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Orange Chatterbooks Newsletter

Number 19

Spring 2006



Here is May's bumper edition of the Orange Chatterbooks newsletter, packed with ideas, achievements, celebrations... and opening with a really exciting announcement!

This newsletter is now issued in January, May and September, alternating with Orange Chatterbooks updates in March, July and November. The short updates will briefly highlight the latest things happening with Orange Chatterbooks - news, training, Chatterbooks events and forthcoming national events that you might like to link into.

The next edition of the Orange Chatterbooks newsletter will be September 2006. Please e mail items for potential inclusion asap and before Friday September 1st. They should go directly to Jerry Hurst at jerry.hurst@readingagency.org.uk. Thank you.

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Orange Chatterbooks wins the prestigious Arts and Business Sustainability Award 2006!

On April 4th Orange and The Reading Agency won the **2006 Arts and Business Award for Sustainability** for their Orange Prize and Orange Chatterbooks children's reading group work in public libraries. The Award was presented by Katie Derham to Lesley Henry of Orange and Miranda McKearney of The Reading Agency at an awards ceremony in central London.

The Arts and Business Awards are open to all businesses supporting arts events, projects or organisations in the United Kingdom and all businesses partnering British arts events overseas. The awards celebrate excellence in a partnership between an arts organisation and a business organisation.

The Reading Agency and Orange have worked together since 1999. Their Orange Prize work reaches readers through 2,000 libraries with inspiring new fiction. Orange Chatterbooks is the first nationally co-ordinated library reading group scheme for children. The idea was initially

conceived within the framework of the educational initiatives linked to the Orange Prize for Fiction.

Since 2001, Orange Chatterbooks has grown in scale and popularity and now has a vast network of more than 320 reading groups reaching around 5,000 four to twelve year-olds across the UK.

Lesley Henry, Head of TV, Film and Literature Partnerships at Orange said, "The partnership between Orange and The Reading Agency has led the way in demonstrating the potential of major library partnerships with the business sector. Orange Chatterbooks has grown to become a flagship national programme and a model of good practice - most importantly, it has been a source of inspiration to thousands of children across the UK - we're delighted to be collecting this award with The Reading Agency today."

In 2004, the success of the project was confirmed by support from the Department of Education and Skills to extend Orange Chatterbooks. This breakthrough for public libraries signalled a new recognition in the formal education sector of the importance of libraries' work with young readers.

"Public libraries reach right into every kind of community. Orange has been able to harness that reach and libraries passion for inspiring adults and children to widen their reading horizons." said Miranda McKearney, Director of The Reading Agency.

Orange Chatterbooks celebrating the Queen's 80th Birthday

You should all have received an email saying how Chatterbooks groups can join in the Queen's 80th birthday celebrations, by contributing to the Queen's Birthday Book of Books, telling the Queen about your group's favourite book, and by holding a celebration party event for your group.

If the email, template and party pack did not reach you, or you would like more information, contact patricia.sharkey@readingagency.org.uk or tricia.kings@readingagency.org.uk

Orange supporting the charity Sense

This year Orange is supporting the charity **Sense**. Sense is the UK's largest organisation for children and adults who are deafblind. Deafblindness (or dual-sensory-impairment) is a unique disability that brings enormous challenges to the individual and those who support them. Orange is planning to raise awareness of the issues surrounding deafblindness among its staff and customers and we wondered if our Orange Chatterbooks groups would also like to get involved. We thought Chatterbooks groups could hold a session themed around deafblindness and to help groups plan this session we are preparing a pack in partnership with Sense which will be full of ideas and activities. The pack should be ready by the next issue of the newsletter.

Check out the Sense website (www.sense.org.uk) - it's excellent. It's full of really useful information to give background information for a Chatterbooks session. The website is probably too detailed for Chatterbooks members to look at themselves; however they might find the section on 'Communication' interesting. This looks at the different ways deafblind people communicate. They may also find the section on 'Equipment and Accessibility' fascinating; it looks at products deafblind people can use to make their life easier.

Look out for more information in the next newsletter.

