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FESTIVAL



**RBS Schools Events**

The best in children's literature August 2007

[www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)



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# Welcome

## to the Book Festival's RBS Schools Programme!

Come join us for our week-long celebration of children's literature specifically designed for schools. The RBS Schools Programme is an unmissable opportunity for your class to engage, interact, design, learn and play with the best and brightest in books today.

Whether you are veterans of our programme or contemplating coming for the first time, we have events to suit every class; ranging from picture books to teen fiction, poetry, science, history and beyond. There are workshops, story sessions, panel debates, and events for every age level where one thing is guaranteed – it's an outstanding opportunity for creative fun and learning.

This year we've expanded our range of events for upper secondary students as well as our stories, activities, and workshops for younger classes because we believe the power of words should be available to all pupils, from P1 to S6. And don't forget our RBS Schools Gala Day, when the Festival is entirely dedicated to primary pupils with music, activities and of course authors!

Here at the Book Festival, we are dedicated to engaging children with the world of books in as many different ways as possible and hope you can join us for a fun-filled adventure into literature of all kinds. I look forward to welcoming you and your students this August for days full of imaginative creation and stimulating storytelling, so come join us for a celebration in the gardens.

**Sara Grady, Children & Education Programme Director**

## Highlights

- **When Kilts Were Banned – the *Kidnapped* sensation!** (page 34)
- **Horrid Henry sneak-peek with Francesca Simon** (page 24)
- **Scottish PEN panel of contemporary adult Scottish writers** (page 18)
- **The new Katie Morag with Mairi Hedderwick** (page 14)
- **Horrible Histories fun with zany illustrator Martin Brown** (page 28)
- **Music Matters, a lyrical debate with hot teen authors Catherine Forde, Graham Marks and Ally Kennen** (page 10)
- **Plus Julia Donaldson, Anthony Horowitz, Mal Peet, Anthony Browne, Michelle Paver, Paul Stewart & Chris Riddell, amazing new faces and plenty of old favourites!**

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**PLEASE NOTE: ALL EVENTS LAST NO LONGER THAN 1 HOUR**



# Visiting the Book Festival

## **New booking and cancellation policy** see page 36

Please read our new booking policy and deadlines on page 36 carefully to ensure your booking is received and processed correctly. **Booking opens Mon 23 April.**

## **Financial support for transport**

Need financial support to transport your class to the Book Festival? Please apply for our Transport Fund, sponsored by RBS and supported by the City of Edinburgh Council. Whether it is a coach from Inverness or even an Edinburgh city bus fare, you can apply to have the costs reimbursed if your school needs financial assistance to attend. See page 36.

## **Special assistance and support services at the Book Festival**

The Edinburgh International Book Festival RBS Schools Programme is open to all students. Our venues are wheelchair accessible and a British Sign Language interpreter can be supplied upon prior request. Should any of your pupils require extra services or you need more information to plan your visit, please contact Sara Grady at [sara@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:sara@edbookfest.co.uk) to discuss the possibilities in more detail.

## **Pre-ordered lunches**

You can now order healthy packed lunches for your visit (veggie options available), supplied by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. An order form will be sent to you in June along with your information pack and ticket invoice.

## **Discounted books**

It would be beneficial for your class to have some exposure to the authors and books they will encounter before their visit. To help with this, we can supply relevant books in advance of your trip at a 25% discount with free postage and packing. We'll send you book order forms along with your information pack and ticket invoice in June.

## **Outreach**

We understand not everyone can make it to Charlotte Square in August, even with subsidised transport. In association with the Scottish Book Trust and Edinburgh Youth Services we take some of our visiting authors out on school visits during Festival season. Please contact [jasmine.fassl@scottishbooktrust.com](mailto:jasmine.fassl@scottishbooktrust.com).

## **Questions**

Questions about booking and tickets? See our new booking policy on page 36. If your query isn't answered there, please contact our Schools Booking Co-ordinator at [schools@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:schools@edbookfest.co.uk) or on 0131 718 5661. Available Mon and Fri from 10.00am – 4.30pm from Mon 23 April.

## **Questions about authors or events?**

Email Sara Grady, Children & Education Programme Director at [sara@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:sara@edbookfest.co.uk)



# A garden awaits you

Although the RBS Schools Programme is specifically for class groups, there are plenty of events in the public Children and Adult programmes that may be suitable for book groups, student paper staff, arts clubs or other small groups from your school.

With events on subjects like journalism, screenwriting, graphic novels, terrorism, climate change and illustration, there is something for everyone in Charlotte Square Gardens this summer. Our series celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Carnegie Medal, with past winners, is a special treat as well as an inside look into the book industry and how authors get published. Look out for our full programme of events on 14 June and log on to [www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk).

**Look out for teen events (tickets £3.50) in the public programme including:**

#### **Graphic Novels and Literature**

Ian Rankin, Denise Mina and graphic novelist Alan Grant will discuss their graphic novels.

#### **Who Watches the Watchmen?**

Teens' freedom of speech in an age of terrorism with Sherry Ashworth and Graham Marks.

#### **Apocalyptic Scotland**

James Jauncey, Catherine Forde and Julie Bertagna discuss their harsh new novels and the possible futures of Scotland.

#### **Plus:**

Kevin Brooks, Melvin Burgess, Louise Rennison and more.

**BOOKING FOR THE ABOVE EVENTS OPENS 19 JUNE**

## Events for Teachers

Tickets £5.00

Please place orders on your booking form or call the Schools Booking Co-ordinator on 0131 718 5661 Mondays and Fridays, 10.00am to 4.30pm from Mon 23 April.

**Weds 15 Aug 5.00pm**

#### **Storytelling in Schools**

Want to improve your storytelling skills and story reading abilities? In association with the Storytelling Centre, professional storytellers talk about how to engage children with books by creating a more interactive story space, helping stories to come alive for your pupils.

**Weds 22 Aug 6.00pm**

#### **The Journey to Excellence**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools Frank Crawford is responsible for secondary and special school inspections across Scotland. HMIE produced an aspirational resource about how schools can go from good to great called *The Journey to Excellence*. Frank will describe its potential in an interactive event on inclusion and the development of quality frameworks to improve school effectiveness.

**Thurs 23 Aug 6.00pm**

#### **Formative Assessment in the Classroom**

Professor Dylan Williams of King's College London is a leading expert and champion of Formative Assessment, which helps children reach their goals without teaching to tests. A commanding and entertaining speaker, he is passionate about raising standards through helping pupils become better learners without continually measuring their progress.

**Mon 27 Aug 5.00pm**

#### **The Confidence Handbook**

Increasingly influencing the type of thinking now required if we are to become a vibrant, confident country, Dr Carol Craig, Chief Executive of the Centre of Confidence and Well-being offers a refreshingly different analysis of what it really means to be Scottish. She discusses her new book *The Confidence Handbook*, which follows her hugely successful *The Scots' Crisis of Confidence*, and talks about ways to encourage confident individuals in the classroom.

Monday 20 August, 10.00am, RBS Main Theatre

**P5-6**

**Joan Lingard**

## EVENT SYNOPSIS

Where do your ideas come from? This is one of the most common questions writers are asked by children, who often find it difficult to get started on a story. Joan Lingard will concentrate her event on finding and building ideas, as well as citing some sources which have inspired her.

## BIOGRAPHY

Joan Lingard is one of the world's pre-eminent writers for children and was awarded an MBE for Services to Children's Literature in 1998. Amongst the many issues tackled in her writing – frequently set against a historical and international background – are the themes of prejudice and discrimination, tolerance and reconciliation, displacement and resettling and protection of the environment.



## TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *The Sign of the Black Dagger* is set on the Royal Mile of Edinburgh in the present and in 1796. Research the local history and compare what has changed and what has remained the same.
- *Natasha's Will* looks at the Russian Revolution and *Tell the Moon to Come Out* is set during the Spanish Civil War. Research a part of history and make up your own story on what life would have been like then.
- The books above, as well as *The Twelfth Day of July* and *Across the Barricades*, deal with displacement through war, revolution or political strife. Imagine you are lost or stranded in one of these times of struggle. Make a collage or write a story about those experiences and emotions.

## BOOKSHELF

*The Sign of the Black Dagger* £5.99, *Natasha's Will* £5.99, *Tell the Moon to Come Out* £5.99

## WEBSITE

[www.joanlingard.co.uk](http://www.joanlingard.co.uk)  
[www.slainte.org.uk/scotwrit/Authors/Lingard.htm](http://www.slainte.org.uk/scotwrit/Authors/Lingard.htm)  
[www.puffin.co.uk](http://www.puffin.co.uk)

Monday 20 August, 10.00am, RBS Children's Theatre

**P6-S2**

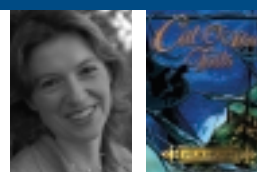
**Julia Golding**

## EVENT SYNOPSIS

Strongly believing that reading and writing should be made fun, Julia Golding will play some short games with the children to show them how to devise plots through playing with characters and themes. They can then use these games themselves to help them think up their own ideas. In preparation, it would be good if the children read an extract of one of the books in class beforehand, but it is not essential.

## BIOGRAPHY

Julia Golding read English at Cambridge and took a doctorate in the literature of the English Romantic Period at Oxford. She then joined Oxfam as a lobbyist on conflict issues. She is the author of the brilliant and award-winning Cat Royal series as well as The Companions Quartet. She has recently published an exciting new adventure-thriller entitled *Ringmaster* and a fantasy story with an environmental theme called *The Ship Between the Worlds*.



## TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Inspired by Cat Royal's exploits, design theatre sets or write short plays for Drury Lane. Look at the theme of slavery in *Cat Among the Pigeons*. Explore the events of the French Revolution from *Den of Thieves*. Imagine what it would have been like to be a boy at sea 200 years ago or explore American Indian stories/myths from *Cat O'Nine Tails*.
- Imagine your own mythical creature companion like those from The Companions Quartet.
- Experiment with ways to tell stories about our present day environmental issues using *The Ship Between the Worlds*.
- *Ringmaster*: find out more about Kenya or imagine how you would cope if you had to work undercover.

## BOOKSHELF

*The Cat Royal* series £6.99 each, *The Companions Quartet* series £5.99 each, *Ringmaster* £8.99, *The Ship Between the Worlds* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.juliagolding.co.uk](http://www.juliagolding.co.uk)

Monday 20 August, 10.00am, RBS Imagination Lab

**P5-7**

## Joe Craig's Kicks, Twists and Rollercoasters: How to Come up with Great Stories

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

How do you come up with ideas for stories? How do you take those ideas and get them into shape so that the story you write is gripping? Joe Craig will demonstrate how he goes about it, using the best, worst, and weirdest suggestions fired at him by the children. Come prepared for a high energy and highly interactive session, a (hopefully) hilarious extravaganza that will leave you itching to get started on your own 'killer' story.

**Also appearing Tues 21 August**

### BIOGRAPHY

Joe Craig studied Philosophy at Cambridge before becoming a songwriter and jazz musician. He still performs whenever he can, and wherever there are Haribo sweets on offer. Writing the Jimmy Coates series came from his love of stories, and his curiosity about their structure. The idea was driving him mad so he wrote it down and, suddenly, he was a novelist.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Read the first chapter of *Jimmy Coates: Killer*. How does the story try to grab your attention? What questions does it raise? For example, who are the men that are coming to get Jimmy? How does Jimmy have the ability to escape? Try writing your own continuation of the story, finding the answers to some of these questions.
- Try creating the first chapter of your own action thriller which raises questions for the reader and grabs their attention. How would you answer your own questions in the rest of your story?
- Jimmy Coates discovers some things about himself he never could have imagined. Could the rest of us have similar surprises? How do we know anything about ourselves? What could you discover about yourself that would be shocking? Exciting? Terrifying? Try writing a story about a time in your life when you really did discover something new about yourself.

### BOOKSHELF

*Jimmy Coates: Killer* £5.99, *Jimmy Coates: Target* £5.99, *Jimmy Coates: Revenge* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.joecraig.co.uk](http://www.joecraig.co.uk)

Monday 20 August, 10.30am, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**P6-S1**

## Graham Marks

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Graham Marks will talk about his adventure fiction *Snatched!* and *Kai-ro*. He came to writing through poetry, comic strips and journalism, in that order. It has been a long, interesting and meandering journey, with each stop along the road shaping how he writes. His books are very filmic high-adventure novels; character-based, story-driven, tightly plotted and with plenty of dialogue to keep everything on the move. They are basically movies with covers and he'll discuss how and why he writes like this.

### BIOGRAPHY

Graham Marks has been a poet, artist, journalist, magazine editor and designer. He has written for comics, radio and TV as well as writing a dozen books but is probably best known for his young adult novel, *How It Works*, which won the South Lanarkshire Book Award in 2005.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Running a circus is, as Mr Hubble says in *Snatched!*, like managing a village on wheels. Discuss what it must be like to live on the move.
- *Snatched!*: Look at the history of London, find maps online and see how it's grown and how life has changed. Look for parallels; in 1855 we were at war with Russia, fighting in the Crimea; in 2007 we are at war in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- *Kai-ro* draws on Ancient Egyptian history – look at their pantheon of gods and their mythology.
- *Kai-ro*: We always imagine the future as being brighter, shinier and better than the present – discuss how the future may differ from this. At the centre of the city of Dinium there is a huge pile of rubbish called Bloom's Mount, created by a previous civilisation where everything was disposable – talk about our throw-away society.
- Both *Takedown* and *Fault Line* feature time travel. *Takedown* is set now, with a man returning from the future, and *Fault Line* has its heroes going back into the past. Talk about the possibilities of time travel and what it could mean if we could do it. Graham Marks says if he could go anywhere it would be to Ancient Egypt to see how they really built the pyramids.

