

Teen Librarian

Monthly Newsletter

www.teenlibrarian.co.uk

Welcome to the October edition of Teen Librarian Monthly! As we move closer to the clocks changing to GMT with longer nights, colder mornings remember that longer evenings mean more time to read (at least that is what I tell myself, but with an almost one-year old daughter I know better).

Coming up in just under three weeks is the National Libraries Museums & galleries Demonstration, if you are within striking distance of London on the 5th November please do come in and march with us (Guy Fawkes masks optional), I am hoping to run some story-times with picture books about libraries so if anyone is interested de let me know, there will be a lot of us there!

The first article in this month's issue is by the bloke of Steel himself, Paul register and his journey from school librarian to educational speaker/trainer. If you don't know Paul – look him up as he really is worth knowing!

Second on the list is information on the fabulous YA Shot one day YA/MG Literary Festival coming up in Hillingdon this weekend.

Last Thursday (13th October) the House of Lords debated the role of Libraries and independent bookshops with many peers of the realm standing up for public libraries and bookshops, full details are on the parliament site.

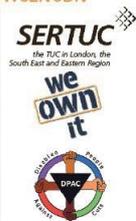
In Worcester, Telford and Cannock at the end of the month local teenagers will be taking over their local libraries for a day – it sounds amazing and is sure to be ground-breaking!

Lastly I have started compiling a list of British Black & Minority Ethnic authors for children and young people after the lily-white 20th anniversary list of books for World Book Day 2017 was released, it is still a work in progress so please feel free to suggest more authors

NATIONAL LIBRARIES MUSEUMS & GALLERIES DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 5th November

Assemble 12 noon: **British Library** 96 Euston Rd, London NW1 2DB
British Museum Great Russell St, London WC1B 3DG
National Gallery Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN



Are you interested in sharing successful projects that you have run in your Library?

Have you had a good idea for a Teen Library Group and think that people should know about it?

Would you like to share tips on working with young people in Libraries?



Then

Teen Librarian
Needs **YOU**

To submit ideas for future articles

To write articles to help your fellow colleagues on the Library front lines

To share examples of good practice in working with young people

To send in ideas and suggestions for future articles

Don't delay share **TODAY!**

The Long and Winding Road... of a Career in School Libraries

Paul Register

In the summer of 2015, I completed 15 years running school libraries.... and promptly went solo.

The first school I worked at was a very mixed (in terms of both ethnicity and social class) secondary school in Rotherham which, curiously, was also the school that our current education minister Justine Greening attended as a teenager. Whether that's to the school's credit or not is for you to decide! I spent eight years there and was very happy for most of the time but eventually moved on to a large secondary school in Sheffield that was unfortunately not very mixed at all (95% of the students were identified as "British white") but afforded me several opportunities to experiment with different approaches to librarianship. This eventually led to the creation of the Excelsior Award in 2011 (<http://www.excelsioraward.co.uk/>). After six years, and as the lack of a clear path of career progression became apparent to me, I decided to swap the comfort of my beautiful, air-conditioned library for a maternity cover post managing the library at a nearby Sixth Form College. This presented a chance to not only work with an age group I'd never worked with before (16-19) but to also hone my man-management skills as I would also be line-managing five other experienced library assistants. Obviously it was a temporary position but I learned so much and don't regret that decision one bit.

It was at some point during my time at my second school, probably as my *third* Headteacher explained to me why I was getting a *sixth* new line manager, that I realised that I wasn't going to achieve all I wanted to at that school. I'd been growing frustrated for a while and thought I could and should be doing more to promote literacy and inspire students than I was. I didn't get into school libraries just because I liked the smell of new books and stamping dates on things. I wanted to get more kids reading books. Simple as that really.

The Excelsior Award was growing in popularity and acclaim every year and was allowing me to develop a speciality that was getting me known as the "Go-To Guy" amongst school librarians when it came to graphic novels. Moving to the sixth form college for a year was both an opportunity to learn and to buy myself some time to plan my next big career move. After a couple of dead-ends I eventually found my new path – as a freelance Educational Speaker/Trainer! And thus, after a tongue-in-cheek rebrand, the **Bloke of Steel** was born!