Ideas, successes and updates: Orange Chatterbooks, spring 2006

Orange Chatterbooks in COUNTY ANTRIM host Paul Howard event at Randalstown Library - kindly sponsored by Walker Books

Randalstown Library runs two reading groups - they both meet on the last Friday of every month. One group, which meets in the afternoon, is an inquisitive little group of around twelve members... and the other is an 'overflow' (eight older children aged 12+ who initially joined as

Chatterbooks members – there is life after Chatterbooks!!). The afternoon group have been meeting for two years and have enjoyed many projects - they exchange books, compose and write their own newsletter, enjoy reading poetry and just love plays! One little boy initially came for the biscuits and juice but now freely admits he "**even reads**", to the delight of his mother.

The children were briefed on Paul's work beforehand and they were very impressed with the selection of authors he has illustrated with in the past (Ahlberg, Lingard, Lucy Daniels to name but a few), but nothing prepared them for his talent on the day.

Paul started the session by telling the children they were all going to be authors and some of them would even get the chance to be illustrators, but they would need a list of characters for their story. Some of the suggestions included posh Cyclops, a tea drinking granny dinosaur, a mechanical dog, flying elephants, a talking giraffe and a crocodile with a laser tail...!

Their story centred around a football match... imagine the scene, the flying cat is in goal, the laser-tailed crocodile has the ball, it's Weirido City FC, it's Saturday 3.00 and it's all about to kick off. A group member was asked to complete the scene by drawing her suggested character – a flying elephant. An unimpressed granny dinosaur is drinking tea to the left of the goal when suddenly she keels over, one cream bun too many perhaps.... Play carries on as two tiny birds (drawn by another member of the group) attempt the unenviable task of carrying granny off on a stretcher. This chaos has not stopped play, the ball is headed onto the posh Cyclops' eye and sticks fast. As all the characters attempt to pull it off... but how will the story end? Will Mummy Queen (who is watching the game from home) turn into Supermummy, will Superqueen fly in to rescue her boy? Will the game go into extra time as Cyclops is pulled around the pitch? Will he stumble in for an own goal?

The final piece of the story was left in the balance and the children will have the opportunity to draw their own individual ending at the next meeting. Paul answered all of the many questions at the end of the session and held everyone's attention throughout. The children are very keen to continue this saga!!

Ann Beattie

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Orange Chatterbooks and *Read It Again!*, the first ever Cambridgeshire Children's Picture Book Award

Cambridgeshire's ***The Read It Again!*** award is for a debut picture book published in 2005 where the story and pictures are the work of one individual. From the many submissions, the six short listed titles are:

- *Whatever* by William Bee [Walker]
- *Wolves* by Emily Gravett [Macmillan]
- *Evie's Mad Hair Day* by Shane McG [Templar]
- *Very Interesting!* by Yokococo [Gullane]
- *Hot Jazz Special* by Jonny Hannah [Walker]
- *The Fantastic Mr Wani* by Kanako Usui

Orange Chatterbooks members at St Ives, St Neots, Warboys, Cambourne and Ramsey are voting for their favourite titles and the presentation will take place in June. *Richard Young*

Awesome readers at CUMBRIA Orange Chatterbooks!

Jerry, when you were working with us recently we talked about using some of your ideas with our Orange Chatterbooks group the following day. You asked me to email, so here I am!

Millom Chatterbooks members are keen on the **Hot or not? wall** idea (where children place brief book bites for recently read books, magazines, comics, websites... on a wall display, favourable responses at one end, unfavourable at the other... discuss!) - we will probably call it the ***Awesome wall*** instead, with ***Cheesy*** being the opposite of ***Awesome***, and possibly ***Whatever*** in the middle. We didn't get it set up, but they all wanted cards to take home and bring back next time with book titles on them so they can place them on the wall.

They loved doing their reader profiles. We went through each of the three questions: What kind of reader are you? Where do you like to read? Do you have any interesting reading habits or things you do as you read? Each child provided a profile and at the end we read them all out

and they laughed as we remembered who each one was. They suddenly realised they were proud to be readers, and I wanted to shout out **"YES!"**

Here are the children's profiles. It makes good reading...