### BOOKSHELF

*Snatched!* £5.99, *Kai-ro* £5.99, *Takedown* £7.99

**WEBSITE** [www.marksworld.co.uk](http://www.marksworld.co.uk)

Monday 20 August, 12 noon, RBS Children's Theatre

**P7-S2**

## Thomas Bloor

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Based around the three-book series *Worm in the Blood*, *Beast Beneath the Skin* and *Heart of the Serpent*, Thomas Bloor will aim to illustrate some of the influences, content and themes of the trilogy using various visual aids and a Q&A session. Towards the end of the event Thomas will answer questions from the students related to his work or his experience and life as an author.

### BIOGRAPHY

Thomas Bloor spent many years failing to get beyond the opening pages of the novels he tried to write. Meanwhile he went to art college, got married, had children and worked for a while in a school library, where he read loads of books. Years later he tried to write children's books and was finally able to finish one!



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- There are many types of stories in which humans turn into animals such as fairy tales, Greek myths, and legends of creatures like werewolves. Look at some of these stories and list the different kinds of changes that take place. Are they painful? Easy? Frequent? Permanent? Then make up your own myth of shapeshifting.
- The *Worm in the Blood* trilogy is about a teenager living in London who slowly and painfully changes into a dragon in a world where urban wasteland meets natural wilderness. Some of the themes include cultural misunderstanding, national identity, mixed heritage, extreme cults, bereavement and loss, racism and prejudice of various kinds. Discuss how the book uses fantasy to explore these difficult topics or try writing your own stories using some of the ideas that come out of the event.

### BOOKSHELF

*Worm in the Blood* £6.99, *Beast Beneath the Skin* £6.99, *Heart of the Serpent* £6.99

**WEBSITE** [www.thomasbloor.co.uk](http://www.thomasbloor.co.uk)

Monday 20 August, 1.30pm, RBS Main Theatre

**P4-7**

## Would You Believe It? The Weird Story of Medicine with Richard Platt

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Fun loaded with facts! This event is based around *Would You Believe... Cobwebs Stop Wounds Bleeding? And Other Medical Marvels*. Taking the form of a multiple choice Q&A session, Richard Platt explains how modern medicine has emerged from many centuries of superstition and magic. There will be plenty of 'Yuck!' moments with accounts of head-drilling and limb-sawing but plenty of solid facts too. Like the book, this event does not aim to just amuse children, but also to engage them. It's not just about trivia but about history, science and entertainment all in one!

### BIOGRAPHY

Richard Platt has written seventy books on subjects as varied as pirates, castles, espionage, carnivorous plants and natural disasters. He has a special interest in the history of science and technology. The book on which this event is based is his first about medicine.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- With the aid of the book, ask children to imagine that they are sick in the past, and to describe what sort of treatment they might expect to receive.
- Look at the ways different cultures treat illness. Teachers might wish to discuss with children what they know about medical treatment, and compare conventional medicine with other forms of treatment, such as magic, folk cures, traditional treatments in regions where there are no doctors or hospitals, and alternative or complementary therapies.
- Think about what medicine is: in a recent poll doctors voted sanitation the greatest medical advance since 1840. Have your pupils write about what they think medicine means or how it could change in the future – be creative!

### BOOKSHELF

*Would You Believe... The Losers Were Killed in Mayan Football* £9.99, *Would You Believe... Marzipan Contains Cyanide* £9.99, *Would You Believe... In 1500, Platform Shoes Were Outlawed* £9.99, *Would You Believe... Cobwebs Stop Wounds Bleeding* £9.99

**WEBSITE** [www.smuggling.co.uk](http://www.smuggling.co.uk)

Monday 20 August, 1.30pm, RBS Imagination Lab

**P4-7**

## Roy Apps: The Shed in Your Head

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

An interactive event about the magic and power of stories, where they come from and how you can make them come alive. Which amazing words have magic and how does this magic work? How can you use words? Why do writers write and how do authors 'auth'? Roy Apps will refer specifically to *The Fang Gang: My Vampire Grandad* and there will be an opportunity for a brief Q&A session.

**Also appearing Tues 21 August**

### BIOGRAPHY

Roy Apps is the author of fifty books for children. He has also written sixty odd television scripts and sixty not-so-odd ones. He has won the BAFTA, Sony and Writers' Guild Awards for his writing. Most of his books are funny and some are simply hilarious.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Roy Apps's books include examples of how to use the senses (or for older children, simile and metaphor) and illustrate how writers create 'pictures in the mind'. Use your five senses to create material for your writing and then 'own' the poems/stories you are writing by creating 'pictures in the mind'. Use the magic in imagination to let go of common sense (ask 'open' questions and do 'wide-awake dreaming'). Try writing your own senses stories and do something wild!

### BOOKSHELF

*The Fang Gang: My Vampire Grandad* £4.99, *The Fang Gang: The Headless Teacher* £4.99, *Crime Files* £4.99 each

**WEBSITE** [www.royapps.co.uk](http://www.royapps.co.uk)

Monday 20 August, 2.00pm, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**S1-4**

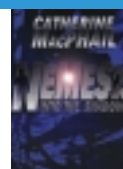
## Catherine MacPhail: How to Write a Page Turner

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

The best compliment a writer can get is 'I couldn't put your book down'. How does a writer do that? How do they make that happen? How do they keep the reader turning those pages? Catherine MacPhail will show you how she does it. She loves writing fast-paced, exciting thrillers so come along and see what cliffhangers you can concoct!

### BIOGRAPHY

Catherine MacPhail is one of the most exciting children's writers in Scotland. From her new detective thrillers to *Roxy's Baby* (winner of the Royal Mail Award for Scottish Children's Book of the Year 2006), she is the queen of suspense and action-packed intrigue.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Study *Nemesis 1 and 2*, *Into the Shadows* and *The Beast Within*, and see how Catherine MacPhail has constructed the books to build up to an exciting climax. Draw a diagram of the action points and see how the tension builds in thrilling stories.
- Chapters in *Nemesis* often end on a real cliffhanger, and sometimes on a complete surprise in the story. When writing a thriller the aim is to keep the reader on the edge of their seat; try writing your own breathless surprise.
- A story is made up of moments. Scary moments, exciting moments, suspenseful moments. Write one of those moments yourself. Put a character in a scary, exciting situation – how do they feel, what do they hear? Use all your senses and brainstorm descriptive words to set the mood.
- How would different characters react in new situations? For example, the big tough boy who is trapped by the rising tide and can't swim – something he's never admitted to. The shy, quiet little girl who is forced to do something she doesn't want to do, but is too afraid to do anything about it. Try creating a character, putting them in a new situation and let the story run away with you.

### BOOKSHELF

*Nemesis: The Beast Within* £5.99, *Nemesis: Into the Shadows* £5.99, *Nemesis: Sinister Intent* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.bloomsbury.com/catherinemacphail](http://www.bloomsbury.com/catherinemacphail)

Monday 20 August, 2.00pm, RBS Children's Theatre

**S1-4**

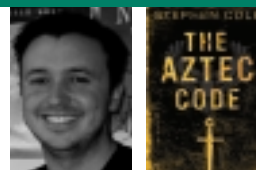
## Stephen Cole: Thrills, Chills and ACTION

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Whether it's original teen fiction or Doctor Who novels, Stephen Cole loves writing action-packed thrillers such as *Thieves Like Us* and *The Aztec Code*. In this quick-fire, interactive event, the World Book Day author shows you how to write your own action scenes, come up with cool characters and how to plan exciting and original stories – all the trade secrets that will help you get your action-packed imagination down on the page.

### BIOGRAPHY

Stephen Cole used to edit and commission books – now he is a prolific writer himself for children of all ages, specialising in quirky, original and accessible fiction. Recent projects include *Thieves Like Us* and *The Aztec Code* for older readers and the *Astrosaurus* series for younger children.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Devise a chase scene of your own. Develop some characters and send them on a round the world search for some sort of treasure or elixir.
- Lead character Jonah is hot at cracking codes. Devise a secret message using Egyptian hieroglyphs that you could research using school texts or other electronic resources.
- Get volunteers to stage a simple slow-motion stage fight and ask the class to 'novelise' the scene.
- Consider different environments. How different would it be running through jungle, desert, or thick snow? Imagine what's coming after you and why, and how you feel as you flee. List, as a class, adjectives to describe these feelings and experiences and try to write your own adventure.

### BOOKSHELF

*Thieves Like Us* £6.99, *The Aztec Code* £6.99, *The Wereling – Wounded* £6.99

**WEBSITE** [www.wereling.com](http://www.wereling.com)

Tuesday 21 August, 10.00am, RBS Children's Theatre

**P3-5**

## Val Wilding: Creating Toby Tucker

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Val Wilding will talk about the Toby Tucker series of books; how she got the idea for them, how she researched them, the fun she had writing them, and the difficulties too. She will read short extracts, and hopes there'll be lots of questions about Toby Tucker, any of her other books, or writing in general. No previous experience necessary!

### BIOGRAPHY

Val Wilding lives in Hampshire where she manages a school library for two days a week and writes for the other five. She has had over thirty books published. This year her magical new adventure series will be published featuring Toby Tucker, who finds himself catapulted back in time to become his own ancestor!



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Ask your students to write about some of the following questions: If you could meet one of your own ancestors, where and when would you like to go? What would you ask him/her?
- In *Picking People's Pockets*, Alfie is imprisoned. Write a postcard from Alfie to his parents, from prison. Write a letter from Aunt Ivy to Alfie's parents, explaining why he's vanished.
- *Mucking About with Monkeys* shows the nastier side of life in the Middle Ages. Imagine you're a kitchen boy/maid in the great Hampton Court kitchen and describe your hot, exhausting day, or draw yourself at work.
- *Keeping Sneaky Secrets* is set in Ancient Egypt. Create a notebook for Seti, illustrating how to make mummies.

### BOOKSHELF

*Keeping Sneaky Secrets* £6.99, *Mucking About with Monkeys* £6.99, *Picking People's Pockets* £6.99

**WEBSITE** [www.valeriewilding.co.uk](http://www.valeriewilding.co.uk)

Tuesday 21 August, 10.00am, RBS Main Theatre

**S1-4**

## Music Matters

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Three of the hottest teen authors around, Catherine Forde, Ally Kennen and Graham Marks, come together for the first time because they have one thing in common – they love music. See and hear how certain songs inspire their stories and define their characters in a unique and fascinating look inside the authors' brains. Come and compare their writing with the tracks which have inspired them, and see how the lyrics of your favourite tunes can inspire you in unexpected ways.

### BIOGRAPHY

Between them Catherine Forde, Ally Kennen and Graham Marks have won the Grampian Children's Book Award, South Lanarkshire Book Award and Scottish Arts Council Book Award. They have also been shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, Blue Peter Book Award, Manchester Book Award and several Booktrust Teenage Prizes. They all love music and agree it is fundamental to their work.

### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

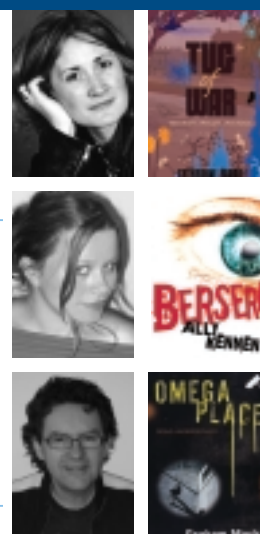
- Pick a favourite song and write down words describing how it makes you feel. Use especially descriptive words. Then take this list and try and create a scene or story that echoes these feelings.
- Choose an extract from a book and write a soundtrack for it. Look at the emotions and tone in the story and match that with a specific style of music.
- Find a section of Catherine Forde's *Skarrs* which mentions a song title. Listen to the track and then read the excerpt again. Compare and contrast the two. How do they fit together? Does the song express the character well? Listen to the track again and use it to try and write your own story.

### BOOKSHELF

*Tug of War* £7.99, *Berserk* £8.99, *Omega Place* £6.99

### WEBSITE

[www.catherineforde.co.uk](http://www.catherineforde.co.uk)  
[www.allykennen.com](http://www.allykennen.com)  
[www.marksworld.co.uk](http://www.marksworld.co.uk)



Tuesday 21 August, 10.00am, RBS Imagination Lab

**P4-6**

## Joe Craig's Kicks, Twists and Rollercoasters: How to Come up with Great Stories

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

How do you come up with ideas for stories? How do you take those ideas and get them into shape so that the story you write is gripping? Joe Craig will demonstrate how he goes about it, using the best, worst, and weirdest suggestions fired at him by the children. Come prepared for a high energy and highly interactive event, a (hopefully) hilarious extravaganza that will leave you itching to get started on your own 'killer' story.

**Also appearing Mon 20 August**

### BIOGRAPHY

Joe Craig studied Philosophy at Cambridge before becoming a songwriter and jazz musician. He still performs whenever he can, and wherever there are Haribo sweets on offer. Writing the Jimmy Coates series came from his love of stories, and his curiosity about their structure. The idea was driving him mad so he wrote it down and, suddenly, he was a novelist.

### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Read the first chapter of *Jimmy Coates: Killer*. How does the story try to grab your attention? What questions does it raise? For example, who are the men that are coming to get Jimmy? How does Jimmy have the ability to escape? Try writing your own continuation of the story, finding the answers to some of these questions.
- Try creating the first chapter of your own action thriller which raises questions for the reader and grabs their attention. How would you answer your own questions in the rest of your story?
- Jimmy Coates discovers some things about himself he never could have imagined. Could the rest of us have similar surprises? How do we know anything about ourselves? What could you discover about yourself that would be shocking? Exciting? Terrifying? Try writing a story about a time in your life when you really did discover something new about yourself.

