

info@SLA

www.sla.org.uk

autumn 2018

the newsletter of the School Library Association



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The start of a new academic year can mean many emotions – anticipation; excitement; reluctance and trepidation for what this year will bring will inhabit many members at varying levels, but the SLA will be there to support and, hopefully, inspire you. We aim to provide you with brilliant examples of what library staff are doing across the globe, so that you can be enthused and use it as a way of motivating some of the staff around you as well.

Inside you'll find a brief review of the Member Survey (more detail can be found on the website) and one of the quotes from the survey that has stuck with me was someone saying that they felt lonely and dispirited. Unfortunately, I think there will be more than a few members who recognise that feeling.

Many of the conversations that are happening are ones of consolation, and a recognition that the sector is in tough times. This is important, but it is equally important that we focus on the things we are doing – the difference you are making. As an advocating body we need success stories – whether that's through the Awards, or through Tweets or emails – so that we can highlight these and bring them to the attention of decision makers at all levels. One English teacher inspired to use their school library could make a significant difference to a colleague; one Head of Year convinced to allow an assembly on Information Literacy; one government official; one MP; one councillor. It's not that we don't see the challenges, or that we're not actively trying to change them, but as an organisation we need to advocate, share best practice and inspire change.

At the end of the day, it's individual pupils that count – the individual pupils who add to their vocabulary because of a discussion you've had with them, read a book you suggested, avoided a dubious website. I know of colleagues in school libraries who have a happy email folder – somewhere where they store thank you emails; some colleagues have a Success List whiteboard – a list somewhere of the good things – a child who behaved, a conversation had, a lesson that went well. I recommend creating these – it's good for your well-being, it's good for your reports at the end of the year, but most importantly it's important you recognise and appreciate your successes.

Try and make time for the positives at meetings with colleagues as well. It's valuable to vent and console and support, but it's important to focus on achievements too. What's gone well recently? What (small) victory have you had? Share it with your colleagues and share it with us. We will use those achievements to empower others and allow them to build on it – we are a symbiotic organisation. And through continued advocacy and promotion we will fight to make that success easier for others to achieve.

Meanwhile – do keep the invitations to visit coming – I want to have been to all branches by this time next year!

Alison Tarrant



TAKE PART – INFORMATION BOOK AWARD

Children's Choice Award – Each year we give a 'Children's Choice Award' to the IBA book in each category that gets the most votes from classes and book groups. There is also a Children's Choice Winner Overall. This is a great way to inject some extra excitement and anticipation into information books. There are suggested activities and IBA top trumps to help your group or class decide which book deserves to win: www.sla.org.uk/information-book-award.php

Tickets – There will be a quantity of Librarian tickets available for the SLA's Information Book Award Celebration on Wednesday 7 November at 6.00pm at the Rooftop Café of Carmelite House, 50 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DZ. The tickets will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis, so check your diaries and email info@sla.org.uk if you want to attend. Formal invitations will be sent nearer the date. Remember – get your request for a ticket in early – limited numbers available!

This year's **poster** is enclosed and is also available to download: www.sla.org.uk/iba



Win!

Win a set of posters for your library!

Brighten up your library walls for the new school year with a set of four fab posters from Hachette Children's Group. Included in the pack are posters for gripping teen and YA trilogies *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo and *The Darkest Minds* (now a major motion picture), plus inspiring information books *Wonders of the World's Museums* and *This Book is Not Rubbish*.



We've got 30 sets to giveaway, to enter simply email education@hachettechildrens.co.uk. The first 30 people will receive a poster pack.

Library Funding

Match Funding now extended to Secondary Schools

Last year's hugely popular nationwide initiative – which saw over £3 million worth of books distributed to children – is being rolled out again, and this time secondary schools are also eligible!



The Match Funding scheme from BookLife offers a wealth of fiction and non-fiction reading material for children of all ages and abilities, including bookbanded collections, accelerated readers and well-known author sets.

For every pound a school spends with BookLife, they will receive another pound for free to spend on even more school books and resources.

The Match Funding scheme is open to all UK schools, large or small, and has no minimum or maximum limits and no cap on the amount of orders any one school can place. To find out more about Match Funding, go to www.booklife.co.uk or telephone 020 7649 9565.

Campaign

The School Library Association and CILIP School Libraries Group have launched a three-year campaign to raise awareness about what **Great School Libraries** can achieve.



The campaign has the support of many literacy organisations and individuals including the National Literacy Trust, BookTrust and The Reading Agency as well as Lord John Bird and Lord David Blunkett.