1. I read lots of books at once, but don't finish them, usually. I like to lie on my bed the other way around because it's quiet and not with my annoying sister. I climb up the wall (whilst lying upside down).
2. I read one at a time, quite fast. I read in bed, because it's comfortable and no-one can disturb me. I roll over, put my hair in my mouth, or walk about.
3. I read quickly, one book at a time. I read in the library, in bed, or downstairs. I like to read in the library because there are lots of books to choose from. I read lying upside down, sucking my thumb, doing teddy's ribbon up, or with a torch under the covers.
4. I read very quickly, normally one book at a time. Once I've started, nothing can tear me away. I read in the library when there are no idiotic teenagers there, or in bed or in the bath - no-one can disturb me there and I keep a weird pile of books there so there's lots of choice. I tap my feet, read in odd places. Suffocate the cat if it's scary!
5. Every night I read 100 pages of a different book. I read in my bedroom, specially at Dad's because my sister's not there. I bite things while I'm reading.
6. I read three books at a time, quite quickly. I read in the shower, because it's comfortable. The books don't get wet because the shower head is broken! When I am ready to sleep I still keep reading until 3 am. I chew gum, and whack the gum with the front cover of the book.
7. I read two or three books at a time, quite quickly, but don't finish them. I like to read on the chair in the living room, because it's comfy, or on my bed because it's comfy and I have a selection of books. I tear paper bookmarks apart while I'm reading.
8. I read two or three at once and finish them quite quickly. I like to read in the en-suite shower room because it's quiet and no-one finds me there. I fall asleep while I am reading in bed. *Sue Thompson*

ESSEX Orange Chatterbooks going from strength to strength in Chelmsford

We drew our third group to a close in December 2005, after ten great sessions. We differ from lots of groups in the fact that we have a new group every year, allowing us to reach as many children as possible. We found that the groups fare better during an academic year, rather than following the calendar year, but regularly had fifteen children (out of eighteen) during our sessions.

We also had satellite libraries operating smaller groups, at Maldon and Galleywood, and a weekend family group is still running at Braintree Library.

We put together a folder of session plans, that groups could tailor to their needs, and followed these plans throughout the year. We discussed many things, including plot lines, characters, authors and film adaptations.

The sessions that were particular favourites were the family evening and the visit to *Ottakars* bookshop.

For the family evening we invited relatives for each child and spent an enjoyable hour trying to guess when different children's classics had been published. Everyone was astonished to discover that *Gulliver's Travels* was written in 1723!

We took a trip to our local bookshop, just five minutes away, who have allowed us to visit them each year. The group took part in a quiz prepared by *Ottakars* staff, and all received a 'goody bag' at the end of the visit. Here's what two of the children had to say about Chatterbooks:

"Chatterbooks was great fun. I really enjoyed everything we did with the books, especially the quizzes and games. It was really interesting over the year, and I wish I could come back when the next group is chosen."

Georgia, Aged 10, Chelmsford Group.

"We loved to talk about all the books we have read. It was good to look at different types of books, and I found out that lots of books were written ages ago, and have been around forever!"

Rhiannon, Aged 9, Maldon Group.

We are looking forward to starting our FOURTH group in September 2006, with options to run groups at other sites again. Watch this space!

Julie Priest

The first six months of Stroud Orange Chatterbooks, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

We have just celebrated six months of Orange Chatterbooks at Stroud Library and feel it is time to share our success! Initially, to promote its birth, we took the opportunity of using last year's *Summer Reading Scheme*, taking names and addresses from children who expressed an interest.

We meet on Monday afternoons between 3.30 and 4.30pm. Five children from various schools around Stroud attended that first session and since then word has spread - we now regularly have twelve children ranging in age from 7-12 years.

Our first activity was **Don't Judge a Book by its Cover** The children were asked to select a book they wouldn't normally choose because "they didn't like the look of it". They took the book home to read and then designed a cover they thought more appropriate (and colourful!)

To tie in with **National Poetry Day**, we had a limerick and poetry writing session with the children reading their masterpieces out to each other. November saw us reviewing *The Legend of Spud Murphy* by Eion Colfer and in December we discussed children's books showing in the cinema - Narnia and Harry Potter. With Christmas almost upon us we kept the session light hearted, with quizzes, word searches and even a little festive singing!!

To start the New Year, the children chose their own topic, which surprisingly was fairy tales. To coincide with **The Great Reading Adventure** in the South West, we then decided our topic for February would be to read Jules Verne's *Around the world in eighty days*. *The Great Reading Adventure* encourages everyone in this area to read this classic. Thousands of copies of the book, along with a special children's adaptation are available to borrow from library services across the region. See www.swreads.com for further details. Each child has been given their own copy to keep. We read the first chapter together then had a discussion about it, followed by a topical word search. We carried this theme over to the following month, then reviewed the book and did several activities to tie in with the story.

The children all love their Chatterbooks bags, proudly bringing them each time. It's lovely to see children from seven different schools mixing and making new friends they would not otherwise have made, whilst discovering that books are fun!