### BOOKSHELF

*Jimmy Coates: Killer* £5.99, *Jimmy Coates: Target* £5.99, *Jimmy Coates: Revenge* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.joecraig.co.uk](http://www.joecraig.co.uk)



Tuesday 21 August, 10.30am, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**P4-6**

## Philip Ardagh

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

We live in a world where we take so much for granted. Nowhere is more than twenty four hours away and the press of a button or the flick of a switch gives us heat, light and all kinds of entertainment. With much leaping about and audience participation, Philip Ardagh will take you on a lively journey through the history of some of the world's life-changing discoveries, inventions, ideas and events. His inimitable style has ensured his events remain hugely popular at festivals across the globe – come to have fun, take part and learn plenty!

### BIOGRAPHY

Philip Ardagh is probably best known for his bestselling Eddie Dickens novels, currently available in thirty one languages, but he's also a big fan of making facts fun. Described by The Scotsman as 'one of life's fact-finders,' he regularly reviews for The Guardian, writes for radio and has a very impressive beard.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- If there are no limits, what inventions can your class dream up? Draw and plan out your own wacky inventions. Maybe it's a plate that stays clean no matter what you put on it or a Mary Poppins handbag that can fit any amount of things in it.
- Brainstorm practical solutions to everyday problems you see around you – perhaps how to clean high-rise windows or wash the floor without bending over.
- Look at *WOW Inventions...* for background information on various inventions and technology. Draw a timeline of the history of flight or another science including all the important developments. Try your hand at designing what contraption might come next in the timeline.

### BOOKSHELF

*WOW Discoveries that Changed the World* £3.99, *WOW Events that Changed the World* £3.99, *WOW Ideas that Changed the World* £3.99

**WEBSITE** [www.philipardagh.com](http://www.philipardagh.com)

Tuesday 21 August, 11.30am, RBS Children's Theatre

**P6-S1**

## Wild Islands and Elemental Escapades with P R Morrison

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

PR Morrison will talk about her first novel *The Wind Tamer*, discussing how the story came into being, where she found her ideas and how they were incorporated into the book. *The Wind Tamer* is a contemporary tale set in Scotland and is a combination of fantasy and reality. The reader is taken on an incredible adventure by a brave young hero who is on a quest to save his family from a terrible fate. It depicts how facing up to our greatest fears can help us choose a different and more rewarding path in life. Please come prepared to ensure a lively Q&A session!

### BIOGRAPHY

PR Morrison was born and brought up in the Orkney Islands. *The Wind Tamer* is her first novel and the dramatic landscape and sea climate of the islands strongly influence her writing. She now lives in London with her family but visits Orkney regularly.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- The character Uncle Rufus spent nine years travelling the world looking for a way to break the Stringweed family curse. Write an imaginary entry in his diary depicting one of his many adventures.
- Archie has a collection of ordinary artefacts that actually contain hidden powers. Illustrate an everyday object and identify the power it might contain.
- *The Wind Tamer* features extreme weather conditions. Discuss how the changing weather patterns brought about by global warming may affect your life in the future.
- Research your family tree or design a family crest. Be careful how you represent your surname!
- The hero of *The Wind Tamer* has to face his fears. Discuss or write what steps you could take to overcome a particular fear.

### BOOKSHELF

*The Wind Tamer* £6.99, *The Wave Traveller* £6.99

Tuesday 21 August, 1.30pm, RBS Children's Theatre

**S1-4**

## Graham Joyce

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Ernest Hemingway said that every teenager needs a 'crap-detector'. What did he mean? Angus Book Award and World Fantasy Award winner Graham Joyce talks about writing for older teenagers.

### BIOGRAPHY

To write his first novel Graham Joyce quit his executive job in 1988 and went to live on a Greek island in a beach hut with no electricity and with a colony of scorpions. Since then he has written more than a dozen award-winning novels.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *Do the Creepy Thing* inverts the usual expectations for supernatural novels to talk about the power of integrity (especially when coupled with supportive friendships) to overcome evil.
- *Do the Creepy Thing* and the novel *TWOC* make a discussion starter for talking about morals and responsibility.

### BOOKSHELF

*TWOC* £6.99, *Do the Creepy Thing* £6.99, *The Tooth Fairy* £6.99

**WEBSITE** [www.grahamjoyce.net](http://www.grahamjoyce.net)

Tuesday 21 August, 1.30pm, RBS Imagination Lab

**P4-7**

## Roy Apps: The Shed in Your Head

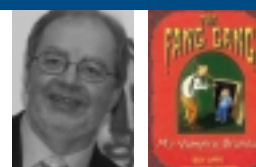
### EVENT SYNOPSIS

An interactive event about the magic and power of stories, where they come from and how you can make them come alive. Which amazing words have magic and how does this magic work? How can you use words? Why do writers write and how do authors 'auth'? Roy Apps will refer specifically to *The Fang Gang: My Vampire Grandad* and there will be an opportunity for a brief Q&A session.

**Also appearing Mon 20 August**

### BIOGRAPHY

Roy Apps is the author of fifty books for children. He has also written sixty odd television scripts and sixty not-so-odd ones. He has won the BAFTA, Sony and Writers' Guild Awards for his writing. Most of his books are funny and some are simply hilarious.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Roy Apps's books include examples of how to use the senses (or for older children, simile and metaphor) and illustrate how writers create 'pictures in the mind'. Use your five senses to create material for your writing and then 'own' the poems/stories you are writing by creating 'pictures in the mind'. Use the magic in imagination to let go of common sense (ask 'open' questions and do 'wide-awake dreaming'). Try writing your own senses stories and do something wild!

### BOOKSHELF

*The Fang Gang: My Vampire Grandad* £4.99, *The Fang Gang: The Headless Teacher* £4.99, *Crime Files* £4.99 each

**WEBSITE** [www.royapps.co.uk](http://www.royapps.co.uk)

Tuesday 21 August, 2.00pm, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**S1-4**

## Tim Bowler: Playing Dead

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Tim Bowler will talk about his most recent novel, *Frozen Fire* and his latest project, the Blade series. Blade is an exciting new adventure series about a teenage boy on the run and the first two books, *Playing Dead* and *Closing In*, are set to be launched this September. Tim will read an extract from *Playing Dead* and share secrets about other works in progress. Come and ask questions, and prepare to be gripped!

### BIOGRAPHY

Tim Bowler was born in Essex and has written eight teen novels including *Storm Catchers*, *Apocalypse* and *Frozen Fire*. He has subsequently won eight literary awards, counting among these the prestigious Carnegie Medal.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Make up a glossary of unfamiliar or interesting words from any of Tim Bowler's novels and then use them in a piece of writing of your own.
- Write an imaginary interview with Tim Bowler in which you ask him about key points in his writing. Write what you think his answers might be, then bring the questions along to ask him.
- Each of Tim Bowler's novels begins with a quotation. Examine the quotation at the start of a novel. Before reading further, brainstorm what the book might be about based on this quote. When finished, compare your projection. To what extent did the quotation reflect and relate to the story?

### BOOKSHELF

*Starseeker* £5.99, *Frozen Fire* £5.99, *Blade: Playing Dead* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.timbowler.co.uk](http://www.timbowler.co.uk)

Wednesday 22 August, 10.00am, RBS Children's Theatre

**P6-S2**

## The Hidden Secrets of your Favourite Stories

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

*Cinderella* was stolen from a Chinese tale 1000 years old. *Star Wars* was lifted from one of the world's oldest tales. Harry Potter is about a boy wizard – but who wrote the first story about a boy wizard? Meet literary detective Nury Vittachi as he tracks down the origins of today's best-known stories. He'll teach you how you can use classic story structures to write tales as good as the originals. In his events with children, he tells stories and then orchestrates the audience to create a live story.

### BIOGRAPHY

Nury Vittachi has come specially all the way from Hong Kong to uncover the secrets of literature. As well as writing books, he works with people who make video games, computer games and movies. He lives in China and writes stories which focus on the near future, and show how the world is changing because of global influences and technology.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Teachers can direct students to Nury Vittachi's very active blog at [www.misterjam.com](http://www.misterjam.com) or visit [www.jam100.com](http://www.jam100.com) and find his short stories and 'mini-mysteries' for an introduction to his writing.
- Nury is very familiar with youth culture and is happy to discuss modern 'internet stories' such as Pokémon, RuneScape, Neopets, MapleStory and so on. Bring loads of questions and an active imagination.
- Try looking at a classic myth, fairy tale or story and writing your own twist. Tell it from a different character's point of view, change the ending, let your imagination run wild!

### BOOKSHELF

*The Shanghai Union of Industrial Mystics* £9.99, *The Feng Shui Detective* £9.99 (Both books for adults)

**WEBSITE** [www.misterjam.com](http://www.misterjam.com)

Wednesday 22 August, 10.00am, RBS Main Theatre

P2-4

## Mairi Hedderwick

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

The two grandmas have decided that Katie needs ballet lessons but the last thing Katie wants is fluffy twirling! Will the two grannies ever get Katie out of her wellies? Come and hear about Katie Morag's latest adventure on the Island of Struay.

### BIOGRAPHY

At seventeen Mairi Hedderwick moved to the Hebrides and fell in love with island life. Her passion for the islands is evident in her careful rendering of Katie Morag's imagined Island of Struay. Mairi travels a lot these days, but she always carries Katie Morag's teddy with her on her journeys!



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Katie Morag stories are full of wild island scenery. Look at pictures of the western isles and talk about what life is like there.
- Katie is always tromping off in her great big wellies. Design her a new pair to take on her adventures.
- Katie doesn't want to take dancing lessons but ends up finding something she does like to do in the process. Is there anything you have ever had to learn that you didn't want to? Talk about new things you have tried but never thought you would like.

### BOOKSHELF

*Katie Morag and the Dancing Class* £9.99, *Katie Morag and the Birthdays* £5.99, *More Katie Morag Island Stories* £7.99

Wednesday 22 August, 10.00am, RBS Workshop Tent

P1-3

## Cressida Cowell

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Author and illustrator Cressida Cowell will read from a selection of her much loved picture books, including Nestlé Award winning *That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown*, and *Hiccup, the Viking who was Seasick*. Cressida will give children a sneak preview of her new picture book, *Emily Brown and the Thing*, in which Emily Brown and her much loved rabbit, Stanley, find a Thing outside their window who just won't go to sleep! Could it be he's afraid of the dark? Children will love discussing what they're afraid of and if they have a special teddy like Stanley. The children will also create their own illustrations.

### BIOGRAPHY

Cressida Cowell is an exceptionally talented children's book author, known primarily for her successful Hiccup the Viking fiction series. She has a BA in English Literature from Oxford University, a BA in Graphic Design from St Martins and an MA in Narrative Illustration from Brighton. She lives in Hammersmith, London with her husband, three children and a hamster, Mini.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Share one of Cressida Cowell's picture books with your class, encouraging prediction skills as you go along.
- Ask the children to illustrate their favourite part of the story and then write a caption or paragraph to go with it.
- Emily Brown and Stanley have lots of imaginary adventures together in some far off places. Discuss with the children what adventures they would like to go on.
- Look carefully at the illustrations in *That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown*. How have they been created? (collage). Children can create their own adventure backdrop using pictures from travel brochures or magazines and then stick a cut-out drawing of themselves into the scene.

### BOOKSHELF

*That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown* £10.99, *Emily Brown and the Thing* £10.99 (hardback, published Sept 2007), *Hiccup, The Viking who was Seasick* £5.99

Wednesday 22 August, 10.00am, RBS Imagination Lab

**P5-7**

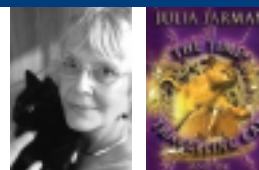
## Julia Jarman: Past, Present and Future

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Julia Jarman will talk about writing adventure stories, especially her popular Time-Travelling Cat series. You'll learn how she does research and how she creates heroes, villains and exciting plots. In the latest story Ka, the cat, and her friend, the enigmatic Topher, travel to the time of the gruesome Aztecs. Please read one of the stories beforehand as it will create a more interactive event on the day and Julia Jarman loves to answer questions.

### BIOGRAPHY

Julia Jarman was a drama teacher before becoming a full-time writer. When her three children urged her to 'write about kids like us and put lots of scary bits in' she took a year off to write and has never looked back. Twice winner of the Stockport Schools Book Award, she loves meeting her readers.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Get pupils to read one book, or even just the first chapter. First in the series, *The Time-Travelling Cat and the Egyptian Goddess*, is a good start.
- Draw an outline of Topher on the whiteboard. Get pupils to describe him at the start of the story. Ask them to predict what's going to happen. Do this again at the end of the story. Ask, how has Topher changed? What has he learned?
- 'Hot seat' Topher. Get a modern Topher to interview a Topher from the past. Ask pupils to devise their own questions. Consider how the past is different from the present. How better? How worse?
- Look at Ka. How real a cat is she? How fantastical? How does she make the stories more exciting?

### BOOKSHELF

*The Time-Travelling Cat and the Egyptian Goddess* £4.99, *The Time-Travelling Cat and the Aztec Sacrifice* £4.99, *The Time-Travelling Cat and the Roman Eagle* £4.99

**WEBSITE** [www.juliajarman.com](http://www.juliajarman.com)

Wednesday 22 August, 10.30am, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**S2-4**

## James Jauncey

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

James Jauncey will talk about his thrilling new novel *The Witness* and how he came to imagine a Scotland of the near future where people in the Highlands are locked in fierce fighting over who owns the land. He will read from the book and talk about where his ideas come from, his own upbringing on the edge of the Highlands, and the issues that face John MacNeil, the eighteen year old hero of the book, as he finds himself drawn into a violent and bloody uprising. He'll also talk about how we can all find the material for stories in our own experiences.

