



West Midlands AGM June 2018

- **AGM June 13th**

- Thanks were expressed to Princethorpe College for hosting the AGM.
- Apologies were received from members
- Minutes of the last meeting were recorded as accurate
- Reports from the Chair were circulated at the meeting. This mostly consisted of the training days hosted in the region of the national SLA course at Kidderminster in June 2017 on Reading for Pleasure and in March 2018 at the Hive on running a primary school library, both of which we well attended.
- Warwickshire Schools' Library Service had also hosted Teaching skills for school librarians in June 2018. Plus Staffordshire branch host training which is advertised nationally and is local to the West Midlands.
- A report on finance was read out by the Treasurer.
- Committee was approved. New members are welcome.

- **Booktrust School Pack**

- Booktrust then skyped us to talk about the School Pack. Jennifer Albone, acting Head of Programmes and Lisa. Publishers suggest titles for submission which they think meet the criteria. These are checked by BT before being put in front of a panel. Books need to have been published within the last 3 years. The panel consists of people who work with the age group the School Pack is intended for. Although it does not include young people, the panel are encouraged to share them with young people. They are asked if each book has sufficient depth for discussion. Will it appeal to reluctant readers? A wide audience?

A full day of discussions around all the books follows before the chosen books are decided.

Publishers then reprint the books with the BT logo.

One school uses these books for book clubs as otherwise they would struggle to provide multiple copies. They are useful for raising achievement pupils. A Y9 group with additional learning needs like the small structured group.

Discussion prompts for the books are provided.

If any school librarian (or teacher) is keen to join the panel, please do contact Booktrust.

- **Training**

- Booktrust R4P events have been a useful network to attend.
- Difficulty getting out of school was cited as a reason for not attending training or meetings. It was suggested that we could offer short sessions on specific areas of interest.
- The South Birmingham network recently held a positive meeting with a good turnout - with many staff new in post, so eager to pick up tips.
- An online course was recommended - the University of Basle digital readers - how reading digitally affects the brain.
- BCU hold librarians meetings with good support for EPQ.
- SLA weekend conference held annually every June. Certainly worthwhile attending if your school will pay for CDP. (This was a great conference – look on SLA website for more details <https://www.sla.org.uk/weekend-course.php>)
- Future training in central Bham will be advertised shortly on SLA website.

- **AOB**

- Discussion on LMS as some schools were changing.
- One school has noted that they provide more help for curriculum support than for Reading for Pleasure because of the pressure on students to do well. CKG is just about the only reading group now attended.



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