Helen Foulkes and Louise Shapcott

Advice from HULL Libraries to those considering setting up Orange Chatterbooks... Go ahead! – Do it!

For a long while, we had wanted to set up something for the older children on the Preston Road Estate. During the six week holiday we had a wonderful response to our **Summer Reading Challenge**, and it was at the presentation of certificates and medals that we asked any child aged between 8-12 years and their parent / carer if they would be interested in joining a reading group. Initial reaction was overwhelming!

With the support of Frontline Funding from Yorkshire Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, we set up a pilot Orange Chatterbooks group in Hull, along with three other libraries. Sessions were to be held at the Central Library, Fred Moore Library, Holderness Road Customer Service Centre and at our library on Preston Road. Initial thoughts were "Oh no, will it work?", "How can we run the sessions?" but we decided to give it a go and we are so glad we did!

At the first session, everyone was very nervous as no-one was sure what to expect! We weren't even sure if anyone would turn up but we had nothing to fear... we had eleven excited 8-12 year old boys and girls all raring to go!! BRILLIANT!!!

This first session coincided with **National Poetry Day**. The children were asked to write a silly poem, staff included and read it out loud to the other members – this caused much giggling in the session and was an excellent ice breaker. It made them feel more at ease as they realised it wasn't going to be like school and that the library can be fun.

We played word lotto and wrote our **Chatterbooks Rules**. These rules were agreed and chosen by all the group members and are proudly displayed in the library– my personal favourites being 'Don't swear' and 'Don't interrupt when someone is talking' - all children seem to stick to these rules. Along with the rules, it was decided that new book reviews would be displayed so that other children can see any popular reads, giving a mark out of 10. The children proudly show their parents their work when they arrive to pick them up.

The hour seemed to pass really quickly and the children were quite sad when parents turned up to take them home.

We have now had four meetings as a group, and at a good session, a total of eleven children have attended. Times and dates have been changed to accommodate children and parents (dark nights and straight after school were a big issue with the children) so sessions are now run once a month on a Saturday 10.00am – 11.30/12 noon, depending on what we are doing at that particular session (some group members have asked if it can be a weekly session!) Yes it's more work for us, we have to work an extra Saturday, but progress within the group is well worth the hassle.

Session themes are normally decided by the children and recently a wonderful wish list was produced and displayed with things they would like to achieve during the year. Themes so far have included 'Myself', 'My favourite book', 'Jacqueline Wilson' and 'Roald Dahl'. At Christmas we had a good session making bookmarks, Christmas cards and decorations along with party food and all children receiving a present from Father Christmas, which they found quite amusing! We have also produced book covers and are going to write a short story around this book cover in the forthcoming months.

At the last session each child picked two **wrapped-up books** to review. This was met with "What if we don't like them?" "What if it's a girly book?" and "What if it's boring?" It seemed quite hard to reassure the group that if you didn't like the book, or you found it boring, not to worry as we all have individual tastes and what one person may find boring, another person may think is great - so we're sure the next session will be very interesting, with lots of discussion! The month after we are reviewing Enid Blyton. Everything the children produce is kept in their own personal folder so they can look back at book reviews and things we have covered in all sessions.

We have also run a **poetry competition**, asking the group to write a poem along with illustrations titled 'Our Chatterbooks Group'. There were eight winners in all, in the various categories, and all members who took part received a certificate as well as a prize on the presentation night.

Amy Thomas, aged 9, won first prize (an art box worth £40), and Hayley Rodgers, 10, took second prize – a £5 book token. Third was Sheryl Rodgers, 9, who also took home a £5 book voucher.

Eight-year-old Georgia Moxon won the Special Prize – a £10 book token donated by the Preston Road Neighbourhood Development Company Residents Association.

Another four entries by Corey Coombes, 11, Sophie Dunhill, 10, Amy-Lea Ware, 10, and Matthew Abbey, 8, all won an Easter egg for their efforts.

'If you get bored
Sat in on an evening
Join Chatterbooks group
And do some reading.
When you get there
You'll meet Donna and Jo.
There might even be
Some friends that you know.

Our discussions are about books
We have read.
And all the things in the books
That stick in our head.'

Amy Thomas

So anyone who is thinking of setting up a group – **Go ahead! – Do it!** – it's so rewarding to see the children enjoying books, reading to others, letting others know their thoughts on the books and authors and, more importantly, becoming friends and having lots of fun!!