### BIOGRAPHY

James Jauncey has written for readers of all ages. He was brought up in Scotland, then lived in London for twenty years until the urge to return home was too strong to resist. When he's not writing he plays the piano in the Funky String Band. He's also on the board of the Edinburgh International Book Festival.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Talk about the Highlands. Who owns the land, how do people make their living there?
- Discuss independence. How might an independent Scotland be different from the way it is today?
- Talk about loss. Imagine what it might be like to lose a brother or a sister.
- Other issues raised by the book include bullying, special needs, loyalty, trust, kindness and the rejection of violence. There's more about these issues on the teachers' pages on James's website.

### BOOKSHELF

*The Witness* £9.99

**WEBSITE** [www.jamesjauncey.com](http://www.jamesjauncey.com)

Wednesday 22 August, 11.30am, RBS Children's Theatre

**P2-4**

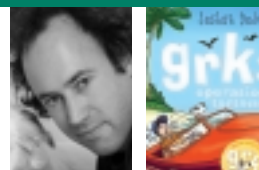
## Joshua Doder

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Joshua Doder will talk about his popular Grk series, based on the adventures of a boy called Tim and his dog, Grk. Each story takes place in a different country, where the dynamic duo are called upon to solve mysteries and outwit dastardly villains. He will describe how he created his two heroes, Tim and Grk, as well as how his travels around the world have helped him to write about different countries. He uses lots of fun props to get children involved, and is keen to answer interesting questions, as well as ask a few himself!

### BIOGRAPHY

Joshua Doder lives in North London, and as well as being a children's author he writes occasionally for The Guardian. The first book in his Grk series, *A Dog Called Grk*, was shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award, and the second, *Grk and the Pelotti Gang*, was shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- The Grk books provide a great jumping-off point for some creative writing. Read a passage from one of the books where Tim and Grk see a new place for the first time (for example, when they wander through the streets of Rio in *Grk and the Pelotti Gang*). Ask children to imagine arriving in a strange place and to write a description. How do they arrive? What can they see, smell, hear? What are the people like? How do their new surroundings make them feel – excited, scared?
- Get your class to invent their own countries. They can invent a name for the country, capital city, leader, language and so on. Ask them to describe the country in detail, for example landscape, climate, culture.

### BOOKSHELF

*A Dog Called Grk* £4.99, *Grk and the Hot Dog Trail* £4.99, *Grk: Operation Tortoise* £4.99

### WEBSITE

[www.joshuadoder.com](http://www.joshuadoder.com)  
[www.grkbooks.com](http://www.grkbooks.com)

Wednesday 22 August, 11.30am, RBS Workshop Tent

**P1-3**

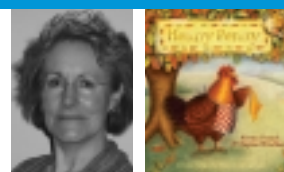
## The Sky is Falling! Fables and Truths with Vivian French

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Get ready to cluck, clucketty, cluck and quack, quacketty, quack as Vivian French tells the tale of Henny Penny and her friends. Find out the secrets behind the story!

### BIOGRAPHY

When she was at school Vivian French was often told off for letting her imagination run away with her; she thinks this might be why she finally ended up as a writer. She was also told she couldn't write, and for years she believed this to be true – she didn't start writing until she was in her forties. Consequently, one of her missions in life is to make sure that children believe they CAN be authors. What's more, they can be authors RIGHT NOW. So far Vivian has written over two hundred books, both fiction and non-fiction, ranging from board books for toddlers to novels for teenagers.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Read *Henny Penny* and then read someone else's version of the same story. Who is telling the story? What are the differences? Try imagining how another character might tell the story differently.
- Try making up your own character to go on an adventure, then storyboard your story.

### BOOKSHELF

*Henny Penny* £5.99, *Ellie and Elvis* £5.99, *Oliver's Milkshake* £6.99

Wednesday 22 August, 1.30pm, RBS Children's Theatre

**S1-4**

## Brian Keaney

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Brian Keaney will discuss his latest book, *The Hollow People* where dreaming is forbidden and life is mandated by doctors. It is a gripping story that challenges readers to look beyond fears and rules to the amazing and impossible by taking control of their own dreams and desires. He will also talk about the forthcoming sequel, *The Gallowglass*, which is shortly to be published.

### BIOGRAPHY

Brian Keaney was born in London to Irish parents. He learned storytelling from his mother and made up his mind to be a writer while still at school. Sometimes the ideas for his books arrive slowly; sometimes he sees the whole story in a flash. Either way, he spends months afterwards getting the words right, which is the part he enjoys most.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Study the front and back cover of *The Hollow People*. What do they tell you about the genre of the book? What do you think the book will be about? Does it appeal to you?
- Read chapters two and four of *The Hollow People*. Dante and Bea discuss a 'coming of age ceremony' and a substance called Ichor. Bea later asks her father about Ichor. What is Ichor and what is it supposed to do to people? What will happen at Bea's 'coming of age ceremony'? Why does Dr Sigmundus decree that everyone should take Ichor and how is this related to the asylum in which Dante works?
- Imagine a world where people can't dream. What kind of society would exist? How would the rules be enforced? What might you be able to do instead of dream?

### BOOKSHELF

*The Hollow People* £10.99, *The Gallowglass* £10.99 (hardback, published Sept 2007), *Jacob's Ladder* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.briankeaney.com](http://www.briankeaney.com)

Wednesday 22 August, 1.30pm, RBS Main Theatre

**P7-S2**

## Chris D'Lacey: The Dragon Trilogy

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Chris D'Lacey will talk about his latest book *The Fire Eternal*, and try to explain why he killed off his hero in the last book. (Oops! Spoiler alert!) He will talk about the dragon books generally and be his usual manic self, and there may be some emphasis on environmental matters, in particular what is happening to the Arctic ice cap and its resident wildlife. No preparation required, just ears to listen with.

### BIOGRAPHY

Chris D'Lacey is now a full-time author, having also been a scientist for the past twenty eight years. He has written twenty four books and is a frequent visitor to schools, libraries... anywhere that will have him! He likes dragons. And polar bears. And football.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *The Fire Eternal* has a strong environmental emphasis. Have your class research questions such as, what's causing the Arctic ice to melt? How will it affect the rest of the world? What can we do to improve things?
- Fantasy is an interesting way to address harsh realities. Discuss what role dragons might have in preventing global warming. Write your own stories that deal with mystical solutions to everyday problems.

### BOOKSHELF

*The Fire Eternal* £12.99 (hardback, published Sept 2007), *Fire Star* £5.99, *Icefire* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.icefire.co.uk](http://www.icefire.co.uk)

Wednesday 22 August, 2.00pm, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**S4-6**

## Border Crossings with Stewart Conn, Aonghas MacNeacail and James Robertson

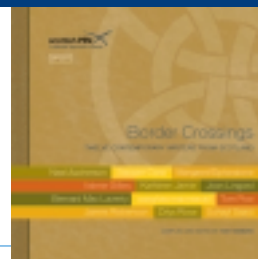
### EVENT SYNOPSIS

*Border Crossings* is an audio CD produced by Scottish PEN featuring twelve contemporary writers from Scotland. Its theme is crossing borders of place and time, language and culture, in Scotland and elsewhere. Its rich mix of prose and poetry covers a broad and diverse spectrum of Scottish writing today. In this event, chaired by Joan Lingard, three of the featured writers, Stewart Conn, Aonghas MacNeacail and James Robertson will read and discuss *Border Crossings* and their work.



### BIOGRAPHY

Stewart Conn is a widely published and acclaimed poet and playwright, and was the first Edinburgh Makar. Aonghas MacNeacail is one of Scotland's foremost Gaelic poets; he also writes in English, and is a journalist and broadcaster. James Robertson is a poet in English and Scots, and an award-winning novelist. They are three of the most profound and prolific writers in Scotland today and this is a rare opportunity for students to meet contemporary adult authors.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *Border Crossings* raises issues concerning place, identity and mutual understanding. Using the CD and the curriculum support material prepared by Learning Teaching Scotland, the class might discuss some of the ways these issues are approached in different contexts. It would be helpful to have listened to more than the three writers who will be present at the event. How do the writers explore aspects of identity located in the past? What does the CD tell us about Scotland today?
- Scottish PEN is an organisation committed to freedom of expression and international understanding. Follow-up work could include looking at the wider context of issues raised by contemporary Scottish writing, and/or reading the whole of one of the books from which an extract is taken.

### BOOKSHELF

Stewart Conn: *Ghosts at Cockcrow* £8.95, Aonghas MacNeacail: *A Proper Schooling and Other Poems* £6.99, James Robertson: *Joseph Knight* £7.99

**WEBSITE** [www.scottishpen.org](http://www.scottishpen.org)

Thursday 23 August, 10.00am, RBS Imagination Lab

**P5-7**

## Alexander Gordon Smith

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Alexander Gordon Smith will talk about his book, *The Inventors*, and discuss some of the best, worst, craziest, silliest and most fun inventions in the history of... well, everything! Children will have a chance to think up and design their own wacky inventions and have a go at putting them in a short piece of writing!

### BIOGRAPHY

Alexander Gordon Smith (his name is Gordon, but his parents put Alexander first so his initials wouldn't spell GAS) is a rubbish inventor, but he's much better with a pen and paper and loves writing about crazy adventures. *The Inventors* is his first children's book, and was written with his eleven year old brother Jamie.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *The Inventors* is all about using ordinary things to make extraordinary inventions. It's also about finding imaginative ways to make life easier and more fun – creating crazy machines and gadgets to do the jobs you hate or to help you do the things you love. Pupils could think about the things they don't really like doing (from cleaning the house to doing their homework!) and try to invent a device or robot that would make the job simpler. Or they could think about something they'd love to do (from leaping over a building to travelling into space) and of an invention that would make this possible – drawing their designs and annotating them with descriptions. (Gordon usually uses this exercise during events, but pupils could think about their inventions in advance.)
- After the event, pupils could continue working with a piece of creative writing which describes how to build their invention, and how well it works.

### BOOKSHELF

*The Inventors* £6.99

**WEBSITE** [www.gordyland.com](http://www.gordyland.com)

Thursday 23 August, 10.00am, RBS Children's Theatre

**P4-5**

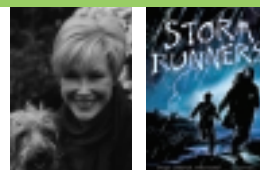
## Barbara Mitchelhill

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Barbara Mitchelhill will talk about her latest and super-scary novel *Storm Runners*, how it came about and what's coming next. *Storm Runners* is set on a small Scottish island that is suddenly battered by dramatic storms, reducing a village to ruins. Two children believe they are the sole survivors – but they are not. With lots of action and an indecent number of cliffhangers, the children uncover the terrifying truth about the weather and end up saving the world! This book has been called 'The 39 Steps for kids'. Expect an amazing event with plenty of audience participation.

### BIOGRAPHY

Barbara Mitchelhill taught English until she became a full-time writer. She has written over a hundred books (mainly non-fiction) and has also written for radio and TV. At home, she has a massively stocked library and her love of crime fiction has led to her writing thrillers for children – but her sense of humour is never far from the surface.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- At the end of the first chapter of *Storm Runners*, what questions do you have that you expect to be answered later in the book?
- What do you think happened before the story of *Storm Runners* began? How are the two main characters different?
- Look at first chapters in other books. What do you think the author is trying to do (introduce characters/setting, foreshadow events, build up an atmosphere)?
- Write a conversation between two people with contrasting personalities. Read it aloud and see if your pupils can describe the people, using only the passages they have heard.
- Describe an incident in the story that you find scary. How did the author make it scary? Look at sentence lengths and the adjectives and verbs used. Experiment with words and see what kind of moods your class can evoke.

### BOOKSHELF

*Storm Runners* £4.99, *Kids on the Run* £4.99, *Damian Drooth*, *Supersleuth: Serious Graffiti* £3.99

**WEBSITE** [www.barbaramitchelhill.com](http://www.barbaramitchelhill.com)

Thursday 23 August, 10.00am, RBS Main Theatre

**P4-7**

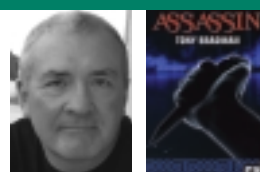
## Tony Bradman says... Let me entertain you (and tell you some interesting stuff too)

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

The emphasis in this event will be on fun! Tony Bradman will read exciting and funny stories and poems and encourage pupils to take part in a unique how-a-book-is-made presentation. He'll also read a bit of his new book *Assassin*, which is about a boy growing up in Scotland during the time of Hadrian's Roman occupation.

### BIOGRAPHY

Tony Bradman decided he wanted to be a writer when he was very young, mostly because he loved reading stories so much. He achieved his ambition, but still finds it hard to believe he has written so many books! His aim in life is to make children happy – and to make teachers and parents smile too.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Tony Bradman loves taking questions from children, so it would help if they've thought of some before the event – about ideas, stories, characters, plots, tension, suspense and so on. He doesn't mind more personal or general questions about books or other authors either... or even Harry Potter!
- The author will read from lots of his various books, so have a look at one or two before coming. See what you like about the story. Or what the cover can tell you.
- Study Roman Britain. Imagine life back then by looking at everyday tools and objects. What did people eat? Wear? How did they travel? Who was in charge? Make a collage about life in Roman times.

