

## Editorial

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the year and that the summer is almost upon us!

This month we open with an inspirational article on setting up a Teen Area & Reading Group by Librarian Jenny Hawke.

Author Andy Robb of Geekhood fame is looking for some librarian assistance for an anti-bullying project he is working on with teen blogger Sophie Louise and author Siobhan Curham.

Darren Hartwell of Bookzone for Boys is running a literacy festival for young readers during the summer fair at his school; it is open to all and was a fantastic success last year.

The firm Neville Johnson is running a comic strip competition based on *Haunt* – the latest novel for teen readers by Curtis Jobling, and is open to all artists aged from eight to 18.

Have you ever dreamt of having Neil Gaiman read to your teen library group? Now using the miracle of modern technology (Youtube) you can!

There are some library camps coming up in the run up to summer.

The Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen has published a study on the impact school libraries have on learning and the Canadian Library Association has published its standards for School Library Learning Commons.

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## Setting up a Teen Area and Teenage Reading Group in Petts Wood Library

Jenny Hawke

In December 2013 we put into practice something I have wanted to do since I started working at Petts Wood five years ago. We created a new Teen Area on a shoestring! Before this there was no allocated space for teenagers, they had to sit in the children's area or sit at the back of the library where customers read the newspapers. Neither was really suitable.

When a policy decision was taken to withdraw CDs from the library, we took the opportunity to move the DVDs and a few bookcases to create a teenage area, with a second-hand sofa and a couple of bean bags.

My dream was to have as much stock as possible displayed face-on and this is what we did. Graphic novels, previously housed in a kinder box, now have a whole bay to themselves face on. Dyslexia-friendly books, which used to be in a small corner in the children's library, are now also prominently displayed face on. The books have been flying off the shelves since doing this.

In January 2014 my colleague Linda and I officially launched the Teen Area at the same time as starting a Teenage Reading Group (another thing I have wanted to do since starting at Petts Wood). Sam Hepburn, author of *Chasing the Dark* and Lydia Syson, author of *That Burning Summer* and *The World Between Us*, came along and cut the ribbon to officially launch the Teenage Area and to kickstart the Teenage Reading Group. We now have 12 teens who come on a regular basis to the sessions (11 girls and 1 boy). Since March we have been shadowing the Carnegie Medal. Charlotte Arthur, the London CKG judge, came to one meeting and talked about the shortlist and what life was like as a CKG judge. This was

a great session and the teens were all keen to read the shortlisted books. Although we don't have that many reviews on the Shadowing Site we have had some really interesting discussions about the titles. We played *Quingo* at one session (I was shown how to play this at the YLG Conference last year in Birmingham). However, it didn't quite work out and everyone ended up winning: luckily I had enough proof copies of books to give away as prizes! To date our favourite book has been *All the Truth That's in Me* by Julie Berry. At our next session we are going to have all different foods related to the shortlisted books (should be fun!)

As well as shadowing the Carnegie Medal we have been talking about what to put on a Teen Page of the Bromley Libraries website which is currently being set up. It is very useful to get ideas from the group themselves. We have also been reviewing new books from various publishers.

The Teen area itself is gradually being used by



teenagers at other times of the week and not just when the Teenage Reading Group meets. Both group and area have worked really well and I hope this continues for a very long time.

## Dear Bully

Andy Robb

Dear Bully came about after I'd written a post for @DayDreamWorld's Anti-Bullying Week, which I call The Coke Bottle Theory: <http://bit.ly/1qZkUvt>. It's something I talk about when I visit schools, as some of my experiences of being bullied have found their way into the *Geekhood* books.

### Turning an idea into something real

Sophie Louise, who runs the site, is incredibly passionate about the subject and plonked up my post, which was then read by the author, Siobhan Curham. She liked what I'd written which, given her authority in the world of Anti-Bullying, was a real honour. Anyhow, we ended up chatting online and bandying ideas around. Siobhan mentioned that she'd received plenty of emails from the victims of bullying, in the past, and I mentioned that it might be an idea to try and create a free e-book from them. One thing led to another and we decided that we'd end up trying to tap our author and showbiz chums, to lend the campaign some credence and to give readers an insight into how famous folk have overcome their bullies – maybe even used it to their advantage. The rest of the contributors, we decided, would remain anonymous. Bullies don't need an excuse to target anyone and we didn't want to provide them with anything close to one.

### The question of profit

The other thing we determined is that there should be no profit or cost attached. Not everyone can afford to buy an e-book and the thought of profiting from the misery of others wasn't even on the table; me, Sophie Louise and Siobhan have all suffered at the hands of

bullies – we've walked in those shoes and for someone to try and exploit them would just be plain wrong.

We're hoping to support the e-book with a Dear Bully tour once the wheels really start to turn and visit schools. In the meantime, Librarians, Teachers and anyone who sees the value in this can help by simply spreading the word. School newsletters, noticeboards, emails – whatever it takes to raise awareness and get people writing those oh-so-important letters.

### Bullies and their victims

As much as Dear Bully is about cathartic writing, it's also about learning to forgive. While forgiving bullies might seem hard, what can be even harder is learning to forgive yourself. Too many victims assume a responsibility for the actions of their tormentors and that's a feeling that can haunt you for the rest of your life, unless you start to deal with it.

Dear Bully might be idealistic, it might seem like a drop in the ocean – but I don't believe it's a waste of time. Fighting fire with fire only makes for a bigger fire. We're trying to undercut those flames with something more healing and soothing. If you'd like to get involved or know someone who it might help, then please contact me (@ThatAndyBloke) Sophie Louise (@DayDreamsWorld) or Siobhan (@SiobhanCurham) on Twitter, or follow this link:

<http://dearbullyletters.blogspot.co.uk/>

Thanks in advance!

