

# Teen Librarian

## Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk

### Editorial

Welcome to the August edition of Teen Librarian Monthly!

This month we take a look at the #YATakeover happening this weekend (the 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August) and leaping from that directly into news from the Scottish Book Trust about a new award recognising contributions to Scottish children's literature.

If you are going to be in or anywhere near Newcastle on the 17<sup>th</sup> September be sure to drop in to the Newcastle City Library for the UKYA and Children's Extravaganza, this is going to be a ticketed event and the number and quality of the authors attending means booking early is a good idea!

The Olympics in Rio has inspired me to start developing the Reading Olympics for my school, I have noted down some of the ideas in progress both in the newsletter and on the site, so if you would like to try out some of the ideas please feel free and also all suggestions will be welcome!

Looking ahead to the 5<sup>th</sup> November (remember, remember) there is going to be a demonstration and march for Libraries, Museums and Galleries starting at the British Library and ending up at the House of Commons. I will be marching and if anyone is keen on forming a bloc let me know and we can meet up just beforehand (Guy Fawkes masks optional).

In case you missed the news, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* turns 20 next year and the British Museum is in the process of putting together an amazing display for October 2017.

Disturbing news that I just saw this morning in *The Bookseller* is that adult library use has declined, this is no doubt due to the catastrophic cuts that have been enacted across the country over the past five years.

<http://www.thebookseller.com/news/library-usage-continues-decline-378946>

I would be interested in finding out what teen library stats are like compared to several years ago as young people have an even smaller window of time available to use libraries and with reduced hours often coupled with a lack of transport and other demands on their time it is probably harder for many to make use of the service.

I have a special interview with author Andy McNab (he of *Brave Two Zero* fame) as his latest young adult title *Street Soldier* has just been published. Sadly it was via email so I have no thrilling stories of being blind-folded and taken to a secret location to speak to him (truth).

## #YATakeover

Christopher Moore is going to be holding the second #YATakeover event this weekend via the @YAFictionados Twitter account. This is a digital festival based around authors, themes and titles within the Young Adult category.

The first #YATakeover was held in January and included a session on awards - this included the Carnegie and was hosted by Joy. The festival trended for over six hours on Twitter and achieved significant reach, engagement and interest.

The second festival is being held from Friday 19 to Sunday 21 August inclusive. At present Chris is looking for people to host themed sessions with authors as there are still a number that require hosts. Each session will last around 45 minutes and they usually comprise of between two and three authors talking on a particular topic.

As you will doubtless be aware, Young Adult publishing has been an area of significant growth over the past years. It has also seen considerable experimentation and innovation in terms of themes, narratological approach and written style. This is an excellent opportunity to be able to engage with this.

If people are interested in hosting a session (or indeed more than one if there are authors or themes that particularly 'tickle your fancy') please could they contact Chris directly at [yafictionados@hotmail.com](mailto:yafictionados@hotmail.com) Chris will be able to send out sample questions to aid preparation for hosts. If this could be shared more widely with regional groups too that would be much appreciated.

The sessions currently available are as follows, please note dates and times for these as well as the themes and authors that are involved.

### **Saturday 20 August**

#### ***Supernatural Seduction***

Time: 10.00am-10.45am BST

Interview Panel: Julia Gray, Katharine Corr and Lu Hersey

Julia, Katharine and Lu discuss the myths in their stories and how these shape their writing.

#### ***Peer Pressure in YA***

Time: 1.00pm-1.45pm BST

Interview Panel: Claire Hennessey and Patrice Lawrence

Debut authors Claire and Patrice discuss peer pressure and the impact it has on their characters

#### ***Unheard Voices stories, exposing and exploring issues that include body image, crime and drugs.***

Time: 2.00pm-2.45pm BST

Interview Panel: Alex Wheatle, Jon Walter and Robin Talley

Two acclaimed authors discuss representation in YA fiction, covering the challenges and obstacles they have faced in their careers and those that exist in the wider field.

### **Sunday 21 August**

#### ***Dazzling Debuts***

Time: 9.00am-9.45am BST

Interview Panel: Alwyn Hamilton and Lauren James

Alwyn and Lauren take us through 'Rebel of the Sands' and 'The Next Together', their writing techniques and their experiences as debut authors.