### BOOKSHELF

*Assassin* £5.99, *Happy Ever After Series* £3.99 each, *Dilly the Dinosaur* £3.99

Thursday 23 August, 10.30am, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**P6-S2**

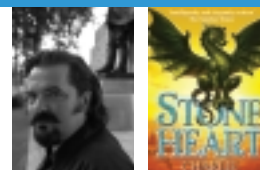
## Charlie Fletcher

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Charlie Fletcher will talk about how he came up with the idea of making statues walk and talk, and why he thinks there's more to cities than meets the eye. He'll talk about writing and reading stories, and even explain the terrible truth about what's wrong with computer games (he knows about this because he went undercover and wrote one). He'll explain the importance of keeping your eyes peeled for what's in front of your nose as you walk around, and more importantly, of noticing what isn't (mainly because it might be behind you and about to pounce). **WARNING FOR TEACHERS:** He may well encourage children to look out of the window and start daydreaming in lessons, since that's how he got started!

### BIOGRAPHY

Charlie Fletcher studied English Literature at St Andrews before going to work for the BBC as a film editor. He then went to the University of Southern California to study screenwriting. He lived and worked in America for nine years before returning to Scotland, where he still writes for film and television. *Stoneheart* is his first novel for children. He lives in Edinburgh with his family and a terrier called Archie who interrupts the writing process with his incessant need for walks and rabbit chasing.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- What kind of story is *Stoneheart* – adventure, horror, quest, fantasy, family, friendship? What category would you choose and why?
- To what sort of reader would you recommend this book? Think about gender, age, reading preference and so on.
- George's pursuit by a pterodactyl and some snakes in chapters three to four provides an excellent model for writing a chase scene. Ask pupils to reread chapter three in pairs and note the following features:
  - All the verbs used to describe George e.g. 'hit'; 'skidded'; 'started sprinting'; 'careening'.
  - All examples of short sentences less than five words and paragraphs less than one line e.g. 'Clear'; 'George whirled'; 'Nobody stopped. Nobody looked. Nobody helped'. Reread them and discuss the effect they have on the reader.
  - All references to George's feelings/emotions e.g. 'horror-shot'; 'pain and exhaustion'; 'cold fear wrapped his neck'.
- Ask pupils to write about being chased, incorporating the above techniques.

### BOOKSHELF

*Stoneheart* £10.99 (paperback £5.99, published Sept 2007), *Iron Hand* £10.99 (hardback, published Sept 2007)

Thursday 23 August, 11.30am, RBS Children's Theatre

**P1-3**

## Anthony Browne: My Family

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Anthony Browne, one of the world's leading picture book artists, will look at his three family books; *My Mum*, *My Dad* and *My Brother*. He will also show children how to play the Shape Game, a drawing game he played with his brother when they were both young and one which he still plays in every book he writes!

### BIOGRAPHY

Anthony Browne studied Graphic Design at Leeds Art College. He then became a medical artist, designed greeting cards and went on to publish his first book in 1976. Since then he's published thirty seven books, winning the Kate Greenaway Medal for illustration (twice), the Kurt Maschler Award (three times) and the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for his contribution to children's literature.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Look really closely at Anthony Browne's books. Try and describe the pictures and the way they are drawn. Has he used paint? Pencil? Tinfoil? Lots of different things? Try drawing in the style of Anthony Browne.
- Write about a member of your own family. List the things about them you like or dislike and describe the way they look. Remember your favourite thing about them and write your own *My Family* story.
- Go on a treasure hunt. Gorillas appear in most of Anthony's books. Can you find them all?

### BOOKSHELF

*My Brother* £10.99, *Gorilla* £5.99, *Willy the Wimp* £4.99, *Into the Forest* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.walkerbooks.co.uk/Anthony-Browne](http://www.walkerbooks.co.uk/Anthony-Browne)

Thursday 23 August, 1.30pm, RBS Children's Theatre

**S1-4**

## Sam Mills & Matt Whyman: Terrorism and the Teen Thriller

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Sam Mills and Matt Whyman will discuss what role teen fiction can play in addressing the terrorist threat. Are there moral and religious boundaries that should be observed, and what are the problems and possibilities that arise from writing about a subject that can change in nature at any time – often with shocking consequences?

### BIOGRAPHY

Matt Whyman is the author of *Boy Kills Man*, the critically acclaimed novel about Colombian child assassins, as well as *Superhuman*, *The Wild* and several non-fiction titles. His latest work, *Inside the Cage*, is an Arctic-based thriller about teenage hackers and CIA ghost flights.

Sam Mills studied English Literature and Language at Oxford University. She worked as a chess journalist and publicist before giving it up to write full-time. She has also contributed regularly to literary magazines such as TOMAZI and 3am. Her new novel *The Boys Who Saved the World*, a satirical thriller about the war on terror, will be published in June.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Issues to address in the classroom include:

- Should human rights apply to the terrorist as much as to their victims?
- Why are certain individuals moved to undertake terrorist acts?
- What motivates someone to carry out an atrocity? Are they monsters, or people who believe what they're doing is a noble act?

### BOOKSHELF

*Inside the Cage* £8.99, *The Boys Who Saved the World* £6.99, *A Nicer Way to Die* £6.99, *The Wild* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.mattwhyman.com](http://www.mattwhyman.com)

Thursday 23 August, 1.30pm, RBS Imagination Lab

**S1-2**

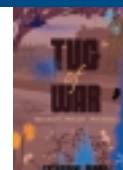
## Catherine Forde

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Catherine Forde is one of the most exciting teen voices of today. At a book a year she's written convincing and realistic stories about pyromaniacs, peer pressure and now, divorce. In this event she will talk about the inspiration for her latest novel *Tug of War*, and discuss how real-life stories and situations inspire her to write.

### BIOGRAPHY

Catherine Forde writes novels with teenagers as central characters. This is mainly because teenagers are so complex and fascinating, but also partly so that she can pretend to be a teenager again in her head. Her highly acclaimed novels include, *Fat Boy Swim*, *Skaars*, *Exit Oz*, *The Drowning Pond*, *Firestarter* and *L-L-L-LOSER*.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *Tug of War* takes place a few years in the future when Scotland is in a state of war. Pupils might like to discuss how they would cope with rationing and curfews, no internet or mobile phones, and the risk of constant attack.
- After reading an excerpt from one of Catherine Forde's novels, teachers might like to explore how she develops character through dialogue.

### BOOKSHELF

*Tug of War* £7.99, *Firestarter* £4.99, *Fat Boy Swim* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.catherineforde.co.uk](http://www.catherineforde.co.uk)

Friday 24 August, 10.00am, RBS Children's Theatre

**P6-S1**

## Tim Lott: Fearless

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Tim Lott will discuss his first book for young adults, *Fearless*, revealing how he came to write it, what inspired it and what it's really about. This event will also look at the line between stories and fairy tales, fiction and myth, and why *Fearless* is also being published for adults. Bestselling author Sarah Waters described *Fearless* as 'a smart, dark fable with a wonderfully engaging heroine'.

### BIOGRAPHY

Tim Lott has written many books for adults including *The Scent of Dried Roses* (winner of the JR Ackerley Prize), *White City Blue* (winner of the Whitbread First Novel Award), *Rumours of a Hurricane* (shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel Award), *The Love Secrets of Don Juan* and *The Seymour Tapes*. *Fearless* is his first novel for children.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- After reading *Fearless*, ask the children to go below the surface of the novel and think about the themes: the political allegory, the religious allegory and the meaning of sacrifice.
- Look at some fables and fairy tales. What bigger issues are they addressing? Have your class write allegories on issues of their choosing.
- *Fearless* is Tim Lott's first novel for children. What is the difference between children's literature and adult literature? Compare with other authors who write for adults and children, or whose books are popular with all ages such as Harry Potter or *Lord of the Rings*. What is it that makes these books different from those that appeal only to children?

### BOOKSHELF

*Fearless* £8.99

### WEBSITE

[www.timlott.co.uk](http://www.timlott.co.uk)  
[www.walkerbooks.co.uk](http://www.walkerbooks.co.uk)

Friday 24 August, 10.00am, RBS Main Theatre

**P6-S1**

## A Conversation with Anthony Horowitz

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Anthony Horowitz talks about a broad range of topics at his events, ranging from villains and violence in children's literature to the influence on his characters in his popular series Alex Rider, The Power of Five and The Diamond Brothers.

### BIOGRAPHY

Anthony Horowitz is a hugely popular and prolific author, creator of the phenomenal Alex Rider series. He has won many awards including the 2006 British Book Awards Red House Children's Book of the Year for *Ark Angel*. He also writes for TV and film, with credits including *Midsomer Murders*, *Foyle's War* and the movie *Stormbreaker*.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Pupils should be familiar with Anthony Horowitz's books, in particular the Alex Rider and The Power of Five series, and think about questions they would like to ask. Topics to consider include how Anthony Horowitz uses characterisation, story and pace in his novels, and especially how villains and violence are represented, as this will be a theme running through his event.

### BOOKSHELF

*Stormbreaker* £6.99, *The Power of Five: Raven's Gate* £6.99, *The Power of Five: Nightrise* £6.99

### WEBSITE

[www.anthoniyorowitz.com](http://www.anthoniyorowitz.com)  
[www.alexrider.com](http://www.alexrider.com)

Friday 24 August, 10.00am, RBS Imagination Lab

**P1-3**

## Under the Sea Adventures with Julie Hegarty

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Ever imagine what life under the ocean must be like? Come along on a deep sea adventure with Michelle! Julie Hegarty will read her new book, *Michelle and the Rock Concert*, and introduce students to Harmony the rock star anemone. Children are encouraged to bring in pictures or artefacts of sea creatures such as crustaceans and molluscs, to aid a discussion about life under the sea. Both of Julie's books focus on confidence building and self-esteem. *Michelle in Crabbit Comes to Stay* pays particular attention to bullying, so themes of friendship and sharing will be addressed in this event.

### BIOGRAPHY

Julie Hegarty grew up in South Wales and spent her childhood combing the nearby beach. This influenced the stories she wrote for her young children. The Michelle series is not only set at the seashore but also focuses on subjects close to Julie's heart like bullying, friendships and morals for young children.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Teach your pupils about the seashore and what lives around our coast. How can you tell the difference between a common crab and a hermit crab? Introduce the children to crustaceans like lobsters or different types of mollusc such as bi-valves (Michelle is one of these) or single shells like limpets. Starfish, fish and snails also make excellent subjects to learn about and draw.
- Moral issues in stories are a great way to tackle difficult subjects. The way in which characters deal with and overcome bullying can be a useful example to children. You could also talk about how important it is to be friendly and to help people as this can help improve a child's self-esteem and confidence.

### BOOKSHELF

*Michelle in Crabbit Comes to Stay* £6.99, *Michelle and the Rock Concert* £6.99

**WEBSITE** [www.juliehegarty.com](http://www.juliehegarty.com)

Friday 24 August, 10.30am, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**P5-7**

## Paul Stewart & Chris Riddell

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell will talk about how they work together. They will look at *The Edge Chronicles* and the *Far-Flung Adventures*, and introduce their newest character, Victorian tick-tock lad, Barnaby Grimes. The authors met at nursery school – not theirs, their sons' – and have worked together ever since. The novels they have created result from a unique collaboration between writer and illustrator. Chris Riddell draws constantly and Paul Stewart uses the drawings as a source of inspiration. From the outset, characters, settings and storylines develop from a combination of both pictures and words.

### BIOGRAPHY

Paul Stewart attended the University of East Anglia's Creative Writing MA course on which he comments, 'I had a year to experiment with all types of writing. It taught me to question everything I wrote, to see the value in reworking a text and to become quite thick-skinned to criticism.' His first book was published in 1988. He has since worked for a number of publishers and had over sixty titles published.



Chris Riddell is familiar to both children and adults for his distinctive line drawings with their clever caricature, fascinating detail and often enchanting fantasy elements. He has illustrated several picture books and novels, drawn political cartoons for *The Observer* and won the Kate Greenaway Award for illustration in 2002.

### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Children will get more out of the event if they are familiar with some of the stories. Try reading *Fergus Crane* or *Beyond the Deepwoods* (the first in the *Far-Flung Adventures* and *The Edge Chronicles* respectively).
- Check out the website which has excerpts from various books as well as maps and other activities.

### BOOKSHELF

*Barnaby Grimes: The Curse of the Night Wolf* £8.99, *Far-Flung Adventures: Hugo Pepper* £4.99, *The Edge Chronicles: Clash of the Sky Galleons* £12.99 (paperback, published Sept 2007)

**WEBSITE** [www.edgechronicles.co.uk](http://www.edgechronicles.co.uk)

Friday 24 August, 11.30am, RBS Children's Theatre

**S2-4**

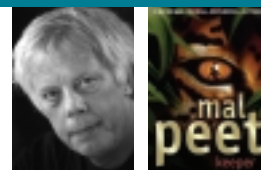
**Mal Peet**

## EVENT SYNOPSIS

Mal Peet will talk about how he came to be a Carnegie Medal winning writer and how his interests, comics in particular, affect the way he writes. He will also discuss different genres of fiction and how he likes to play with them, asking is there any real need for 'young adult' or 'teen' fiction anyway? A warm and fascinating speaker, Mal Peet likes to spend the majority of his time interacting with the audience; please come prepared to join in and spend a little time thinking up some interesting questions. There are no holds barred and no taboo subjects!

## BIOGRAPHY

Mal Peet has established himself as a strong and distinctive voice in young adult fiction with his novels, *Keeper* (winner of the 2004 Branford Boase Award and the 2004 Bronze Nestlé Smarties Book Prize), *Tamar* (winner of the 2005 Carnegie Medal) and *The Penalty*. He lives in Devon with his family.



## TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Mal Peet likes to keep his talks fresh and is very keen for readers to come with an open mind and to be honest about how they feel about his books. A lively Q&A session will provide interesting topics for further discussion.
- Your class might like to think about the fact that his books are, on one level, about history (as opposed to being simply 'historical novels') and about individuals and families whose lives are shaped by past events of which they are ignorant.

## BOOKSHELF

*The Penalty* £6.99, *Keeper* £6.99, *Tamar* £7.99

## WEBSITE

[www.paulfaustino.com](http://www.paulfaustino.com)  
[www.walkerbooks.co.uk](http://www.walkerbooks.co.uk)

Friday 24 August, 12 noon, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**P2-4**

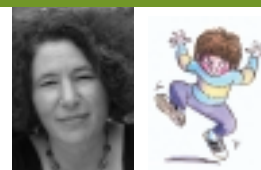
**Francesca Simon**

## EVENT SYNOPSIS

Francesca Simon likes talking about ideas: where they come from, what works, what doesn't, and how words and pictures fit together. She will take children through the creation of a book, from her first messy drafts, illustrator's roughs, mistakes, on to the final version. She may also talk about Horrid Henry, how she created him and how she got many of the story ideas and, if that isn't enough, she will then read from an unpublished Horrid Henry story – an exclusive treat!

## BIOGRAPHY

Francesca Simon spent her childhood on the beach in California, and then went to Yale and Oxford Universities to study Medieval History and Literature. She now lives in London with her English husband and their son. When she is not writing books she is writing theatre or restaurant reviews or chasing after her Tibetan spaniel, Shanti.



## TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Please make sure your class is very familiar with the Horrid Henry books.
- Invent a new Horrid Henry character and write a story about them.
- Draw a large picture of Henry and another one of Peter. Write down as many adjectives as you can to describe them.
- Alliterate your own name and the names of your family i.e. Soppo Sarah, Messy Max.
- Using the idea of the Dungeon Drink Kit and the Grisly Ghoulish Grub Box from *Horrid Henry's Nits*, have the class make up their own grisly recipes.
- Use *Helping Hercules* as a fun way into the Greek Myths. Have the children talk about all the fun ways Susan changes the original stories (or doesn't).

## BOOKSHELF

*Horrid Henry's Christmas Cracker* £4.99, *Horrid Henry's Jolly Joke Book* £4.99, *Helping Hercules* £4.99

**WEBSITE** [www.horridhenry.co.uk](http://www.horridhenry.co.uk)

Friday 24 August, 1.00pm, RBS Imagination Lab

**P6-S2**

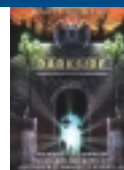
## Welcome to Darkside with Tom Becker

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Winner of the Waterstone's Children's Book Award 2007, *Darkside* is THE supernatural thriller to read this year. Kidnappings, bounty hunters, werewolves, vampires, a gothic circus – nightmares walk the streets in *Darkside*. So when Jonathan Starling finds himself trapped there, it's a race against time to escape... In this event, Tom Becker will give an insight into the fantastical world of *Darkside*. He'll talk about how he started writing, the inspiration behind the book and what might happen to Jonathan Starling next.

### BIOGRAPHY

Tom Becker was born in Lancashire, and even as a small child he wanted to be a writer. At twenty five he has realised his dream with the publication of *Darkside*. Aside from reading, his other passions include music, supporting Everton Football Club and eating his favourite food: fish fingers!



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- There are some really scary characters in *Darkside*: Marianne, the fluorescent-haired bounty hunter; Carnegie, part man, part wolf; and an evil vampire called Vendetta. Students can practise their creative writing by dreaming up other scary characters who might live in *Darkside*. Extend this into an art project by getting students to draw their characters.
- The opening of *Darkside* is left on a nail-biting cliffhanger when Jonathan first meets Marianne and realises the danger he is in. Explain to students that cliffhangers can be a key method of drawing readers into a story. Can students write a chapter of a story which ends in a cliffhanger and leaves the reader desperate to find out what happens next?

### BOOKSHELF

*Darkside* £6.99

**WEBSITE** [www.welcometodarkside.co.uk](http://www.welcometodarkside.co.uk)

Friday 24 August, 1.30pm, RBS Children's Theatre

**P5-S1**

## Justin Somper: Vampirates

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Justin Somper will discuss his Vampirates novels along with his World Book Day book. Readers will get more out of this event if they have read some of his work. He will address the age-old question of 'where do your ideas come from?' and describe how he developed his engaging characters and researched the fantastical world in his books, drawing on pirate history, vampire myth and some surprising other sources. Justin Somper will expect to answer plenty of questions at the end of the event and asks you to 'make 'em good'!

### BIOGRAPHY

Described by The Times as 'viciously clever', the bestselling Vampirates sequence has established Justin Somper as one of the most distinctive and popular new voices in children's fiction. The three books to date have been published in over twenty two countries worldwide and he has won several major writing awards.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Look at Vampirates alongside other pirate and vampire books – fiction, non-fiction or a mixture. Encourage pupils to pic'n'mix from fact and fiction and to discuss which 'rules' they feel should be obeyed within a genre and which they might like to play around with.
- The members of the Vampirate crew are 'the outsiders of the outsiders' from many different time periods and cultures. Ask pupils to create a new member of the crew, through text and/or illustration. Be sure to create a convincing 'crossing story' such as that of Sidorio, Darcy Flotsam or Johnny Desperado.
- Taking the sea shanty in *Demons of the Ocean* as a starting point, encourage pupils to write their own Vampirate shanty.
- Research the idea of Captains' 'articles' – or rules of employment – and have pupils create the articles of their own imaginary ship. The ship could be composed of pirates, vampires or vampirates.
- People often say Vampirates would make a great movie so why not take your turn as screenwriter/director by drafting a script of a favourite moment from one of the books, expanding on the action/dialogue as you wish. You could add in a new character or even create a whole new twist in the saga.
- Check out the Vampirates website and create a new page or two for it.

### BOOKSHELF

*Demons of the Ocean* £5.99, *Tide of Terror* £6.99, *Blood Captain* £8.99

**WEBSITE** [www.vampirates.co.uk](http://www.vampirates.co.uk)

Monday 27 August, 10.00am, RBS Main Theatre

**S1-3**

## Julie Bertagna

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Often you don't choose the stories; they choose you. In 1999, a snippet of news that should have stopped the world in its tracks caught Julie Bertagna's eye. Two Pacific islands had disappeared under the sea – and so she came to write *Exodus* and its sequel *Zenith*, the story of a drowned earth. Come and see dramatic images of the real events that inspired this extraordinary story of teenagers struggling to survive in a drowned world – and imagine what the future might be...

### BIOGRAPHY

Julie Bertagna has established a reputation as an author of powerful and original fiction for young people. Award-winning bestseller *Exodus* was shortlisted for many prizes, including the Whitbread, and won an Eco Prize for Creativity. The sequel, *Zenith*, is a novel of extraordinary imaginative vision and emotional power. The third is soon to follow.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Having a powerful story read well to you is an experience that can stay with you forever. A story can be a life-changing experience in itself. The most potent discussions and follow-up often grow naturally from a reading. Read at least an excerpt of the book/s as a class, and follow by free-flowing, pupil-led or teacher-prompted discussions.
- Investigate the issues the stories throw up: eg. climate change, refugees, asylum seekers, and the future of the Earth.
- Drama scripts, story-writing, journalism, poetry, art and music can develop from these investigations. Use computer slide shows, sound and visual recordings to share creations and inspirations.

**BOOKSHELF** *Zenith* £9.99, *Exodus* £5.99, *The Opposite of Chocolate* £4.99

**WEBSITE** [www.juliebertagna.com](http://www.juliebertagna.com)

Monday 27 August, 10.00am, RBS Children's Theatre

**P7-S2**

## Elizabeth Laird

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Elizabeth Laird will talk about her new book *Crusade*, a novel which follows the adventures of two boys – Adam, a Christian boy from England, and Salim, a Muslim boy from Acre in Palestine – during the Third Crusade in the twelfth century.

### BIOGRAPHY

Elizabeth Laird has lived in many different countries including Ethiopia, Malaysia, Iraq and Lebanon. Her stories have strong contemporary and historical themes, set around the world. She has won many awards, and her books have been translated into more than fifteen languages.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Use *Crusade* as a starting point for a debate on the current wars in the Middle East, and the clash between cultures of the Middle East and the West – in particular Islam and Christianity.
- *Crusade* is of particular relevance to the history and religious studies curricula with regard to the Middle Ages and the Crusades. Look at and debate the roots of some of the profound misunderstandings which have arisen from the West's centuries-long obsession with the Holy Land.

**BOOKSHELF** *Crusade* £10.99, *Kiss the Dust* £4.99, *A Little Piece of Ground* £4.99

**WEBSITE** [www.elizabethlaird.co.uk](http://www.elizabethlaird.co.uk)

Monday 27 August, 10.00am, RBS Imagination Lab

**P4-5**

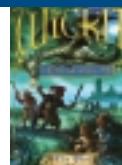
## Joan Lennon: The Wickit Chronicles

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

This event will focus on *Ely Plot*, book one of The Wickit Chronicles, which is set in the medieval Fens. Joan Lennon will divulge some weird and wonderful facts about medieval times. She will talk about her own writing and finish off with a Q&A session about the book and writing in general. No experience of the books is necessary!

### BIOGRAPHY

Joan Lennon lives in the Kingdom of Fife, a county said to be shaped like a dog's head. If this is so, she lives on the tip of the ear, which explains a lot!



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- The medieval period is fabulously strange and quirky, but also totally logical given the way the people of the time understood things. The gooey and icky aspects of medieval life are always popular; do some research into the gory and odd bits of history as a class or try writing your own story set in a different place and time.

### BOOKSHELF

*The Wickit Chronicles: Ely Plot* £6.99, *Questors* £5.99, *The Thing That Mattered Most* £6.99

**WEBSITE** [www.joanlennon.co.uk](http://www.joanlennon.co.uk)

Monday 27 August, 10.30am, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**S1-3**

## Marcus Sedgwick

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Marcus Sedgwick will talk about a fascinating moment in history; the collapse of the Romanov dynasty and the outmoded Tsarist system – pressurised to breaking point by the First World War – and the lurch into the new world of the revolutionaries. He will also look at the incredible story of Rasputin's involvement in this period, the rise of the Bolsheviks in the form of Lenin and Trotsky and the role of British spies in Russia during the revolution. He may also reveal how he, an English writer, walked into this story and got so deeply involved... Finally he will discuss the challenge of writing fiction based on fact, and why he chose to write about such a complicated subject.

### BIOGRAPHY

As well as being an award-winning author, Marcus Sedgwick works as a sales manager for a children's publishing company, plays drums in a band and is also a keen woodcarver. He won the Branford Boase Award in 2000 for his first novel, *Floodland* and has been shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Book Award, the Blue Peter Award and the Carnegie Medal.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *Blood Red, Snow White* could be used to bring colour to a study of the Russian Revolution or the First World War in the East. Discuss the rights and wrongs of the Tsarists and the Bolsheviks – were they as bad as each other?
- Discuss the state of Russia before and after the revolution. This could be taken further to look at the role of the Allies. In what ways did they interfere with or ignore Russia?
- It could be fun to look at Rasputin and his involvement with the royal family due to the Tsarevich's haemophilia.
- Look at layering within stories. Here is a novel about a writer, with fairy tales about his fairy tales, and fairy tales about real events, including the writer's own life. Look at ways in which a story can be more than a straight chronological telling of events.

### BOOKSHELF

*Blood Red, Snow White* £9.99, *My Swordhand is Singing* £6.99, *The Book of Dead Days* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.marcussedgwick.com](http://www.marcussedgwick.com)

Monday 27 August, 11.30am, RBS Children's Theatre

**S1-3**

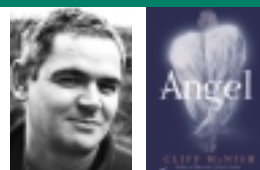
## Cliff McNish: Ghosts and Angels

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Cliff McNish will talk about all of his astounding fantasy books, but will mainly focus on the latest two: *Breathe: A Ghost Story* and *Angel*. He will discuss ghosts and angels and how useful they are to authors when telling a story. This will be followed by a Q&A session when pupils can ask him questions about his writing in general.

### BIOGRAPHY

Cliff McNish is the author of the widely-praised novel *Breathe: A Ghost Story*. His first books, *The Doomspell Trilogy* – *The Doomspell*, *The Scent of Magic* and *The Wizard's Promise* – won him an avid readership, and he was hailed as 'a great new voice in writing for children' (The Bookseller). He enjoys playing golf, walking up mountains and eating as much hot and spicy food as possible. He is married and has a teenage daughter.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- After reading some fantasy such as *The Doomspell Trilogy*, look at the ways in which the author uses magic and anti-magic to create a balance of forces.
- In *The Silver Sequence*, look at the way the author slowly develops the changing physical characteristics of the humans to make their transformation more realistic and believable.
- Think of all the reasons why a person might return to the real world as a ghost. Perhaps come up with your own ghost story.
- Think about everything you know or can imagine about guardian angels, and imagine that they have problems in their lives like us. What problems do you think such angels might have?