Because of the strength of research showing that school libraries improve outcomes, the Campaign's vision is that 'Every child deserves a great school library' and has three main aims as well as aiming to initiate meaningful conversation about the impact of school libraries over the next few years.

More information is available at:

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreatSchoolLibraries>

Otherworld Giveaway

Welcome to real life 2.0. Are you ready to play? There are no screens. There are no controls. You don't just see and hear it – you taste, smell, and touch it too. In this new reality there are no rules to follow, no laws to break. You can live your best life. It's a virtual-reality game so addictive you'll never want it to end. Until you realise that you're the one being played. Step into *Otherworld*. Leave your body behind. The frightening future that Jason Segel and Kirsten Miller have imagined is not far away. *Otherworld* asks the question we'll all soon be asking: if technology can deliver everything we want, how much are we willing to pay?



Rock the Boat, the UK publishers of *Otherworld*, are offering 100 libraries materials from the book (a poster, postcard and bookmark). To request your pack, please email competitions@oneworld-publications.com with your mailing address.

MLS Update

Using Reading Cloud, Eclipse or Junior Librarian in your school library?

Coming soon - new flexible library system packages where the choice is yours...



Using Reading Cloud, Eclipse or Junior Librarian in your school library?

Coming Soon – New Flexible Library System Packages where the choice is yours

MLS are always exploring ways of expanding our library system product range as we appreciate that one size does not fit all and that every school library will have unique needs that can be subject to change.

Customer feedback from school library staff continually plays an important and valuable role in shaping the future development of our library systems. We have listened carefully to you, giving us the inspiration to look at new and innovative ways of offering our schools customers more of a tailor-made range of product options, tools and features. All our systems will always include the core elements for managing school libraries, but this new approach will enable schools customers to make their system choices based upon service and budget requirements, with room to add tools and features as their school library develops and grows.

We are delighted to be able to let you know that very soon there will be a suite of flexible system packages for primary and secondary schools which will be unveiled this Autumn. For more information and to discuss how this new range could support your present and future school library requirements, please contact us by email: info.mls@capita.co.uk

Content provided as part of corporate sponsorship.

Member Benefits

A wide range of benefits to enhance your membership are available from our Partners. Further details at www.sla.org.uk/member-benefit-offers

AMAZING!

SLA members receive 10% discount. To subscribe visit at <https://amazing.org.uk/> and type in the 'Library10' code when you checkout your order.



An extra 10% off for SLA Members. Place your order at www.dltmagazines.co.uk and enter promo code 'SLA10'. Alternatively email matthew.bushnell@dltmedia.co.uk.



SLA members receive 10% discount on all European books bought through the European Bookshop website. To receive the SLA discount select 'School Library Association' on the Partners page at www.europeanbookshop.com



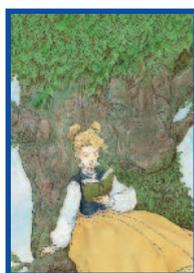
SLA members receive 10% off items from The Literary Gift Company when they enter voucher code: 'SLADIS10' at <https://www.theliterarygiftcompany.com/>

Watch out for news about more upcoming offers from our Partners.

Cover Artwork

by Chris Riddell

We are extremely grateful again to our President for providing our wonderful cover for *The School Librarian*. Chris Riddell is keen that the original of each of the illustrations used for the cover then finds a home in a member's school library. To be entered for a chance to win Chris's original artwork please send an email to alison.tarrant@sla.org.uk with a subject line 'School Librarian Covers' giving your name and address details – we will put all the entries into a hat and draw out one winner at the end of October. Good luck everyone!

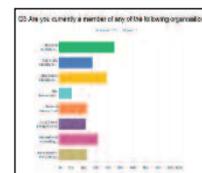


The **winner** of the draw for the Summer 2018 artwork was Lesley Kirkup, Assistant Librarian at Claires Court School in Maidenhead – a very special parcel is on its way!

SLA Survey Results

A report from the Chief Executive

The recent membership survey we conducted opened in April, and we were pleased to have nearly 760 responses. This report will show some of the highlights, and hopefully give you some insight into the things we are working on.



Our respondents reported that they most used articles in "The School Librarian", but surprisingly were least using our support and advice service.

"Aware of but don't use: Phone and email support"

So just to clarify. You can use the phone and email support for anything – from policy queries to when you're having a bad day and you just need to vent. Someone commented "I am tired, dispirited and need some support – this is a lonely and demanding job at times" and I think most of us can empathise with those comments, but if this is how you are feeling, pick up the phone and call us; you are not alone.