### ***Growing up and Moving out***

Time: 10.00am-10.45am BST

Interview Panel: Alexia Casale and Keris Stainton

Alexia and Keris explore university and beyond (and the challenges their protagonists are faced with) in this discussion on coming-of-age YA.

### ***Tech in YA***

Time: 11.00am-11.45am BST

Interview Panel: Amy Alward and Keren David

Our panel discusses technology in their work and how this impacts on their stories and themes.

### ***Rude, Crude and Uncouth: The Shouldn'ts, Couldn'ts and Wouldn'ts of YA Lit***

Time: 12.00pm-12.45pm BST

Interview Panel: Jess Vallance, Manuela Salvi and Moira Fowley-Doyle

Our panel looks at taboo and censorship in YA.

### ***Ha ha ha: The Funny Side of YA***

Time: 1.00pm-1.45pm BST

Join us for a Twitter chat on humour in YA; why it's important and reading recommendations with special guest

### ***Keep your Friends Close***

Time: 4.00pm-4.45pm BST

Interview Panel: C. J. Skuse and M. G. Reyes

C. J. and M. G. discuss lies, betrayal and friendship in this nail-biter panel.

### ***The Effects of War***

Time: 5.00-5.45 BST

Interview panel: Brian Conaghan and Michael Grant

Our panel looks at war, the effects and the scars it leaves behind.

### ***What is Normal?***

Time: 6.00pm-6.45pm BST

Interview Panel: Eric Lindstrom, Louise Gornall and Siobhan Curham

Is there such a thing as 'normal'? And if so, what does it mean to be anything but 'normal'? Join our panel as they provide insight into an incredible deconstruction on the idea of 'normal'.

Do look out for the content on Twitter which can be followed using the #YATakeover hashtag.

## **New Award to Recognise Significant Contribution to Scottish Children's Literature**

Scottish Book Trust created of a brand new award intended to recognise and celebrate outstanding contributions to Scottish children's literature.

The Significant Contribution to Scottish Children's Literature Award, sponsored by Browns Books for Students, is a new honour that will be awarded annually to one author or illustrator and one learning professional who have had an inspiring impact on young readers in Scotland.

The author or illustrator will be an individual with a strong backlist, a long record of engaging with their audience and meaningful engagement within the writing community. The learning professional will be a teacher or librarian who is going above and beyond the call of duty to pass on the Reading

for Pleasure message to the next generation and who works tirelessly to inspire children and young people to read and write.

Nominations will open on 31st August 2016 and the winners will be chosen by an independent panel of experts and announced at an evening reception in June 2017.

Commenting on the award, Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said:

*It is a simple statement of fact that the projects Scottish Book Trust runs for children would simply not exist without the passion of the teachers and librarians who consistently exceed their remit by embracing each and every reading campaign, award, tour, event and challenge with infectious enthusiasm, who research and download interminable resources, who put on the silly voices, who leap about until their students are as inspired and as passionate about books as they themselves are.*

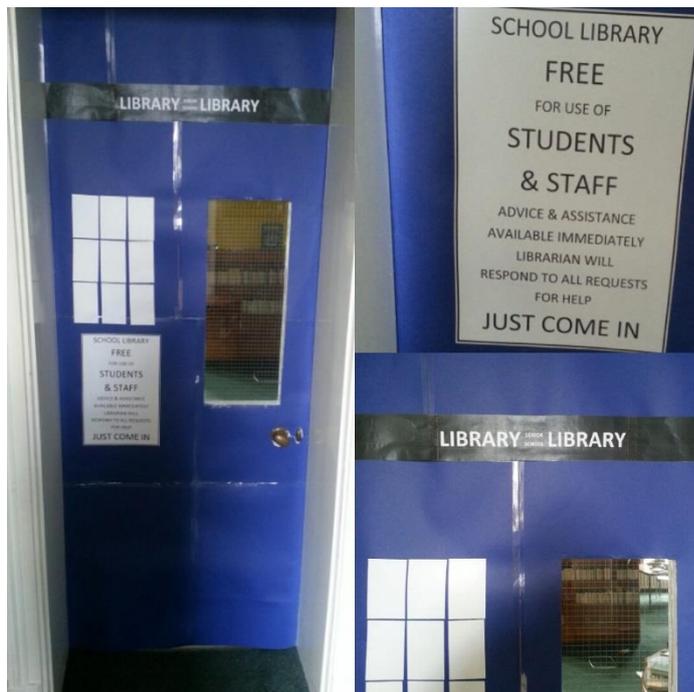
And, of course, there would be nothing to get the children excited about were it not for the outrageously talented and hardworking bunch of authors and illustrators that Scotland is lucky enough to lay claim to.