It makes our job worthwhile – Roll on next month for our Chatterbooks session!!!

Jo Parkinson, Donna Jones and Janis Wilson

Time travelling Chatterbooks at NORTH TYNESIDE Libraries

In the last edition of the Orange Chatterbooks newsletter, I read with interest the Gloucestershire Project Worker's account of how they were unsure about what to expect from sessions – I was in the same situation as I have recently taken over the post of Orange Chatterbooks Co-ordinator for North Tyneside Libraries.

To start, schools located within walking distance of a library were approached. We met with either the Literacy Co-ordinator or Head Teacher and explained that Orange Chatterbooks would help them to meet their targets with lifelong learning, social inclusion, literacy and citizenship. All the school needed to do was identify ten enthusiastic pupils who had a passion for reading. It was stressed that the children did not need high attainment levels in reading, just a love of books!

We now have eleven Orange Chatterbooks groups meeting throughout North Tyneside Libraries. The groups meet either during their lunch breaks or after school once a month. The sessions are structured like adult reading groups, as they focus more upon book reviewing than craft activities. The 'Chatter' element does not need much encouragement amongst group members. When recently evaluating **The Summer Reading Challenge website** for The Reading Agency, a dictaphone was used to record group members' opinions and suggestions. The idea of their thoughts being recorded for official purposes at first had some lost for words, others felt that they needed a stage!

Should you find that some group members are quiet or not willing to voice their opinions, **debate sessions** are a good solution. The motion 'books versus films' provides a lively icebreaker. In every session, the children in favour of books have produced convincing arguments. Not only does this session reinforce why we enjoy reading, it also brings on the group's debating and social skills. Another vocal session we have done is a 'Big Brother' type session, where group members had to nominate and vote for their favourite book characters... Tracy Beaker being the winner – no surprises there.

The books selected for Orange Chatterbooks circulate amongst all of the groups. This is done so that all of the groups can meet together before the end of the school summer term and vote for their favourite book at the **North Tyneside Chatterbooks Book Awards** event. Some of the books they have been reviewing have had an historical theme, for example, *Lets do the Pharaoh* by Jeremy Strong and *Billy the Kid* by Michael Morpurgo. As the children had been going back in time with their reading, it seemed only right that we do our best to transport them and their families back in time for their events. In a few weeks they are off to the Roman fort of Segedunum in Wallsend. Here they will get a taste of Roman every day life with Marcus the Soldier.

The **Book Awards** event is to be held at Tynemouth Priory (over 1000 years old). The Priory was used by the British Navy during the Second World War as a munitions base and outlook point. The children and their families will dress as evacuees for the day's voting ceremony. A group of World War II actors are to dress as British, American and German soldiers who will keep them in order and check their relevant papers. To add to the 1940s feel there is to be a converted air raid shelter and each child will receive a week's ration pack.

Back in 2006, should anyone ask what to expect from an Orange Chatterbooks group session I would state the following: **vocal, enthusiastic and entertaining!**

Joanna Parker

Budding Jamie Olivers in NORTHUMBERLAND! Recipe book taste-testing...

Who could resist a **foodie** event for Orange Chatterbooks? That was the question we asked ourselves when Marjorie, a library customer, mooted the idea of a cookery event with our Berwick Chatterbooks group.

Marjorie was embarking on compiling a children's cookery book and has a passion for sharing with children her love of cookery and recipes. Our group of willing Chatterbooks 'guinea pigs' were more than prepared to help!

A well-paced session included a general discussion of favourite foods, recipes and recipe books. A list of Marjorie's recipes was divided into sweet and savoury and we discussed what we thought each recipe may contain. *Surprise Shortbread* we discovered, has lavender to flavour it!

We discussed what we like to eat and cook and, not surprisingly, chocolate featured strongly. With parental permission, everyone selected a recipe to cook at home. As well as taste, we wanted to know how easy or difficult it was to make.

The children reported back at the following meeting... and the session was rounded off with chocolate Swiss roll slices, chocolate buttons and jelly beans!
Diane Wright

Orange Chatterbooks comes to SEFTON

Following the re-structure of Sefton's Library Service and the formation of a Children and Young People's Team, it was decided to set up Orange Chatterbooks. We planned to start with a pilot group in one library, followed by other groups throughout Sefton during 2006-2007.

