

TEEN LIBRARIAN

Monthly

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Editorial

Welcome to the first anniversary edition of Teen Librarian Monthly! The first edition consisted of a two-page newsletter that was sent out to 47 people (mostly in and around London), TLM at present is made up of between four and five pages and has 233 subscribers around the world.

I would like to thank all those that have contributed articles and ideas over the past year and everyone that took the time to have a read – I know how busy we all are. Working with Teens is hard work and with all the other duties we have community support is more important than ever.

I would like to encourage everyone that reads the newsletter and uses the website to take advantage of the new forum and blog (details at the end of the newsletter) to stay in contact and provide support to one another.

This newsletter also comes with the first edition of *The Bodley Head* a quarterly newsletter produced by The Bodley Head press – more details are available in this newsletter.

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Cracking the Teen Library Code

Friday 20th April 9:30am-4:30pm CILIP HQ, Ridgmount Street, London

Another day dawned and librarians working with Teens in the South East converged on Ridgmount Street. Presentations were kicked off in his own unique style by Jerry Hurst, whose talk highlighted the raised profile of consultation with young people as well as emphasising the need to be wary of seeing them as a cohesive group, rather than a wide variety of individuals and groups.

“Teenagers are learning strategies to deal with difficult situations, which can make their behaviour seems odd or unnerving”.
Jerry Hurst

The rest of the day gave a varied picture of the different aspects of Teen work.

Break out sessions covered:

Frontline challenges (from our very own Teen Lib Matt Imrie),
“You can’t expect to do anything for teenagers well in your first year. This is because they don’t know you.”

Realities of wide ranging Consultation (Joanne Moulton)
“Consultation takes a lot of hard work, often outside the library, but the results are worth it and the requests often [in this particular example] not as expensive as you might think.”

and

Uses of new Web 2.0 Technology (Phil Bradley of CILIP Update fame).
Otherwise know as *“Email is for old people”*. Covered blogs, podcasting, flickr and much more.

Tokyopop’s Andrew Whelan was the other keynote speaker of the day and gave an insight into Manga publishing. It is a less known but very rapidly growing market in the UK and also, vitally, appears to have appeal both to boys and girls. It is a format which libraries really need to come to terms with as it becomes increasingly more mainstream.

The day closed on some very well fed librarians with a lively panel of authors for Teens including both first timers and veterans – Sherry Ashworth, Sharon Dogar, Alan Durant and Sam Enthoven.

A great experience both in terms of getting to grips with the real issues of work with Young People, networking, and a reminder of the changing world in which they participate.

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Cyber-Bullying

I found an interesting article on the BBC news: *“The NSPCC found 50.4% of 2,053 children had experienced problems such as bullying, being threatened or sexually harassed while online.”* The full article is viewable here:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6652585.stm>

It is something worth bearing in mind with regard to online access in libraries.



The Bodley Head imprint is 120 years old and has always been a fantastic children's and young people's list, boasting some of the twentieth century's best-loved authors including CS Lewis, Kenneth Grahame, Shirley Hughes and Aidan Chambers. But it's recently been re-established by Random House as an imprint of accessible quality children's fiction under the leadership of Charlie Sheppard and we should expect to see lots more great books coming from it soon. Charlie, Editorial Director at Random House Children's Books, aims to publish the very best new talent whilst celebrating the Bodley Head's wonderful heritage. She's already had a brilliant start to the year with Markus Zusak's bestselling *The Book Thief*, Philip Caveney's *Sebastian Darke* and a Branford Boase shortlisting for Tabitha Suzuma's *A Note of Madness*. With many more exciting things to come this year, including the next book from Joseph Delaney, *The Spook's Battle*, Bodley Head titles are ones to watch.

If you'd like to know more about the Bodley Head and forthcoming titles email Charlie's Assistant Editor, Clare Argar at cargar@randomhouse.co.uk to receive a copy of their quarterly newsletter.

What's a flea's favorite science fiction book?

The Itch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

Booktrust Teenage Award 2007

All UK library children's and young people's services are invited to sign-up and to order free display materials for the Booktrust Teenage Prize 2007. Libraries can order materials for all their libraries interested in promoting the Booktrust Teenage Prize shortlist from September 2007 through to November (the shortlist is announced Tuesday 4 September and the winner announcement on Wednesday 31 October). So, if you want to feature the 2007 Booktrust Teenage Prize in your

libraries from the start and be part of the Booktrust Teenage Prize, please complete the online form at http://www.readingagency.org.uk/forms/vie_w_form.php?id=279 by Monday 18 June 2007.

What do you get if you sign-up?

Free point of sale (banners, posters, bookmarks, stickers) Free downloadable Booktrust Teenage Prize resources and ideas pack. Opportunity to promote teenage readers groups and events on the Booktrust Teenage Prize website www.bookheads.org.uk Support from TRA Project Manager

What does running the Project involve?

The Booktrust Teenage Prize is a flexible, ready made reading promotion. You can use it to not only broaden but also make more visible your work with young people, with teenage reading groups and young people focused events. TRA will supply lots of reader development ideas and support so you can make the most of the initiative. Evaluation from the 2006 Project has informed 2007's and we'll be doing the same this year. We'll also be seeing if any of the shortlisted authors will be available for booktalks and workshops.