This award is intended to celebrate and recognise these people – the ones who bring the magic of books to children and set them on a path to being booklovers for life.

Nic Hales, Marketing Manager for Browns Books for Students added:

*We at Browns Books for Students are very pleased to be working in conjunction with Scottish Book Trust to highlight such an important award, not only to schools within Scotland but also the wider community. We are very excited to find out who the winner of the award will be!*

## The TARDIS Door



I know that I am not the first Librarian to turn their Library Door into a TARDIS but I wanted to say that I am extremely proud of how it has come out and wanted to share it with everyone (ok I admit there is an element of showing off as well).

If anyone reading this would like to share exquisite elements of their libraries please let me know and send a picture or two and I would love to feature them in Teen Librarian Monthly!

## Reminder: CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Nominations

Just a reminder that all books for children & young people published in the UK from the 1<sup>st</sup> September to the 31<sup>st</sup> August are eligible to be nominated for the CKG Medals, I have seen so many amazing books so please remember to keep an eye out for potential winners as you read!



**Meet 45 top children's and Young Adult authors at Newcastle City Library this September!**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September  
Bewick Hall  
Newcastle City Library  
10am – 5pm**

***Children's Authors & Illustrators  
(10am – 1pm)***

Niel Bushnell • Chris Callaghan • Simon P Clark • Sofi Croft • Bea Davenport • Lari Don • Jane Elson  
Martyn Ford • John Fulton • Sara Grant • Polly Ho-Yen • Gabrielle Kent • Sally Nicholls • Matt Ralphs  
James Nicol • Mike Revell • James de la Rue • Dan Smith • Thomas Taylor • Kerr Thomson  
Emma Trewayne • Harriet Whitehorn

***Young Adult Authors  
(2pm – 5pm)***

Lindsay Barraclough • Jane Brittan • Perdita & Honor Cargill • Kirkland Ciccone  
Katherine & Elizabeth Corr • Kerry Drewery • Liz Flanagan • Victoria Gemmell • Roy Gill • Sara Grant  
Martin Griffin • Donald Hounam • Leo Hunt • Patrice Lawrence • Olivia Levez • Rachael Lucas • Alex Nye  
Emma Pass • Ellen Pheathean • Paula Rawsthorne • Emma Trewayne • Sue Wallman • Sheena Wilkinson



**Morning or afternoon only - £3  
All day bundle - £5**

**Go to [t.co/VlnrS2Zp4R](http://t.co/VlnrS2Zp4R) to buy and for more information  
or call 0300 330 1095, extension 300**

## Reading Olympics

I have been racking my brains lately for a reading event for the new school year and then it hit me, the Reading Olympics!

It will be a mix of reading stories based on Olympic sports, endurance reading and reading books of different genres for the triathlon and decathlon

I only have a skeleton of an idea at the moment so will be using this post to flesh it out as I go along. If anyone has an idea they would like to suggest – either books for Olympic events or how to organise it please feel free to email me or comment on the website here:

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2016/08/08/the-reading-olympics/> Everyone who puts an idea forward will be credited!

### **Events:**

#### **Athletics:**

##### ***Reading 100 metres:***

this will consist of Barrington Stoke titles as well as A&CB Wired Up books and books from the Franklin Watts Edge collection

##### ***Reading 1500:***

The reader will have to complete a trilogy in a set amount of time

##### ***Hurdles:***

The reader will have to read a section of a newspaper every day for a week

##### ***Triathlon:***

The reader will have to read three books, each one has to be a different genre, e.g. Romance, Horror, Science Fiction  
the reader may change one book but any more changes will cause the reader to lose points

##### ***Decathlon:***

The reader will have to read 10 books, each one has to be from a different genre – a mix of fiction and non-fiction

