been published, **Sophie Parkin**, author of *BEST FRIENDS*, *FRENCH FOR KISSING* and *MAD, RICH AND FAMOUS* and **Amanda Lees**, whose exciting new series, *KUMARI: GODDESS OF GOTHAM* will be launched later in August 2007.

Refreshments will be pink. Pink clothing will be welcomed but is not compulsory. Pink bags will be available for purchases of "pink" books and we guarantee you will all leave feeling tickled pink by the evening. Please note that the London YLG AGM will take place from 6.30 to 7.00pm and the panel discussion will begin at 7pm.

RSVP or email for further information to: mary.byrne@virgin.net