

Teen Librarian

Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk

Editorial

Ah October is upon us once more - the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness as Keats was wont to say!

There is a lot happening over the next few weeks, so it is a shorter newsletter this month, but I am hoping November will be a good one! I am sure it will be as it will come out soon after the CILIP CKG nominations lists are announced on the 5th November, so keep an eye on the CKG website on the 5th <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/>

Speaking of the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals, I am sure everyone has read about the changes that have come about since the diversity report was released. I wrote a piece about it here summarising my views and included links to the report and other information about it, if interested you can read it here:

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2018/09/30/the-cilip-carnegie-kate-greenaway-medals-a-change-has-come/>

I am looking forward to following the awards from afar and participating in online discussions when I am able to!

The big news right now is that on November 3rd there is a national demonstration to save libraries, museums and culture being organised by Unison with PCS and Unite supporting it. If you are able to get into London I urge you to go (and to tell your friends and colleagues).

Before that however, we have Halloween, and if there is one thing that young people love it is sweets and chocolate (and scaring people). This year is also the 200th anniversary of Frankenstein, a novel which has delighted and terrified people ever since (ok maybe not terrified but the movies definitely have), this may be a good time to introduce it to your young readers, if they have not already discovered it themselves!

Bonfire night is also coming up, and although bonfires and libraries do not go well together it is still part of the UK's historical cultural fabric that we can celebrate (and repurpose if required).

I provide a few ideas for displays to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War, I am currently working on a booklist that will appear on the Teen Librarian blog soon to go along with it.

Has anyone seen the list of books for World Book Day 2019? They are fantastic - a great return to form for the organisation and I am happy to return to supporting them for 2019! I also provide a link for schools that wish to sign up for the World Book Day tokens for their students.

Doctor Who discussion has always been welcome in whatever Library I have worked in and after last night's amazing episode I have suggested a few ideas that could be used to spark discussions in library groups.

Finally I have included a link to a UK government petition to ring-fence government spending for Library Services, if you have not yet signed it why not do it now! Go to the end of the newsletter and follow the link, you can read everything else once you have done that!

Halloween

The spooky time of year is upon us once more! As a Librarian who works with young people I love Halloween, it is great for displays of spooky books, bad jokes (Why did the vampire borrow an art book? He wanted to learn how to draw blood), snacks and more! There is also the dressing up if you want to run a competition for the scariest costume (or just for fun).

If you have a teen group that wants to try something different, why not introduce them to halloween origami: <https://www.origami-resource-center.com/halloween-origami.html>

Or you could just sit around eating sweets and chocolate while discussing your favourite scary books and movies.

A selection of Halloween reads is available here:

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2013/10/28/15-halloween-reads/>

National Demonstration to Save Libraries, Museums and Culture

On the 3rd November Unison, PCS and Unite have joined forces to hold a demonstration in defence of Libraries, Museums and Culture. If you are able to get to London on the 3rd and up to the British Library, that is where everyone will be assembling from 11am to march on Parliament at 12 noon.

More details available here:

<https://www.unison.org.uk/events/national-demonstration-save-libraries-museums-culture/>

Bonfire Night

Remember, remember!

The fifth of November,

The gunpowder treason and plot...

With the rise of Halloween in the national consciousness the 5th of November seems to have become less popular amongst the younger set. Oh the fireworks still bring everybody out but you no longer see kids dragging Guy Fawkes in effigy to burn as the sun goes down (except in Lewes - they love the burning in Lewes).

Admittedly coming hot on the heels of the demo to save libraries, museums and culture we could burn our current political lords and masters, in effigy of course (burning people alive these days is frowned upon). If nothing else in your library you can do a full rendition of the gunpowder verse for your teen groups, words available here: <http://www.potw.org/archive/potw405.html>

Or organise a library viewing of *V for Vendetta* and a discussion on the differences between the graphic novel and movie. As an added bonus for the more politically active youth in your library (or school) a talk on symbolism can also be added - the use of the Guy Fawkes mask by the online activist group Anonymous for example. More information on Guy Fawkes and Anonymous here:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/anonymous-how-the-guy-fawkes-mask-became-an-icon-of-the-protest-movement-a6720831.html>

The End of the Great War

This November 11th Marks the 100th anniversary of the armistice that effectively ended World War One, millions of people from all over the world made the ultimate sacrifice for their countries and people and almost no-one was unaffected. Even Librarians were called up and fought, and died - this is something that I have never given much thought to, I doubt many of us have.

This changed after I saw a photograph posted by author Candy Gourlay, taken in the British Library of a memorial to British Librarians that had fought and died in the Great War.



I mention this not to celebrate that as a profession we sent our own to bleed and die with so many others but as a reminder that everyone is at risk.

I am pretty sure that displays about the armistice will go up in many libraries around the world. Might I recommend that we remember groups that are often overlooked in these displays, such as the Pals Battalions - an early, and incredibly terrible idea that put friends and young people from communities together and sent them out to die on the battlefields, Conscientious Objectors ('conchies') who followed the dictates of their consciences and refused to take up arms, facing scorn, derision and often violence from their communities.

The casualties of the war were enormous, those that returned and many who did not.

Pals Battalions, find out more:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-pals-battalions-of-the-first-world-war>

Conscientious Objectors, find out more:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/conscientious-objectors-in-their-own-words>

Casualties of WW11, find out more: <https://bit.ly/1u9P800>

Along with red poppy which is seen everywhere in the run up to the 11th November, the white poppy (peace poppy) is also worn by increasing number of people every year. Although the red poppy is a symbol of all have died in wars, the white poppy is used as a symbol of pacifism and is worn as an alternative. The white poppy is available from the Peace Pledge Union, an organisation that has promoted pacifism since 1934 (<https://ppu.org.uk/>).

Valete fratres: Librarians and the First World War:

<http://blogs.bl.uk/untoldlives/2011/11/valete-fratres-librarians-and-the-first-world-war.html>

World Book Day 2019

Registration has opened for schools to sign up to receive their 2019 World Book Day tokens. This can be done here: <https://www.worldbookday.com/registernow/>

For 2018 I was a rather vocal critic of WBD and what I felt were some very serious missteps regarding their YA offer to teen readers, I am happy to say that I wholeheartedly support their offer for 2019 and hope that everyone who is able to sign up does so and encourages their students to pick up a free book to keep, as the selection looks fantastic, you can see what will be on offer here:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

Doctor Who

I am sure everyone has seen Malorie Blackman's episode by now (the Rosa Parks one), in the year before the new season with Jodie Whittaker I had many discussions with young fans of the show who were horrified that the Doctor would be played by a woman. It is a regret that I will carry always that I did not have the opportunity to continue those discussions as I moved on from my post before the new season started, because Jodie is phenomenal as the Doctor!

Actually Doctor Who may be a great way to introduce a discussion about how transgender people are viewed around the world as Time Lords can be either. There are so many discussions that Doctor Who can be woven into - from historical events that have appeared in episodes (Rosa Parks being the latest) to how the series has grown and changed on both sides of the camera - the potential is almost endless!

Protect Library Services by ring-fencing government funding for Libraries

If you have not already signed the petition you still have time to do so! Also tell your friends and colleagues to get involved, the link to the petition is here:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/228742>