##### ***Football:***

Zombie XI by Pete Kalu  
Death Match by Andy Croft  
The Foul Play series by Tom Palmer  
Girls FC by Helena Pielichaty  
Keeper Mal Peet

##### ***Archery:***

Longbow girl by Linda Davies  
Robin Hood

##### ***Equestrian Events:***

Heartland series by Lauren Brooke  
Horses of Half Moon ranch by Jenny Oldfield  
The Glory Lauren St John

# NATIONAL LIBRARIES MUSEUMS & GALLERIES DEMONSTRATION

## Saturday 5th November

**"I give  
my 100%  
support to this  
demonstration"**  
**JEREMY  
CORBYN**

Barnet  
**UNISON**

**pcs**  
Public and  
Commercial  
Services Union

**unite**  
the UNION

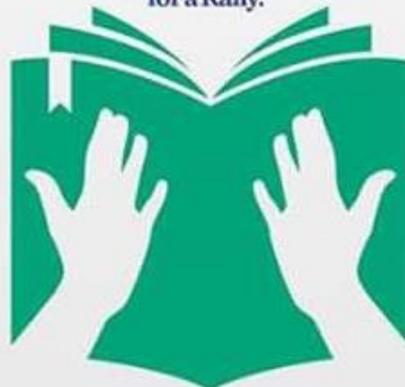
### **Assemble outside the British Library 12 noon**

More details on the route of the  
demonstration in September

**It's the demonstration every  
Library campaigner has been  
calling for and now it's on.  
The march will start from the  
iconic British Library and end  
outside the House of Commons  
for a Rally.**

"Libraries are the second most popular public service after the NHS. They offer education, inspiration and access to knowledge, the foundations of democracy. Sadly, they are under attack from government cuts as never before. It is time to stand up for libraries. Please support this demonstration."

● **ALAN GIBBONS**, Author, organiser of 'Campaign for the Book'



## Something Magical is Happening...

“I’ve got to go to the library!”

– Hermione Granger, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*



The British Library is excited to announce a new exhibition about the magic of Harry Potter, set to open at the Library in autumn 2017, and marking the twentieth anniversary of the publication of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*. The exhibition will open on 20 October 2017, and run until 28 February 2018.

From medieval descriptions of dragons and griffins, to the origins of the philosopher’s stone, the exhibition will take readers on a journey to the heart of the Harry Potter stories.

The exhibition will showcase an extraordinary range of wizarding books, manuscripts and objects, and combine centuries-old British Library treasures with original material from Bloomsbury’s and J.K. Rowling’s archives.

Jamie Andrews, Head of Culture and Learning at the British Library, said:

*We at the British Library are thrilled to be working with J.K. Rowling and with Bloomsbury to mark the twentieth anniversary of Harry Potter, and to inspire fans with the magic of our own British Library collections.*

More information about the exhibition will be released early in 2017, and tickets will be on sale from spring 2017 at [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

## Interview with Andy McNab



**Good afternoon Mr McNab, welcome to the Teen Librarian site and thank you for giving up your time to answer a few questions!**

Not a problem, I'm stuck at my desk doing the final edit to my new Nick Stone thriller, so this is a nice distraction!

**I have been a fan of your work since I read Brave Two Zero way back in 1995 but am really behind with the Nick Stone novels.**

Get reading then, you've got some catching up to do!

**Are any parts of *Street Soldier* based on your experiences prior to and after joining the army?**

Yes, quite a lot of this book is autobiographical, and as a result of that it's a book that feels very personal to me. Like Sean, the main character, I got in with the wrong crowd as a teenager in London, ended up in prison and from there got into the army. Like him, that experience changed my life.