Website improvements

We also received a lot of feedback about the website, which is a high priority area we are currently working on – the new website will (hopefully) be launched by the end of 2018. Some suggestions of things respondents wanted from the new website included: a member directory, more online courses and making the resources easier to navigate – all of which are things we are discussing in-house.

Branches

The lack of branches in some areas was a cause for concern in the survey, and we are currently having discussions in the office and trying to come up with plans for how we can best support those in areas without a branch. We are hopeful the opportunities presented by the new website may be able to help with this as well.

Benefits for Members

62% of respondents said they weren't aware of the extra benefits of SLA membership, or didn't know if they knew about them. So do take a look at our website (<https://www.sla.org.uk/member-benefit-offers.php>) and at the round-up opposite, showing all our partnership offers so you can make sure you are using your membership to its full potential.

These are things I will continue to work on, and we will announce them on the website and in info@ when they can be released.

I will report back on further findings from the SLA survey in the next issue.

Poster Offer

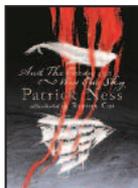
AND THE OCEAN WAS OUR SKY

The stunning new novel from Patrick Ness

"Mind-bendingly brilliant and fearlessly strange."
—Frances Hardinge

The whales of Bathsheba's pod live for the hunt. Led by the formidable Captain Alexandra, they fight a never-ending war against men. Then the whales attack a man ship, and instead of easy prey they find the trail of a myth, a monster, perhaps the devil himself... With their relentless Captain leading the chase, they embark on the final hunt, one that will forever change the worlds of whales and men.

From the multi-award-winning author of *A Monster Calls*, with gorgeous artwork from Rovina Cai, comes a haunting tale of power and obsession that turns the story of *Moby Dick* upside down. For your free poster of *And the Ocean Was Our Sky*, simply email: jo.humphreys-davies@walker.co.uk



Library Staff Days

SLA LIBRARY STAFF DAYS 2018

Watch out for more information about our upcoming Library Staff Day this Autumn in Wiltshire, to be held on the theme of 'reading for pleasure'. Another event is being scheduled to take place at Heath Books in Surrey.

If you would like to receive further information about these events, please email SLA HQ on info@sla.org.uk. Updated information will also appear at www.sla.org.uk/members-day



Charity Calendar

Peter Sheldon has again been working with illustrator friends, at their request, to produce a 2019 calendar for charity. Clare and Michael Morpurgo's Farms for City Children is the chosen charity, so if you would like to support the venture and buy in to the project please contact distributor, Anne Marley anne.marley@tiscali.co.uk quoting the code SLA and Anne will be pleased to collect monies and arrange for copies to be supplied. Packed with the work of talented children's illustrators, The Friends Calendar costs £7.95 each, which includes post and packaging, and could be perfect for that elusive Christmas present.



School Library Association

SLA People

The following officers of the Association were confirmed at the SLA's Annual General Meeting held in Glasgow on 24 June 2018.

CHAIR: **Lesley Martin**
VICE CHAIR: **Sue Bastone**
TREASURER: **Dawn Woods**
PAST CHAIR: **Annike Dase**

The AGM also saw the confirmation of five appointments to the Board of Trustees (Executive Committee) for 2018–2021: **Agnès Guyon, Joan Kelly, Stephen King, Ellen Krajewski** and **Lucas Maxwell**.

We are very grateful to our retiring Board members, **Jodie Brooks** and our Past Chair **Karen Horsfield**, for all their help and commitment to the Association.

We are also sorry to say goodbye to our Administrative Assistant Naomi Moth.

SLA Groups

Is there an informal group in your area?

If you're a member of an informal group in an area where there's not a branch could you ask the person heading it up to get in touch? We often get requests from new members in areas without a branch about who they should get in contact with, and it would be great to be able to give them a friendly face to get in touch with. If the person in charge of the group could email info@sla.org.uk with the area they are in, we can go from there.

Libraries Week

MY TIME. MY SPACE. MY LIBRARY.

With a wellbeing theme, Libraries 2018 will celebrate everything that libraries do to:

- Bring people and communities together
- Combat loneliness and isolation
- Provide a space for reading and creativity
- Support people with mental health issues.

Libraries Week runs from 8–13 October 2018 across the UK For more information, see www.librariesweek.org.uk/

SLA is again teaming up with Walker Books to offer you some exciting new posters downloads – details will be released on our website soon.

Libraries
Week

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