I haven't even been doing this new job for a year yet but I've been loving the chance it's been giving me to redefine myself and to position myself as a sort of bridge between the worlds of education and of comics/graphic novels. It's also allowed me to see a lot more of my youngest child before he starts primary school next September and to travel all over this wonderful country of ours. When I was in my late teens I travelled all over England following Sheffield Wednesday. Being freelance has been a reminder of how educating those days of travel really were. Over the last year, I have worked as far north as Scotland and as far south as London. I've even been to Dublin for the first time. I love my hometown but travel really does broaden the mind.

So what do I do as the Bloke of Steel? Well, part of the role is still organising the Excelsior Award and Excelsior Award Junior but over the last year I have done presentations, talks and workshops at a variety of librarian conferences, meetings and schools. This is the sort of work I never considered doing at my first school and wasn't given the opportunity to do at my second school. Getting out there and working directly with children and with other librarians (I still feel like one myself, in my heart!) to make them feel comfortable with graphic novels is fantastic. And I want to do loads more of it.

If you want to know more about what I do, please visit my website <http://www.blokeofsteel.co.uk/> or drop an e-mail into my inbox via paulregister@blokeofsteel.co.uk



#yashot2016

YA Shot is a not-for-profit one-day literary festival involving around 70 top Young Adult and Middle Grade authors in a programme of 35 workshop, in-conversation and panel events in the centre of Uxbridge. The event is run in partnership with Hillingdon Council & Hillingdon Borough Libraries, Waterstones Uxbridge and is supported by an Arts Council Grant.

From Adventure to Historical Fiction, Fantasy to Crime, and Comedy to Sci-Fi there are events for readers of all interests, including panels on friendship, poverty, feminism in fantasy novels, the role of music in young people's lives, and the impact of being a teen in the digital age, as well as workshops on intersectional feminism, fantasy world-building, and strong opening chapters. There are also 7 fantastic workshops from top book-vloggers and bloggers. This year's authors include

Tanya Landman (Carnegie Medal winner), Michelle Harrison (Waterstones Children's Book Prize winner) and several authors shortlisted for the YA Book Prize (including Holly Bourne, Melinda Salisbury and Catherine Johnson), as well as many other bestselling, award-winning and critically claimed authors such as Alexia Casale, Holly Smale, Jenny McLachlan, Jenny Downham and Samantha Shannon.

The money raised from ticket sales supports a year-long Libraries-Schools Programme of up to 35 free author visits to 1-3 different library systems each year. The chosen library systems distribute the events across their libraries, which then invite in local schools (with priority going to disadvantaged schools) to enjoy the opportunity to meet a fantastic author in order to inspire a love of reading, a passion for creative writing and aspirations to a career in the Arts.

The evidence about the importance of author visits is incredibly compelling: a major survey by the Society of Authors recently showed that they have a profound and lasting impact on all areas of educational achievement and development, as well as empathy, social skills and social engagement. All pupils in schools that organised a visit were positively engaged including (and particularly) reluctant readers and those with Special Educational Needs. However, with cuts to library funding in schools and the public sector, author visits are a luxury that only some can afford – but often it's those schools and students most in need who don't have access. We want to help fill this gap and provide young people with the opportunity to experience a huge book event – but locally and affordably. And for those who aren't local, we are rolling out the Libraries-Schools Programme nationally to help support libraries across the UK in the face of the swinging cuts damaging their capacity to cater for schools and young people.

All-day tickets are £20 for an adult, £15 concession (including students and under 18s; minimum age 7, under 12s must be accompanied). Tickets are available direct from our website: www.yashot.co.uk. There are no booking, postage or other fees.

<http://www.yashot.co.uk/>

Lords debates role of libraries and independent bookshops

Members of the Lords, including the chair of Penguin Random House UK, the executive chair of Books Beyond Words and the president of the British Dyslexia Association, debated the cultural, civic and educational significance in the UK of local libraries and independent bookshops, in the House of Lords on Thursday 13 October.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2016/october/lords-debates-role-of-libraries-and-independent-bookshops/>

Teen Takeover of Local Libraries

On 29 October 2016, over the course of 9 hours, teenagers in Worcester, Telford and Cannock will be taking control of their local libraries, and performing live to a worldwide audience. Through a unique project supported by Arts Connect and ASCEL West Midlands, the group have been working with award-winning artists Blast Theory and author Tony White to re-imagine libraries, storytelling and their place in the world. This work will come to life in an ambitious and fun 9-hour takeover of the three libraries, starting in Telford (3pm – 6pm), then Cannock (6pm – 9pm) and ending in Worcester (9pm – midnight).