**As an addendum to the previous question, are any of the characters based on people you know or knew?**

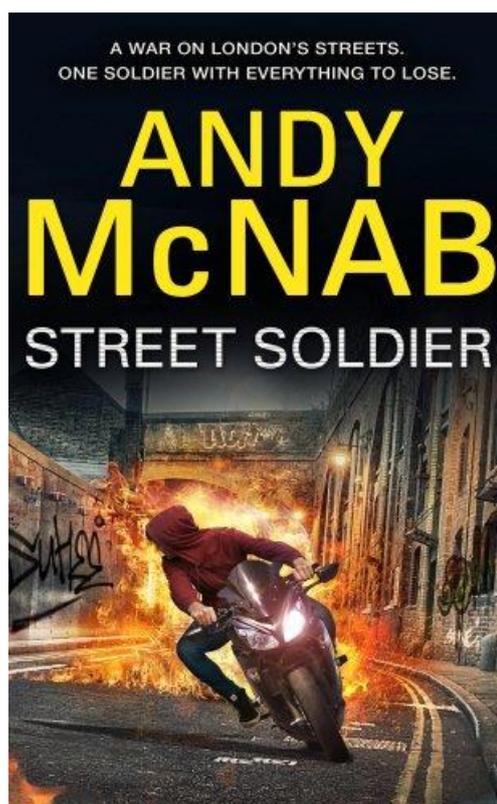
Well, Sean is based in part on me I guess, although only the good bits. I've used bits of people I served with in the army for some of those characters, and also a few old mates I remember from my days getting into trouble in Peckham have influenced the characters who made up Sean's 'family' of gang members before he got sent to prison.

**Without giving out spoilers, some of Sean's early decisions with his Corporal made me want to smack him upside the back of his head – are you aware of any such activities happening in the army?**

There's always going to be the danger of a few dodgy characters in any large group of similar people. The army is no different, they aren't all angels, and they don't all come from the easiest backgrounds, Sean included obviously. There is a big difference between wanting to make a few quid on the side and being part of something much worse, and the problem is that people might think they are doing the first of those things, when in fact they are involved in something much more dangerous, both to them and to others.

***Street Soldier* is the first book in a new series for teen readers, will it be a finite series or is it going to be open-ended?**

Depends whether people like it, and whether Sean has more stories to tell. I'm already working on a follow up



to this, so he isn't going anywhere quite yet, but beyond that, you'll have to wait and see.

**Will any characters from your other works cross paths with Sean or is his universe self-contained?**

That's a great idea, it's interesting to introduce characters where you don't expect them. I haven't done it yet from my adult books to the young adult ones, but if I do, I'll bung you a credit at the beginning.

**There were some threads left dangling at the end of *Street Soldier* can you drop any hints as to where will Sean end up next?**

It's a secret! If I told you I'd have to kill you. No, just joking, and it might all change, but all I can tell you at the moment is that he's continuing with his army career for the foreseeable future and that the army will take him to new and exotic locations.

**While reading the book I thought there were several similarities with the *Alex Rider* series by Anthony Horowitz and *CHERUB* by Robert Muchamore but with a more realistic protagonist and lack of slick secret agent techniques and glamour. Can you recommend other books for readers who have enjoyed *Street Soldier*?**

Yes, I hope my writing is more fact based and authentic than unrealistic spy stories. I've got nothing against those, they are all fantastic entertainment, but I guess that because of my background it wouldn't work for me. I have done the gritty stuff, but not so much of the James Bond cocktails and fast cars. My highlight was a Peugeot 205 turbo when I was serving in Northern Ireland. Not quite the same as an Aston is it.

**I am aware of your work with literacy charities, specifically Quick Reads and the Six Book Challenge, if you had one piece of advice on getting young people reading what would it be?**

It doesn't matter what you read, just get reading. If you don't like it, bin it and pick something else up. Reading really can change your life, it did for me. It gives you knowledge and knowledge gives you power to make decisions and do what you want with your life.

**I have heard that you sometimes visit schools and reading groups, if this is something you still do what is the best way to go about organising a visit?**

Yes, I feel really passionate about getting out there and encouraging young people, and less young people, to make the most of education and opportunities being offered to them. Best way to organise something is through my publicist Laura. Her email is [laura@laurasherlockpr.co.uk](mailto:laura@laurasherlockpr.co.uk). Bet she'll thank me for shouting her email address in an interview, ha!

**Lastly can you describe *Street Soldier* in six words or less to grab a potential reader's interest?**

Offender turned soldier, Sean Harker, must protect the streets of London from a terrorist threat. Ok, bit more than 6 words, sorry.

**Thank you again and all the best**

No problem, thank you for the questions!

STREET SOLDIER, PUBLISHED BY DOUBLEDAY, IS AVAILABLE NOW!