### BOOKSHELF

*Angel* £9.99, *Breathe: A Ghost Story* £6.99, *The Doomspell Trilogy* £7.99

**WEBSITE** [www.cliffmcnish.com](http://www.cliffmcnish.com)

Monday 27 August, 1.30pm, RBS Children's Theatre

**S1-3**

## Travel Through Time with Linda Buckley-Archer

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Linda Buckley-Archer will talk about her novel, *Gideon the Cutpurse* in which weevils, fleas and calf's head pie are the least of two children's problems after an anti-gravity machine catapults them back to 1763. Come and hear about the science of time travel, the quirks of life in the eighteenth century and the villainous treachery of cutpurses in this exciting event.

### BIOGRAPHY

Linda Buckley-Archer trained as a linguist and wrote for newspapers, radio and television before writing *Gideon the Cutpurse*. The first novel in a time travelling trilogy, it has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal 2006. She lives in London with her husband and two teenage children.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- There are many things about the past which appeal to the children in the story. Are you happy living now or would you prefer to travel back in time?
- The scientists in *Gideon the Cutpurse* are concerned about the potentially disastrous consequences of time travel. Do you think time travel would be a good or a bad thing?
- Write your answer to this puzzle: if I were to go back in time and kill my parents, would I ever be born?
- What do you think you would hate/love about the eighteenth century and what would you miss or be glad to get away from in your own century? If someone gave you the opportunity of travelling through time with no definite guarantee of being able to return, would you go?
- Space explorers are called astronauts; think of a good name for a time explorer. Draw pictures of them and the equipment they might need.

### BOOKSHELF

*Gideon the Cutpurse* £7.99, *The Tar Man* £14.99

**WEBSITE** [www.gideonthecutpurse.com](http://www.gideonthecutpurse.com)

Monday 27 August, 1.30pm, RBS Main Theatre

**P4-7**

## Horrible Histories with Martin Brown

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Learn how to draw the Horrible way and discover how to go from dodgy doodles to devastating drawings with Martin Brown, illustrator of the phenomenally popular Horrible Histories series written by Terry Deary.

From putrid pirates to awesome Egyptians, Martin Brown will show you step-by-step how he creates his fantastic drawings. Prepare for noise – this event will include shouting!

### BIOGRAPHY

Martin Brown was born in Melbourne, on the proper side of the world. He's been drawing ever since he can remember. His dad used to bring back huge sheets of paper from work and he would fill them with doodles and little figures. Then, quite suddenly, with food and water, Martin grew up, moved to the UK and found work doing what he's always wanted to do: drawing doodles and little figures.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Horrible Histories are NOT educational. They're about making history fun and leaving in all the nasty bits most books cut out. If you're determined to use them to help school work, see below for details:
- Research a particular period in time, event or historical figure and try to discover all the horrible bits. Try to find information on what life was like for normal people at that time, not kings and queens, or rich people. What was life like for the ordinary person on the street?
- The drawings in Horrible Histories are much more than just pretty pictures: they often tell a story, convey information and include jokes. Can students draw a cartoon strip to tell a Horrible story? Speech or thought bubbles could be used to write information into the pictures.

### BOOKSHELF

*Horrible Histories Handbooks: Warriors* £5.99, *Horrible Histories: Edinburgh* £4.99, *The Horrible History of the World* £8.99

### WEBSITE

[www.horrible-histories.co.uk](http://www.horrible-histories.co.uk)  
[www.scholastic.co.uk](http://www.scholastic.co.uk)

# Come Celebrate!

## RBS Schools Gala Day 28 August



For the last day of the RBS Schools Programme, Charlotte Square Gardens is devoted to primary schools. This is an exclusive opportunity for your class to celebrate books in a child-friendly environment with a variety of exciting events.

Come and join us for a full day of world famous authors, wonderful workshops and amazing activities. Here are just a few of the things on offer for your pupils:

- ★ Loads of fantastic events ranging from Julia Donaldson to Michelle Paver (see individual event details on the following pages).
- ★ An exclusive performance of *When Kilts Were Banned*, the sensational adaptation of Stevenson's *Kidnapped*.
- ★ Dr. Recommenda Book – back by popular demand. Get your prescription of recommended reading with the experts from Edinburgh City Libraries Youth Services.
- ★ Musical Pairs at lunchtime – a drop-in session of musical fun and games.
- ★ Magic and mayhem with a card trick entertainer.

- ★ Browse the astounding 3,000 titles in the RBS Children's Bookshop.
- ★ Have the author sign your books immediately after seeing their event. If you won't have time to visit the bookshop, consider ordering books in advance from the Book Festival Bookshop (25% discount!) and bringing them with you on the day.
- ★ Sit on the grass or at a café and soak up the atmosphere of fun on a day created especially for younger students.

### Eating and Drinking

Come for the whole day and have a lunchtime break between sessions. We have covered areas in case of rain or extreme heat.

- ★ Bring packed lunches for the day out.
- ★ Reserve packed lunches for your students in advance. Order forms will be sent out after you have booked your tickets.
- ★ Bottled water, drinks and snacks will be on sale.

Tuesday 28 August, 10.00am, RBS Main Theatre

P1-4

## Julia Donaldson

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Julia Donaldson will bring her books to life in this fun-filled event based on a range of her picture books, including her brilliant new book, *Tiddler*, as well as *The Princess and the Wizard* and *Follow the Swallow*. Her events are always a treat, with stories, songs and silly tales, so bring your imagination and prepare to play.

### BIOGRAPHY

Bestselling author of *The Gruffalo*, Julia Donaldson began her career as a songwriter and published her first title when a publisher asked to turn one of her songs into a book. Not only has she written many picture books, she has also written song books, plays, older fiction and recently a series of phonic reading books called *Songbirds*. When Julia Donaldson is not writing she often performs at book festivals and theatres.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *Tiddler* is a fish who likes to make up stories about his underwater adventures involving mermaids, giant squids, seahorses and other creatures. Children could make puppets of their favourite underwater characters and invent their own stories for a puppet show.
- *The Princess and the Wizard* is a fairy story about colours and animals. Ask children to think of a coloured animal (eg. a yellow chick) and how it could camouflage itself (eg. in a bale of yellow straw). Extend it into a drama activity by asking children to act out being their animal, hiding and escaping.
- Explore the themes of *Follow the Swallow* by asking children to research why and how birds migrate. Which birds migrate to which countries and at what time of year? Children could also pass messages to each other (as happens in the book) through a fun game of Chinese whispers.

### BOOKSHELF

*Tiddler* £10.99, *The Princess and the Wizard* £10.99, *Follow the Swallow* £10.99

### WEBSITE

[www.juliadonaldson.co.uk](http://www.juliadonaldson.co.uk)  
[www.scholastic.co.uk](http://www.scholastic.co.uk)

Tuesday 28 August, 10.00am, RBS Children's Theatre

P6-7

## Alan Gibbons: Scared to Death

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Alan Gibbons launches his brand new horror series Hell's Underground, and its opening book *Scared to Death*, with this event. The series draws back the curtain on London's dark underbelly and finds Jack the Ripper lurking. Alan Gibbons talks about the horror genre in general and how it can shed light on the way we live and look at our world. Because the hero of *Scared to Death*, Paul Rector, has to embark upon a journey into London's demonic past, Alan will also look at how fiction can explore our history in strange and wonderful ways. Finally, he will set the Hell's Underground series in the context of his previous writing.

### BIOGRAPHY

Alan Gibbons was a teacher in Liverpool for eighteen years before retiring from a job he loved to concentrate on writing and lecturing. He has written many children's books, is a Blue Peter Book Award winner and has been shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal twice and the Teenage Book Award twice. Among his other awards are the Scottish Catalyst and Angus Book Awards. He has travelled to many countries to talk about his work including France, Spain, Cyprus, China, Singapore, Norway and New Zealand.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *Scared to Death* could be looked at in comparison to horror classics such as *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson or in relation to timeslip stories like *A Sound of Thunder* by Ray Bradbury, *The Time Machine* by H G Wells or *Dr Who*.
- Use *Scared to Death* as an exploration into Victorian London and the Jack the Ripper mystery.

### BOOKSHELF

*Scared to Death* £6.99, *Hold On* £5.99, *Rise of the Blood Moon* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.alangibbons.com](http://www.alangibbons.com)

Tuesday 28 August, 10.00am, RBS Imagination Lab

**P6-7**

## Joan Lennon: Questors

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

This event will focus on *Questors*, a fantasy sci-fi in which three worlds are coming apart at the seams. Joan Lennon will read from her book, discuss what it's about, talk a little about her own writing history and finish off with a Q&A session about the book and writing in general. As a special treat, she'll show the original paintings of the cover art and talk about how the images convey different aspects of the story. No experience necessary!

### BIOGRAPHY

Joan Lennon lives in the Kingdom of Fife, a county said to be shaped like a dog's head. If this is so, she lives on the tip of the ear, which explains a lot. She has a husband, four tall sons, two short cats, and a miscellaneous-sized group of piano pupils.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *Questors* is full of issues that are important in our world. The nature of gender, what happens when people and cultures become more and more extreme, how to deal with climate change, what makes a family – get some great discussions going on any of these subjects.
- Not all questions are answered in the book; pupils could take things further in their own writing. What happened to Frederick, for example, or what gender did Cam become, or what other stories could be told about life in any of the three worlds?

### BOOKSHELF

*Questors* £5.99, *The Wickit Chronicles: Ely Plot* £6.99, *The Thing That Mattered Most* £6.99

**WEBSITE** [www.joanlennon.co.uk](http://www.joanlennon.co.uk)

Tuesday 28 August, 10.30am, ScottishPower Studio Theatre

**P5-7**

## Michelle Paver

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Michelle Paver will talk about her childhood passion for wolves and the Stone Age and how she met a bear whilst walking in a Californian national park! She will discuss her research, including swimming with killer whales and observing polar bears and afterwards she will read a short extract from her new book, *Outcast*. Bring loads of questions!

### BIOGRAPHY

After gaining a degree in Biochemistry from Oxford University, Michelle Paver became a partner in a city law firm, but eventually gave that up to write full-time. *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* arises from her lifelong passions for animals, anthropology and the distant past.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- It really helps the success of the event if the pupils have read at least the first few chapters of *Wolf Brother* beforehand – it gives them a feel for the series and what the books are about.
- The series looks at animals, anthropology, archaeology, animal behaviour, survival skills, ancient cultures and the Stone Age. Use the books in the classroom to talk about any of these subjects.
- Parts of the story are written from the wolf's point of view. A classroom exercise could be to write stories from the point of view of somebody else.

### BOOKSHELF

*Outcast* £9.99 (hardback, published Sept 2007), *Wolf Brother* £5.99, *Spirit Walker* £5.99, *Soul Eater* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.torak.info](http://www.torak.info)

Tuesday 28 August, 11.00am, Peppers Theatre

**P4-6**

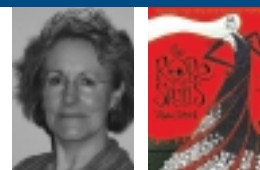
## Vivian French: The Robe of Skulls

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Kidnapping, black magic, princes and trolls – and a couple of chatty bats. *The Robe of Skulls* is a fabulous new fairy tale adventure; this is the book Vivian French has always wanted to write. She will talk about where her ideas come from, and ask the audience what elements they think are needed to create a fast-moving and entertaining tale.

### BIOGRAPHY

When she was at school Vivian French was often told off for letting her imagination run away with her; she thinks this might be why she finally ended up as a writer. She was also told she couldn't write, and for years she believed this to be true – she didn't start writing until she was in her forties. Consequently, one of her missions in life is to make sure that children believe they CAN be authors. What's more, they can be authors RIGHT NOW. So far Vivian has written over two hundred books, both fiction and non-fiction, ranging from board books for toddlers to novels for teenagers.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Read Vivian French's fairy tale *The Robe of Skulls*. What is it about the story that makes it a fairy tale? Can you think of any famous stories which it reminds you of – maybe *Dracula* or *Frankenstein*?
- Now consider the cast of characters. They each speak very differently – from Gubble's grunting, to the bats' snappy chit chat. Why do you think the author chose to portray them in this way? And do you think everyone got their 'just desserts' in the end?
- Now it's your chance to write your own fairy tale with a cast of weird and wonderful characters. You could tell the story of what happened next in *The Robe of Skulls*, or come up your very own grotesque ideas!

**BOOKSHELF** *The Robe of Skulls* £4.99, *Tiara Club: Princess Alice and the Crystal Slipper* £3.99, *Aesop's Funky Fables* £6.99

**WEBSITE** [www.walkerbooks.co.uk/vivian-french](http://www.walkerbooks.co.uk/vivian-french)

Tuesday 28 August, 11.30am, RBS Children's Theatre

**P1-3**

## Catherine Rayner

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Catherine Rayner will read and discuss her book *Augustus and his Smile* and encourage children to think about what makes them smile. She'll show how she created Augustus and pupils will have the opportunity to create their very own tiger! Discovering some amazing tiger facts in the quiz at the end of the event will ensure a fun, creative and informative experience for everyone.

### BIOGRAPHY

Catherine Rayner lives in Edinburgh. She has a BA Hons in Illustration from Edinburgh College of Art. Much of her inspiration – and occasionally modelling – for her illustration comes from her pets: her horse Shannon, guinea pig Marvin, dog Ellie and cat Ena. She won the Bookstart Early Years Award in 2006 for *Augustus and his Smile*.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Focus on the idea of children understanding and expressing emotion through words and facial expressions. Build confidence in self-expression by making faces in class.
- In this event children can develop their art skills as they are encouraged to draw their own tiger, name it and colour it in their own abstract way.
- Look into the environmental issues surrounding tigers and their habitat.