PopCulture Watch

The Golden Compass



Better known as *Northern Lights* in the UK, *The Golden Compass* is the first film in a

trilogy based on *His Dark Materials* by Philip Pullman.

Adapted by Chris Weitz (director of *About a Boy*) he said: "It offers everything a filmmaker would want – a compelling story, fascinating characters, psychological and philosophical depth, and wonder."

There is also a brilliant website: <http://www.goldencompassmovie.com> that has all currently available information about the film, plus background peeks, some teaser snippets from the film itself, a background and history to Lyra's world and (for those of you who have read his works) a chance to find out about your own daemon (I have a Tiger named Suidan).

The film will be released on the 7th December 2007.

Love Libraries Award 2007

The first ever Love Libraries Award, run by The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), will recognise and reward libraries that demonstrate innovation in services for teenagers and young people under 25, and encourage them to use the library time and time again. The award will promote the outstanding contribution libraries make in young people's lives.

The winner of the Love Libraries award will receive a Trophy and £2000 towards the project.

Any public library authority in England can nominate themselves for an award, either for a project being run by one single library, or by several libraries who are all jointly involved. The project must be innovative and creative, and demonstrate impact in inspiring young people. The project must have been running for at least six months.

Nomination forms are available from www.lovelibraries.co.uk/lovelibrariesaward. The closing date for nominations is 29 June, and a judging panel will select a shortlist of finalists. Members of the public will then be invited to vote for their favourite finalist, and the outcome will

determine the winning project, along with the judges' votes.

Website news

Site Updates

Several sections of the website have been updated since the previous newsletter came out, these include: TRG, the Forum, Book Reviews and the Teen Librarian Monthly Section. Any feedback on the changes is welcome – please feel free to send me an e-mail at: teenlib@teenlibrarian.co.uk.

Forum

The forum software has been replaced due to the last one breaking somewhat terminally. Due to the software change all old accounts (and posts) have been wiped. I would like to encourage everyone to rejoin and would like to extend an invitation to all those that had never tried it to participate. I can provide 'how to' notes for those that are unsure – if you would like to receive these please e-mail me at teenlib@teenlibrarian.co.uk

Blogging

I have started a blog for the website and am hoping that it will become a community-authored endeavour. If anyone would like to become involved let me know at teenlib@teenlibrarian.co.uk <http://teenlibrarianuk.blogspot.com/>

Teen Libraries on YouTube

Have a look at this 1:18 minute virtual tour of the Prince Edward Public Library Teen Room:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0BC8Ww8Gg>

Is anyone interested in putting something similar together for Teen Libraries in UK Libraries? Let me know – teenlib@teenlibrarian.co.uk

Submissions

If anyone would like to submit an article or idea for inclusion in the newsletter, please send it to teenlib@teenlibrarian.co.uk

Editor: *Matthew Imrie*

Contributors: *Gabrielle Koenig, Clare Argar & Matthew Imrie*

Special thanks to: *Anthony McGowan for giving up his time to answer the eight questions.*

Eight Questions with... Anthony McGowan

Q1. What made you decide to write for Teenagers?

I never thought I'd be a writer for teenagers. My first novel, *Hellbent*, was originally intended for adults, albeit it the sort of adults who like to mix up fart jokes and philosophy. No one wanted to publish it ('simply too mad' said one editor). My agent then suggested that I write some adult thrillers, which I did, and which got me published. I then thought I'd go back and try again with *Hellbent*. I took some of the more obviously adult content out, and resubmitted it as a teen book. The next thing I knew I was a successful teen author, as well as a less successful adult one.

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

I do a lot of remembering what I was like when I was a teenager. And what my friends were like. But I know much more about my characters than it's ever possible to know about a real person because I made them up. But they still sometimes surprise me. Occasionally they will disappoint me, let me down, not turn out how I wanted them too. But that's kids for you.

On a more technical level, I find that the more I can surround my characters in particular facts and details – the clothes they wear, the telly they watch, the things they eat – the more alive and real they become. What makes us unique as individuals aren't the big things, the grand philosophical systems by which we live, but those tiny details, the minutiae of our existence. Er, I think.

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

It's pretty hit and miss, I'm afraid. It's impossible to generalise about teenagers, and difficult to guess what they're going to go for. I just hope that my own interests and obsessions will mesh with them at some level. I suppose my main aim is to

make people laugh, and if I can do that then at least I have some indication that I'm hitting the right spots.

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

Winning prizes is very, very nice. And getting paid for something I love. And having teenagers say that they were reading one of my books under the desk during double maths and they laughed so much they wet themselves. But mainly it's the sense of peace and fulfilment that comes with finishing a book. It's a feeling that can often last several minutes.

Q6 Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?

All of them. Writing for me is always a combination of memory, observation, and experience, mixed up and mashed together with my literary and philosophical influences. The heroes in my two teenage novels both went to the same school, which is based very closely on my own school, in Leeds. I toned down the violence because no one would believe it.

Q7 What are you working on at the moment?

I've nearly finished another teen novel called, provisionally, *The Knife that Killed Me*. It's much more sombre and serious than my other teenage books – more like one of my adult thrillers. I'm also working on a series of books for younger children, called the Bare Bum Gang Adventures, a sort of sweet, old-fashioned Enid Blyton kind of thing.

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?

I've done lots over the past year. I get a real kick out of them, even if they do leave me stunned for a couple of days afterwards. Email's the best way – hellbentmcgowan@mac.com