The young people involved have been invited to reimagine the role of libraries as cultural centres and explore the power of storytelling. The stories that have been developed from the workshops will be told in three consecutive performances which will be streamed live on <http://aplacefreeofjudgement.co.uk> from 3pm – midnight Saturday 29 October 2016. This ground breaking project forges a new approach to collaborative arts engagement between artists, teenagers, audiences and local authorities.

The role of libraries is under scrutiny and this project shows how they are evolving: taking risks to inspire visitors to think differently about the world around them.

Ju Row Farr, artist with Blast Theory explains: They have driven stories in challenging directions. They are hilarious one minute and moving the next. The teenagers stake out the power of books, stories and libraries in our lives.

Author Tony White comments: It has been an incredible privilege to work with really inspiring and creative young people in Cannock, Telford, Worcester, and beyond, and I've learned a huge amount from all involved. When so many libraries are closing and under threat, I'm glad to have seen again first-hand the vital role that libraries and librarians play for young people today, and to have been reminded of just how important my local library was to me when I was their age. With A Place Free of Judgement, I feel that we are giving something back, and I hope people enjoy it.

The project is being delivered by a partnership of six library services as part of the ASCEL national membership network. Blast Theory and author Tony White have been in residence in three libraries, one in each local authority area of Staffordshire's Cannock Library, Telford & Wrekin's Southwater One and Worcestershire's St John's Library. In addition, library services in Solihull, Dudley and Shropshire are working with groups of young people to take part in the project online.

How to Take Part

On Saturday 29 October, between 3pm and midnight, anyone can log in to interact with the young people streaming live online at <http://aplacefreeofjudgement.co.uk>. Unfolding over three consecutive events at libraries, the teenagers will talk to you about personal stories and strange ideas and what they mean to both of you. Together you will make up stories and hide them in amongst the books. And, as the evening builds, a new story by acclaimed author Tony White comes to life with a reading every hour.

Visitors are invited to come and hear the readings in person on Saturday 29 October:

- 3.30pm Telford Southwater Library (TF3 4JG)
- 6.30pm Cannock Library (WS11 1AA)
- 9.30pm Worcester, St John's Library (WR2 5AX)

Visit <http://aplacefreeofjudgement.co.uk> to book your place.

The finished book will be published later in the year. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact Ju Row Farr – ju@blasttheory.co.uk 01273413455

An Incomplete list of BAME Authors for Children & Young People

When the list of books for the 20th anniversary of World Book Day in 2017 was released last week it was notable for being lily-white. I was surprised that a day purporting to celebrate books across the world was limited to authors that are from a small part of it and decided to take a look at British authors for children and young people in the UK that have a BAME (Black, Asian, and minority ethnic) heritage. So with help from friends and colleagues on twitter and facebook I started compiling a list, so far I have these fantastic authors:

- Sophia Acheampong
- John Agard
- Sufiya Ahmed
- Atinuke
- Floella Benjamin
- Malorie Blackman
- Sita Bramichari
- Tanya Byrne
- Sarwat Chadda
- Joseph Coelho
- Ellie Daines
- Narinder Dhani
- Jamila Gavin
- Rohan Gavin
- Candy Gourlay
- Swapna Haddow
- Yasmeen Ismail
- Catherine Johnson
- Savita Kalhan
- Peter Kalu
- Patrice Lawrence
- Sangu Mandanna
- Irfan Master
- Taran Matharu
- Stefan Mohamed
- Wilf Morgan
- Millie Murray
- Grace Nichols
- Sam Osman
- Anna Perera
- Smriti Prasad-Halls
- Bali Rai
- Leila Rasheed
- Jasmine Richards
- Na'ima B Robert
- SF Said
- Nadia Shireen
- Nikesh Shukla
- Chitra Soundar
- Tabitha Suzuma
- Meera Syal
- Alex Wheatle
- Verna Wilkins
- Ken Wilson-Max
- Benjamin Zephaniah

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2016/09/19/an-incomplete-list-of-british-bame-authors-for-children-young-people/>