### BOOKSHELF

*Augustus and his Smile* £5.99

**WEBSITE** [www.catherinerayner.co.uk](http://www.catherinerayner.co.uk)

Tuesday 28 August, 12.30pm, Peppers Theatre

**P5-7**

## Michael Lawrence & Jiggy McCue

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Find out what happens in the ninth Jiggy McCue novel, *The Iron, the Switch and the Broom Cupboard*, when Jiggy hides in the school caretaker's broom cupboard and pushes apart the mops and brooms to discover an alternative world. Michael Lawrence will have children tittering as he talks about his brilliantly successful Jiggy McCue series. This event will be of particular interest to Jiggy fans so please familiarise the children with the books and characters beforehand. There will be a Q&A session to finish when pupils can ask the author some really unusual questions!

### BIOGRAPHY

Michael Lawrence is a very versatile writer who has published books for all ages, from picture books to gripping teenage fiction. He is best known for his Jiggy McCue series: 'Fast, furious and full of humour' (The National Literacy Association). A great deal of his writing is based on real events and situations, just as several of his characters are people he has known (or been taught by).



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- If you haven't read any of the Jiggy McCue books yet, *Nudie Dudie* (the shortest) is a good one to read to the class in preparation. What particularly did the children like (or not like) about the story? How much of it seemed realistic?
- Discuss the use of comedy in the writing. How does the author make the reader laugh? What would the children do if the terrible thing that happened to Jiggy in the book happened to them?
- What would Jiggy be like as an adult? Would insane things still happen to him? Would he be better able to cope with them? Would Angie and Pete still be his best friends? Would they still call themselves The Three Musketeers? What sort of work would they do?
- Check out Michael Lawrence's website [www.wordybug.com](http://www.wordybug.com), and look for sample chapters from the nine Jiggy books. Children can read the extracts in pairs and try to predict what's going to happen next.

### BOOKSHELF

*The Iron, the Switch and the Broom Cupboard* £5.99, *Ryan's Brain* £5.99, *Juby's Rook* £5.99 (published Sept 2007)

**WEBSITE** [www.wordybug.com](http://www.wordybug.com)

Tuesday 28 August, 1.30pm, RBS Imagination Lab

**P1-2**

## Stories in Action with Pam Wardell

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Come along on a storybook adventure with Pam Wardell! Help recreate the story with sounds, costumes, props and lots of imagination. No previous experience necessary, just enthusiasm and a thirst for fun!

### BIOGRAPHY

Pam Wardell is a drama specialist who uses picture books to help young readers engage by acting out the stories to create unique and exciting experiences. Through her brainchild Books Alive she is dedicated to providing imaginative resources to stimulate children's expressive arts. She particularly enjoys working with young students because their imaginations are boundless.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Read a story in the classroom and then try and act it out with sounds and actions. Try dressing up as characters or making up a different ending to really get into the story!
- Pam Wardell's company Books Alive can provide tailor-made workshops and classroom sessions at your school.

### BOOKSHELF

*Mrs Armitage on Wheels* £5.99

Tuesday 28 August, 1.30pm, RBS Main Theatre

**P3-7**

## Kidnapped: When Kilts Were Banned

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

A pacy, humorous and action-packed retelling of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*. This is a story about friendship, falling out and making up. It is also about the relationship between different cultures and attitudes – Highland and Lowland Scotland. This event is storytelling theatre with the bare essentials; *Kidnapped* as you have never heard it before and the perfect introduction to the book and its various themes, still relevant to today.

### BIOGRAPHY

When Kilts Were Banned is a specially commissioned piece for the UNESCO City of Literature One Book – One Edinburgh *Kidnapped* campaign. It is performed by Scottish actors, Duncan Edwards and Gavin Paul and adapted by Donald Smith, Director of the Scottish Storytelling Centre.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Davey Balfour is kidnapped, shipwrecked and besieged on his journey around Orkney and back home to Edinburgh. Draw a map of his voyage across Scotland, looking at the varied terrain he crossed.
- *Kidnapped* is a complex book usually reserved for secondary schools but there is now a shorter version available, a Scots version and a graphic novel. Read one, or excerpts from several of these and compare the type of storytelling. What sort of words do they use? How do they show feelings? How long are the sentences? Also compare the written versions with the adaptation for this event as an introduction to the ideas of storytelling and drama.

### BOOKSHELF

*Kidnapped* (novel) £5.99, *Kidnapped* (graphic novel) £8.99, *Kidnappit!* £8.99

**WEBSITE** [www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk)

Tuesday 28 August, 1.30pm, RBS Children's Theatre

**P5-7**

## Lucy Hawking and George's Secret Key to the Universe

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Lucy Hawking, daughter of Professor Stephen Hawking, will talk about their new book *George's Secret Key to the Universe*. This tale of adventure is a roller-coaster ride around the wonders of the solar system and beyond. George and his friend Annie find a secret way to sneak out into outer space where they see extraordinary sights but also face terrible danger and find a huge challenge. Will they defeat the powerful dark force that lurks unseen in the universe? Or will it get the better of them? And what is George's secret key? No preparation is needed.

### BIOGRAPHY

Lucy Hawking has a background in journalism and modern languages. She has written two adult fiction books and *George's Secret Key to the Universe* is her first book on physics. She has co-written this book with her father, Professor Stephen Hawking, because they both wished there were more exciting books that imparted science facts in fun stories.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- *George's Secret Key to the Universe* is ideal for classroom material as it introduces physics to a young audience. The science is presented in a creative and accessible manner with the aim of providing topics and ideas for further discussion. The scientific topics covered are clearly explained and illustrated.
- There is an ethical dimension to the storyline which concerns the way science can be used for either good or evil.
- The book contains a strong environmental theme, reminding us how unique our planet is in the solar system.

### BOOKSHELF

*George's Secret Key to the Universe* £10.99 (hardback, published Sept 2007)

## P3-4

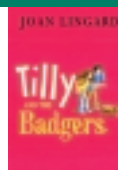
## Joan Lingard

### EVENT SYNOPSIS

Joan Lingard is a children's literature celebrity. In this event she will talk about conservation issues, using her novels *The Egg Thieves*, *River Eyes*, *Tilly and the Badgers* and *Tilly and the Wild Goats*.

### BIOGRAPHY

Joan Lingard is one of the world's pre-eminent writers for children and was awarded an MBE for Services to Children's Literature in 1998. Amongst the many issues tackled in her writing – frequently set against a historical and international background – are the themes of prejudice and discrimination, tolerance and reconciliation, displacement and resettling and protection of the environment.



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Look at the way communities come together toward a common goal in *The Egg Thieves* and the Tilly books. Do you see this in your community? School? Family?
- Both Tilly books, as well as *River Eyes*, deal with the protection of wildlife. Research as a class some endangered species or study the effects of development on the local environment.

### BOOKSHELF

*Tilly and the Badgers* £4.99, *Tilly and the Wild Goats* £3.99, *The Egg Thieves* £3.99

### WEBSITE

[www.joanlingard.co.uk](http://www.joanlingard.co.uk)

[www.slainte.org.uk/scotwrit/Authors/Lingard.htm](http://www.slainte.org.uk/scotwrit/Authors/Lingard.htm)

## Useful Information and Resources

### Teacher information packs

We will send you some basic information, once you have booked your tickets in the spring, to help you prepare for your event.

Many publishers and authors create teacher resource packs corresponding to their books. Check the author and/or publisher's websites for further information and downloadable resources.

### Signing policy

Whenever possible our authors are available for signings immediately following their event. Authors are happy to sign pupils' own books, school or library copies and sometimes even a pupil's notebook. Please do not ask them to sign anyone else's books, publisher catalogues, or any other bits of paper.

### Preview days

Traditionally we host RBS Schools Programme Previews in surrounding areas in conjunction with local authorities. If you would be interested in attending these informational sessions in future please contact Sara Grady at [sara@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:sara@edbookfest.co.uk)

### Receiving our programme

You can download this brochure from our website at [www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)

If you would like information about the RBS Schools Programme or any other aspect of the Book Festival please email [admin@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:admin@edbookfest.co.uk) or send your contact details including your name, address and postcode to: [mailinglist@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:mailinglist@edbookfest.co.uk)

Useful websites:

[www.achuka.co.uk](http://www.achuka.co.uk)  
[www.bibliomania.com](http://www.bibliomania.com)  
[www.booktrusted.co.uk](http://www.booktrusted.co.uk)  
[www.braw.org.uk](http://www.braw.org.uk)  
[www.childrenslaureate.org](http://www.childrenslaureate.org)  
[www.cool-reads.co.uk](http://www.cool-reads.co.uk)  
[www.fcbg.org.uk](http://www.fcbg.org.uk)  
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[www.readingmatters.co.uk](http://www.readingmatters.co.uk)  
[www.readtogether.co.uk](http://www.readtogether.co.uk)  
[www.scottishbooktrust.com](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com)  
[www.spl.org.uk/education](http://www.spl.org.uk/education)  
[www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com)

# Booking information and deadlines

## please read carefully

### To make a booking

- 1** Choose the event you would like to attend. Also choose two alternative options in case your choice is unavailable. If you have any questions about the programme or suitability, contact Sara Grady at [sara@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:sara@edbookfest.co.uk)
- 2** Fill in the form on the opposite page for each visit (photocopy as necessary). **NB. The Contact Name** is the person making the booking, the **Emergency Contact** is the person bringing the class (in case we need to inform you of any changes).
- 3** Fill in the Transport Fund Application on the Booking Form (see right for further details).
- 4** Post your form to Box E, Edinburgh International Book Festival, 5a Charlotte Square EH2 4DR or fax 0131 226 5335. You'll hear from us within 14 days.

### Our booking policy & procedure

Tickets are sold on a first come, first served basis. You will be notified if your booking has been successful within 14 days. If your requested events are full, we will contact you to discuss alternative options and our waiting list procedure.

If your requested event is available, we will send you a Booking Confirmation along with some information in preparation for your visit.

**If you need to amend or cancel your reservation, you must do so by 1 June. After that we will invoice the school for the number of tickets booked.**

### Transport Fund

Need financial support to transport your class to the Book Festival? Please apply for our Transport Fund, available to schools who need financial assistance, sponsored by RBS and supported by the City of Edinburgh Council. First, get an estimate of the cost of bringing your pupils to Charlotte Square for each trip. Then, on your booking form, fill in the estimated cost and relevant details.

Transport Fund reimbursement is allocated on a first come, first served, needs basis. **The closing date for the Transport Fund Application is Fri 18 May.** You will be notified by 1 June if your application is successful (either totally or partially). After the Festival you must invoice us for reimbursement of your Transport Fund allocation by 1 October.

### Essential dates for your diary

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>23 April</b>  | Booking opens   |
| <b>18 May</b>    | Transport Fund application deadline   |
| <b>1 June</b>    | Successful Transport Fund applicants notified by email<br><br>Your deadline to amend or cancel bookings                     |
| <b>11 June</b>   | Invoice for finalised booking sent to your school<br><br>Teacher information packs and book order forms sent to your school |
| <b>9 August</b>  | Tickets and final information posted to your school   |
| <b>20 August</b> | RBS Schools Programme begins  |
| <b>28 August</b> | RBS Schools Programme ends  |
| <b>1 October</b> | Deadline to claim Transport Fund reimbursement by invoice   |

# Event Booking Form

Bookings are dealt with in order of receipt and demand for tickets is high. Whilst we will always do our best to accommodate your first choice, please indicate alternatives wherever possible. If none of your event choices is available we will contact you to discuss possible alternatives.

Please complete and return the Event Booking Form

BY POST **Box E, Edinburgh International Book Festival, 5a Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DR**

BY FAX **0131 226 5335**

**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE PAYMENT** See how to book on page 36

## OFFICE USE

Rec

CRM

COMPLETE ONE BOOKING FORM  
FOR EACH GROUP TRIP.

(Use as many photocopies as required)

☐

*I would like to be added to the  
mailing list for the full programme  
of events for 2007*

School _____	Class (eg P3) _____
Address _____	Postcode _____
Contact Name _____	Tel (term time) _____ Email _____
Emergency Contact Name (if different) _____	Emergency Mobile No. _____ School Fax _____
SCHOOL TERM DATES: Summer 2007 Term Ends _____	Autumn 2007 Term Staff Resume _____ Autumn 2007 Term Pupils Resume _____

## Ticket Prices: Pupils and adults £2.00 each (one adult FREE with every 10 pupils)

Please ensure you refer to your school roll for next session (2007-2008) when calculating the total number of tickets required.

### EVENT 1

CHOICE	EVENT TITLE	DAY	DATE	TIME	NO. OF PUPILS	NO. OF ADULTS	TOTAL COST
First Choice							
Alternative 1							
Alternative 2							

### EVENT 2

CHOICE	EVENT TITLE	DAY	DATE	TIME	NO. OF PUPILS	NO. OF ADULTS	TOTAL COST
First Choice							
Alternative 1							
Alternative 2							

### TEACHERS' EVENTS £5.00 (see page 4)

EVENT TITLE	DAY	DATE	TIME	NO. OF TICKETS	PRICE	TOTAL COST
Storytelling in Schools	Weds	15 Aug 2007	5.00pm		£5.00	
The Journey to Excellence	Weds	22 Aug 2007	6.00pm		£5.00	
Formative Assessment in the Classroom	Thurs	23 Aug 2007	6.00pm		£5.00	
The Confidence Handbook	Mon	27 Aug 2007	5.00pm		£5.00	

### TRANSPORT FUND APPLICATION (closing date 18 May)

If you wish to apply for help towards the cost of transport please complete the details below. See page 36 for info.

I have been quoted a travel cost of £ \_\_\_\_\_ for one return trip \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle method of transport: Private Coach / Public Transport / Other (Specify)

Local Education Authority \_\_\_\_\_

## OFFICE USE

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**11 – 27 August 2007**

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[www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)

exciting