We contacted Patricia Sharkey at The Reading Agency and she asked if any of our libraries were near to *Another Place*, the beach sculpture by Anthony Gormley. In fact, it's just down the road! Patricia mentioned her hopes for a Regional Day, involving *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, linked to this high-profile artwork that attracts many visitors to Crosby beach.

With this event in mind, we chose to set up the first group in Carnegie Library, College Road, as it is within walking distance of the beach and of our chosen Primary School. We contacted the Head Teacher and met at the school, together with the Library Manager, to discuss the whole concept of Orange Chatterbooks and to share our aims and expected outcomes.

We were surprised at how similar they were: to forge stronger links with the community (both), to promote a love of reading and encourage discussion about books with adults and with each other (both), to increase use of local libraries (us), to develop staff skills in reader development with children (us), to increase SATS scores for reading (the school).

Our preferred method of consultation was face-to-face interaction with the children; we chatted to the Head about the best approach and agreed to speak to the school assembly and meet the School Council.

In the assembly we talked about Orange Chatterbooks to the whole school; there was a great moment when a few well known books and authors were mentioned – Harry Potter, Jacqueline Wilson, Spooks, Anthony Horowitz - it was enough to start a buzz of chatter, all about books!

After the assembly, we met with the School Council, which comprises children from Year 4 to Year 6. We asked them if they use the library, the kind of books they like and what improvements we could make. We discussed Chatterbooks and some practical arrangements for children from their school: what day of the week would be most suitable; what time they could arrive at the library; what sort of refreshments to have (lots of suggestions). The children told us the kind of activities the group might enjoy and which magazines they like to read.

A starting date was agreed, twenty-seven put their names forward, ten were selected and letters were sent home to parents / carers.

The first meeting took place on 15th February. We all had a great time. We made name badges, chatted about our favourite books and ate chocolate biscuits. All the children said they'd enjoyed it and were looking forward to next month.

We breathed a sigh of relief, after all the planning, Orange Chatterbooks has finally come to Sefton!
Jenny Cochrane

STOP PRESS! An update from SEFTON... *The Iron Man in Another Place*: Orange Chatterbooks Regional Day 6th May 2006

It seems ages since we started to think about a North West regional event to link Anthony Gormley's *Another Place* with *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. The day finally came on 6th May and was a huge success.

Our event took place on the beach and at Crosby Leisure Centre, which is close by. We invited a textile artist and a local poet / dramatist to do activities with the children. Their sessions were related to Anthony Gormley's dramatic iron sculptures and involved text, craftwork and drama - all touching on issues concerning recycling, renewal and hope for the future.

Outside on the beach a Sefton Ranger organised games about the coast and countryside.

At the end of the day, we held a mega Chatterbooks session, with a short reading from *The Iron Man*. Children came from many neighbouring authorities: Trafford, Salford, Wirral and Stockport, and of course, from Sefton's brand new group.

Our original idea came to life as an exciting, challenging event which we hope will inspire children to find out more about their environment, while they enjoyed the opportunity to meet with other Orange Chatterbooks groups in Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

Faber and Faber generously donated copies of *The Iron Man* book, together with *The Iron Woman*. Anthony Gormley created a unique bookplate especially for the occasion. Orange gave generous support and backing to the whole event and kindly donated three CS Lewis titles for every child in attendance. So, at the end of the day each child left with a unique signed book, some new reading, a Chatterbooks goody bag, and hopefully plenty of happy memories of a fantastic Chatterbooks event!
Jenny Cochrane

WALSALL and WEST LOTHIAN Orange Chatterbooks members taking a lead...

In WALSALL... we have extended to include an extra two groups in the last six months. One of the original groups has become too large and has split into a Chatterbooks and a teenage reading group.

In October we held an **annual book festival** and for the first time, many of our groups came along and met Julia Jarman whose books they had been reading at their sessions. The children had a fantastic day and lots of fun.

Recently we have involved the groups in **book selection**. We use Petranet, the internet book ordering service supplied by Peters Booksellers. The children were able to log on to the system and look at the books in the same way the selection team do, then make their choices. We then ordered the books the children had picked.

As a way of identifying their choices and promoting the groups, we are planning to have a sticker produced that we can use on the front covers of the books saying 'Chosen by Chatterbooks' and wondered if there was any possibility of using the Chatterbooks logos. I thought maybe the orange speech bubble.
Pat Guest, Walsall

... and at Fauldhouse in WEST LOTHIAN... the children's library was to be given a **facelift** and the Orange Chatterbooks group were invited to submit designs for a new layout, and to choose new furniture and shelves. They all had great fun making their selection from various catalogues and work has now started on the project using some of their ideas and designs.