## Young People's Literary Festival & Summer Fair

Darren Hartwell



After the success of last year's event, Charters School are delighted to be holding WoW 2014, our second young people's literary festival, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July. For the second year in a row we have an exciting line-up of authors of children's and young adult books:

### 12pm-1.00pm: Jane Elson

After performing as an actress and comedy improviser for many years, Jane fell into writing stories and plays. *A Room Full Of Chocolate* is her debut novel for readers of 8+ and she is currently working on her second novel, *Jump*, for readers of 9+. When she is not writing Jane spends her time running creative writing and comedy improvisation workshops for children with special

educational needs. She is also a guest practitioner at Soho Theatre's Writer's Lab.

### 1.30-2.30pm: Jim Smith

The *I Am (Not) A Loser* series is fast becoming a humour classic. Barry Loser has never minded his name...not until horrible Darren Darrenofski joins the school. Now he's completely ruining Barry's life and Barry is determined to prove that he's absolutely not a loser! These brilliant books from top talent Jim Smith are packed full of silly humour, quirky plots and doodles. *I Am Still Not a Loser* was awarded the Roald Dahl Funny Prize 2013 for ages 7-14.

### 3.00-4.00pm: Jeff Norton

Jeff Norton is an author and producer. He creates compelling characters, amazing stories, and immersive worlds for all ages, in all media. He is the author of the high-tech thriller *MetaWars* series from Orchard Books and the upcoming humour series *Memoirs Of a Neurotic Zombie* from Faber Children's. Through his production company, AWESOME, Jeff is also currently producing a pre-school television show, developing his first feature film as writer-director, and co-writing books with other talented authors.

For more details follow this link:

<http://bit.ly/1U4fJa>

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## Neville Johnson Comic Strip Competition

Have you ever dreamed about being invisible? Ever wondered what it would be like to go wherever you wanted and do whatever you wanted?

If you or an imaginary character were invisible, how would you use your superpower? Try to imagine what kinds of

scary, amazing and even humorous situations you might find yourself in...

Create a six panel comic strip of your adventure, using words and images to bring your character and his or her escapades to life. You don't have to be an artist, just make your comic strip unique, fun and exciting.

Entries for the Neville Johnson Comic Strip Competition will be judged by Curtis Jobling – whose latest book *Haunt* features an invisible character – and the winner will receive a professionally designed framed print of their comic strip.

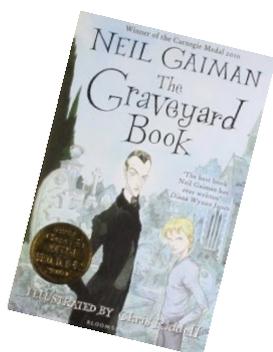
For more details and to find out how to enter go to [www.mcbf.org.uk](http://www.mcbf.org.uk) and click 'Get Involved', or [click here](#).

This competition and resource have been devised by the 'Walking in Their Shoes' Schools' Liaison team at Manchester Metropolitan University. See the [MMU Humanities Schools Liaison website](#) for details about the Comic Smart project (on which this competition is based) and to download resources on this and other projects.

- Entries welcome from anyone aged 8-16
- Deadline for final entries is 31/08/2014
- Winners will be announced end of September
- Download your comic strip template [here](#)

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## Have Neil Gaiman Read The Graveyard Book to your Teen Group



If you run a teen group in a library you can have Neil Gaiman himself read your teens *The Graveyard Book* over nine weeks or even nine days if they are keen.

With each chapter coming in at between 45 minutes to just over an hour they will fit in to most teen group sessions.

Return to the sprawling graveyard in this classic novel or discover Bod's boyhood adventures anew, read by master storyteller Neil Gaiman himself one chapter at a time.

[Watch his tour readings to hear the captivating book in its entirety](#)

If they cannot wait for a weekly fix of the greatness that is Gaiman you can push physical copies of *The Graveyard Book* into their hands (or any of his other amazing titles if they have already read it).

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## Upcoming Library Camps

Library Camp South East Saturday will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014 from 10:30 to 16:30 Canterbury, United Kingdom

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/library-camp-south-east-tickets-8502732903>

Library Camp SW 2014 will take place on Saturday, 5 July 2014 from 10:00am to 16:30 in Exeter

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/library-camp-sw-2014-tickets-10431961277>

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## Impact of School Libraries on Learning

A considerable body of international evidence shows that school libraries impact on:

Higher test or exam scores equating to academic attainment: this includes academic attainment in the form of higher standardised test scores in reading, language arts, history and maths, and better grades in curriculum assignments or exams;

Successful curriculum or learning outcomes, including information literacy: this includes

higher quality project work, the development and practice of information literacy, increased knowledge and reading development;

and

Positive attitudes towards learning: including increased motivation, improved attitude towards learning tasks, self-esteem, and wider reading for pleasure.

<http://bit.ly/1qcXfbc>

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## Standards of Practice for School Library Learning Commons in Canada

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) is pleased to announce the launch of its latest publication *Leading Learning: Standards of Practice for School Library Learning Commons in Canada* at the annual CLA National Conference and Trade Show in Victoria, BC, on Friday, May 30th, 2014. This publication presents a model for the development and implementation of the school library as a

library learning commons. It provides educators with a common set of standards of practice for moving forward. CLA President Marie DeYoung stated that the organization considers this publication as a “definitive learning support that is critical for all Canadian schools.”

<http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slic/lisop.pdf>

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*A man walks into a library and says,*

*‘Can I have a book by Shakespeare?’*

*‘Of course, sir,’ says the librarian.*

*‘Which one?’*

*The man replies, ‘William.’*

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