

Devon School Library Service News

Books'n'Blogs

Sue Willey, Librarian at **Sidmouth Community College** is delighted with the students' involvement with the **Books'n'Blogs** initiative.

This super display for **"Thrills & Chills"** was created by three students and attracted lots of attention. Sue reports that *Soul Surfer* by Bethany Hamilton has issued at least 11 times since the display went up.



This term's theme is **"Magic & Mystery"**, featuring four great titles:

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen by Alan Garner *Breathe: a ghost story* by Cliff McNish
Endymion Spring by Matthew Skelton *Shamanka* by Jeanne Willis

There won't be a new **Books'n'Blogs** theme for the summer term because everyone will be busy reading the **Carnegie** shortlist for our annual celebrations of this national award. Contact your local School Library Centre if you want to get involved.

How does a Library work?

Transition activities at Great Torrington Community School

Ruth Ward, Librarian at GTCS, has developed an effective programme of outreach to her future customers - the children in local primary schools who will become GTCS students:-

"I decided to do something positive about helping the Year 7 pupils who arrive in September and need some guidance in how a library works. I enlisted the help of the Head of Year 7 and accompanied him to the feeder schools to meet the students.

Visits start with an introduction, "I'm Mrs Ward and I love reading and I LOVE BOOKS!" This always gets a laugh! I get to know the children a little during the session giving information about what the school day will be like, learning opportunities, behaviour expectations, etc.

I make it a friendly and fun experience for the children, helping to put them at ease for their move to the larger school. They are always proud to show me their school library and tell me what they have enjoyed reading. When the children visit GTS, they are delighted that they recognise me.

continued overleaf

Supporting Learning in Schools

It has been really useful visiting our feeder schools and enthusing the new students about the benefits of using the library regularly. Of course, spending time chatting about books is a real treat in itself. Often the students just come to the library to tell me about the book they are reading and who they will recommend it to! I'm sure my primary school visits pave the way."

Well done, Ruth!

Kids' Lit Quiz the sport of reading

Masterminded by New Zealander **Wayne Mills**, the Kids' Lit Quiz is a major international celebration of books and reading, offering irresistible reading challenges, broadening awareness, hugely motivating for boys and providing bags of great fun! The national final takes place in December, with regional heats in November.

If you've wondered what all the fuss is about, or whether it's worth the hassle of getting a team together and transporting them to the regional final in darkest Cornwall (Wadebridge), read what two year 7 students from **South Molton Community College** think about taking part in last year's Quiz.



Students from South Molton Community College

"I enjoyed the journey to Cornwall - the scenery and being with everybody in the minibus. It was exciting trying to answer the questions - my favourite bit was when I got the tie-breaker right and our team won the book prizes for that round!

I would really like to go to the lit quiz again this year. It was fun being with lots of other people who like books. I have read *Storm Thief* and *Northern Lights* after hearing about them at the quiz and am reading some of the books on the Carnegie long list."

Beth Wardle, Year 7

"We were really surprised to finish in the top 10. I think that's because we worked as a team. We usually read different kinds of books - on our own we wouldn't have known so many answers! I had a great time - it was very friendly and competitive. I want to do it again this year and relive the experience."

Sam Webber, Year 7

And **Louise Burrows**, librarian at **Exmouth Community College** writes:

Great fun was had by all, with ECC coming fourth out of 39 teams, narrowly missing the third place by only two points. We have started revising for next year already!



*Students from Exmouth Community College
with Quizmaster Wayne Mills*

How it works

The Kids' Lit Quiz is for students aged 11 - 12 years. Teams of four students are asked to answer 100 questions on children's literature divided into ten categories, which vary each year. Teams work collaboratively to answer each question put to them by Quizmaster Wayne Mills. A school can enter up to two teams and students must be in either Year 7 or Year 8.

How to enter

The national co-ordinator is Eileen Armstrong and you can email her to receive an information pack containing pre-test questions, an entry form and other information relevant to the quiz. eileen@kidslitquiz.com There will also be information in various publications (*Times Ed*, *School Librarian*, etc) later in the year.

Check out the KLQ website <http://www.kidslitquiz.com>

If you want to talk to someone in a local school who has taken part, contact your School Library Adviser to find out who to get in touch with.

Go on ... get stuck in ... the students will have a great time - and so will you!

Post 14 Exhibition 2008 - online, anytime

This year's Post 14 exhibition of specially-selected titles to support GCSE & A level studies will be a virtual one, again with **Peters Bookselling Services**.

User-friendly **Petranet** profiled lists help to make stock selection an easy process and, as always, we've put a lot of effort into sourcing the best available titles.

We are sure schools will find this **online, anytime approach saves time, money and effort**.

Look out for more details before the end of term.

INSET from SLS

Lost in Cyberspace? *How to make your library the hub of the VLE*

Put yourself ahead of the game with this training workshop for librarians and teachers-in-charge at **Exeter Central Library** on **28th March**.

Guest tutors : **Alison McFarlane** (Head of ICT & Computing, Torquay Boys' Grammar School) and **Mark Peasley** (Reference & Information Librarian, Devon Library Services)

Show off with style! on **9th May** at **Clyst St. Mary Village Hall**

with the astonishing **Pauline Carr** of the Alternative Display Company. This is a very entertaining and hands-on-event: amaze yourself at how creative you can be with a bit of paper, a scrap of material and a staple gun!

Eclipse User Group meeting with **Andy O'Brien**, Managing Director of Micro Librarian Systems Ltd at **Exeter Racecourse** on **19th June**. This annual event is always a good opportunity to catch up on the latest developments and put in your requests for system improvements. Invitations will be sent out at the beginning of the Summer term.

To book a place on any of these events, **contact Lee Budd** on 01392 384311 or email lee.budd@devon.gov.uk or click into our website www.devonsls.org.uk

Recommended websites

www.spinebreakers.co.uk This recently-launched Penguin site for teens has had a lot of press publicity. Definitely worth a look for lots of ideas and information about books and authors.

Book reviews

Eoin Colfer *Artemis Fowl - the graphic novel*

12 year old Artemis is a brilliant criminal mastermind, but even he doesn't realise what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy in order to get hold of some gold - these fairies are armed and dangerous. This graphic adaptation of the award-winning original will be a hit with fans and will fly off the shelves!

for KS 3

Jimmy Docherty *The ice cream con*

When Jake Drake gets mugged twice in ten minutes, he comes up with a daring and complex plan to con the criminals on his estate. He starts a rumour about a new and mean gangster in town, Big Baresi, and it's not long before events start to spiral out of control.

This spoof gangster story rattles along at a cracking pace, with witty one-liners from the very likeable main character Jake. Really entertaining and great fun!

for KS 3

Jackie Kay *Red, cherry red*

Why not try something different? This collection of poems has the added bonus of a CD with the author reading her work. The poems are varied and evocative short works and some are sure to strike a chord, even if not all the poems grab you. I enjoyed the clever wordplay of *The nine lives of Cat Mandu* and particularly liked *Red running shoes* with the lines:

"I raced straight towards the future.

The past was left standing behind, waving."

for KS 3/4

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