The group were keen to see the whole project through themselves. They have designed invitations, written a speech and helped to organise a reception for local councillors, area library managers, parents and friends to come along to the grand opening. A member of the Chatterbooks group will give the speech and cut the red tape declaring the new area open.

It doesn't stop there however! The group have decided to survey the other children and adult users of the library to get their views on the new area and will publish their results in a Fauldhouse Library newsletter! The children have really enjoyed working with the library staff and being active participants in this project.
Ann Beattie

Please send *your* news and successful reading activity ideas for inclusion in the Orange Chatterbooks newsletter – jerry.hurst@readingagency.org.uk

Coming up...

Throughout the school summer holidays...

The National Summer Reading Challenge™ - is coordinated by The Reading Agency and supported by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and leading children's publishers. It aims to encourage four to twelve year olds into libraries, to maintain their reading over the school summer holidays.



The Reading Mission – This year's theme has a 'mission impossible' secret agent feel. Resources include new ways to involve younger and older children, a collector folder to support the mystery adventure theme, new puzzles and games for children and the chance to engage families through sharing family reading experiences.

For more information and resources visit www.readingagency.org.uk

In June the Reading Mission website www.readingmission.org.uk will go live – with author interviews and on-line activities. You will also be able to find guidelines and support for running the Challenge on the TRF website, www.theirreadingfutures.org.uk

And - The Reading Mission and Alex Rider...

This summer the SRC also offers a range of downloadable resources for activities for 9-12 year olds linked to Anthony Horowitz' Alex Rider books, and the 'Stormbreaker' movie. These include publicity material, ideas and templates for activities, and a booklist of secret agent titles.

July...

The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards

Winners of the two awards are announced in July. For more information visit www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk

Kate Greenaway Medal Shortlist

Tony DiTerlizzi (Text by Holly Black)	<i>Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World around you</i>	(Age range 8+)
Emily Gravett	<i>Wolves</i>	(6+)
Mini Grey	<i>Traction Man is Here</i>	(6+)
Oliver Jeffers	<i>Lost & Found</i>	(3+)
Dave McKean (Text by Neil Gaiman)	<i>Mirrormask</i>	(11+)
Jane Ray (Text by Berlie Doherty)	<i>Jinnie Ghost</i>	(7+)
David Roberts (Text by Lynn Roberts)	<i>Little Red: a fizzingly good yarn</i>	(7+)
Rob Scotton	<i>Russell the Sheep</i>	(5+)

Carnegie Medal Shortlist

David Almond	<i>Clay</i>	(Age range 11+)
Frank Cottrell Boyce	<i>Framed</i>	(9+)
Geraldine McCaughrean	<i>The White Darkness</i>	(12+)
Jan Mark	<i>Turbulence</i>	(12+)
Mal Peet	<i>Tamar</i>	(12+)

Book Now! Orange Chatterbooks Training 2006

Inspiring trainer Jerry Hurst is leading an Orange Chatterbooks training session for The Reading Agency on **Wednesday 5 July at York Central Library**.

The training gives essential background for library staff new to Orange Chatterbooks. It is also highly recommended for library staff who want to refresh or top up on previous training in this field. Participants are guaranteed to come away with practical ideas of how to set up, run and develop a successful and lively Chatterbooks programme for their library service – and to evaluate their Chatterbooks groups' achievements.

Places, at £150 per delegate, are limited – please download a booking form from www.readingagency.org.uk/projects/children/chatterbooks.html or contact the Orange Chatterbooks coordinators (see below).

Your Orange Chatterbooks co-ordinators

Your Orange Chatterbooks co-ordinators are:

Patricia Sharkey patricia.sharkey@readingagency.org.uk

and

Tricia Kings tricia.kings@readingagency.org.uk

The next edition of the Orange Chatterbooks newsletter

We'd love to hear from you about your Orange Chatterbooks groups. Please let us have your ideas and successes so that we can share them with others through the Orange Chatterbooks newsletter.

The next edition of the Orange Chatterbooks newsletter will be in September. Please email items for potential inclusion asap and before Friday September 1st. They should go directly to Jerry Hurst, at jerry.hurst@readingagency.org.uk

Thank you.