

info@SLA

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summer 2018

the newsletter of the School Library Association



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

It is lovely to be writing and saying hello for the first time. I am thoroughly enjoying working at the SLA, and there has been much happening over my first few months – and there's lots in the pipeline!

Firstly – the Awards! These are just one element in a hugely important part of what we do, but the Awards create positive, uplifting stories that try and counteract all the negativity about the 'current state of school libraries'. I'm not saying we shouldn't be realistic about the negatives, but the positive stories help highlight what lacks in schools without a library.

We announced the shortlist of the IBA in early May, and what a shortlist it is! I have found this such a good thing to get involved in, and when I was a school librarian it was a great activity for either the 'run down' to summer, or for post-inductions. The books create passion, and debate and noise (if allowed) and reading information books and thinking critically about them is very beneficial for pupils. Watch out for news about resources and the 'Children's Choice' judging for schools to participate in.

The School Librarian of the Year Award is underway, with longlisted librarians waiting for visits to their schools, and then the outcome. We will share this news as soon as we can...

Planning is underway for the Inspiration Award, and nominations will open in the Autumn, so perhaps as you look around you at the end of a busy term, this is the time to think about how your environment has helped you achieve some of the things that you have.

One of my first events as Director was to attend the Pupil Library Assistant Award Ceremony, and what a lovely, heart-warming occasion it was. It made me more determined than ever to try and convey the importance of school libraries and the impact they can have on pupils. If you haven't read the letters the Shortlisted Pupil Library Assistants wrote to the Prime Minister then do have a look – incredibly powerful pieces of writing (<https://tinyurl.com/ycv6bpwe>).

A visit to Glasgow to finalise arrangements for the Weekend Course was brilliant, and really helped me understand how events will flow, and they were not lying when they called it the Grand Central – it is both of these things! The spaces are lovely, and will allow us to network and learn in comfort and I am so pleased that so many of you are able to join us.

There are many, many things going on, and I am having productive conversations with lots of people, and I am delighted to start my time as Director by announcing two new member benefits. SLA members will now receive 10% off at the Literary Gift Company, and when purchasing magazine subscriptions through DLT Media. More information about both of these are available inside.

With all the best for the remaining school year,

Alison Tarrant



Alison Tarrant

Chris Riddell cover

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 July. Good luck everyone!

The **winner** of the draw for the Spring 2018 artwork is Mrs Stacy Frith, Librarian at Saint Martin's Catholic Academy near Nuneaton, Leicestershire – a very special parcel is on its way!



Book Offer

A Beginner's Guide to Being Mental

A comprehensive guide to mental health from one of the UK's foremost experts

by **Natasha Devon**

(Macmillan, ISBN 9781509882229)

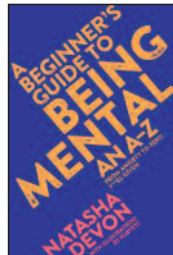
'Am I normal?'

'What's an anxiety disorder?'

'Does therapy work?'

These are just a few of the questions Natasha Devon is asked as she travels the UK campaigning for better mental health awareness and provision. Here, Natasha calls upon experts in the fields of psychology, neuroscience and anthropology to debunk and demystify the full spectrum of mental health. From A (Anxiety) to Z (Zero F**ks Given – or the art of having high self-esteem) via everything from body image and gender to differentiating 'sadness' from 'depression'.

Statistically, one in three of us will experience symptoms of a mental illness during our lifetimes. Yet all of us have a brain, and so we ALL have mental health – regardless of age, sexuality, race or background. The past few years have seen an explosion in awareness, yet it seems there is still widespread confusion. *A Beginner's Guide to Being Mental* is for anyone who wants to have this essential conversation, written as only Natasha – with her combination of expertise, personal experience and humour – knows how. For a chance to win one of 20 copies please email info@sla.org.uk with 'A Beginner's Guide' in the subject line. Winners will be selected at random at the end of June.



Member Benefits

Literary Gift Company

We are very excited that SLA members will now receive 10% off items from The Literary Gift Company when they enter voucher code: SLADIS10.

There is a range of products on their website for homes, librarians, library helpers and libraries, so make the most of it. Their website can be found here:

<https://www.theliterarygiftcompany.com/>



DLT Media

A magazine solution for your school library.

Magazines are a great way to encourage reading for enjoyment and a valuable information resource for



students. By ordering through DLT Magazines you'll be saving your school hundreds of pounds every year with permanent discounts of up to 70% off cover prices. Your magazines are delivered every month by a secure carrier in one easy to manage pack and their flexible subscriptions means you can change your titles as often as you like all for the same fixed monthly price.

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

CrimeFest

Do you have a Crime Club? Know of some students who love their mysteries? Are you unable to buy enough books for your school library?

CrimeFest is a convention that runs in Bristol each year, and they run Awards for the best Crime fiction for 8-12 year olds and 12-16 year olds. CrimeFest are keen to give away sets of nominated books to schools who struggle with their book budget. There are 14 sets of books available to win (either last year's or this year's nominated titles). Each school that receives a set of books can then send five or more reviews of the books to CrimeFest and the best review from each school will win a £10 book voucher.

In order to enter to receive a set of books please email alison.tarrant@sla.org.uk with the subject line "CrimeFest Books". Within the body of the email please confirm that your school library budget is less than £3,000 and the age range you wish to enter for. You can say both, but you will only receive one set of books per school.

This is a great opportunity to get your students reviewing and gain some books for your library.

SLA AGM

Just a reminder that the **Annual General Meeting** of the School Library Association will be held at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow on Sunday 24 June 2018. The AGM will include confirmation of the five members nominated for the five vacant places on the Board (Executive Committee) for 2018-2021. The SLA's Annual Report and Accounts for 2017-18 will be distributed via the SLA website at www.sla.org.uk/about-the-sla.

Match Funding

£3 million Book Giveaway to all UK primary schools

Are you struggling to find the resources to improve your school library? One of the country's leading educational suppliers, BookLife, has set up a new scheme to support school libraries and help primary schools improve their literacy skills.

BookLife's Match Funding scheme offers a huge range of reading material for children of all ages and abilities. They have allocated £3 million to give away to schools, sourcing books from all the major publishers. BookLife has over 3,000 fiction and non-fiction products in their Match Funding catalogue which covers all curriculum requirements, including Bookbands, Accelerated Readers, Guided reading, phonics and more.



Why are BookLife helping?



The company analysed the spending trends of 750 UK primary schools. They've found that 20% of schools weren't spending any money on replenishing books for children. They also found that 50% of schools spent less than 25% of their recommended budget for replacing books. Currently, only 61% of children will reach expected reading levels by the end of Key Stage 2. Is there a correlation between schools not replacing book resources and the slump in reading abilities? BookLife believes this to be the case, and after witnessing so many primary schools struggling due to insufficient funding, knew they had to help. Their scheme allows schools to double on book resources, so for every pound a school spends with BookLife, they will receive another pound for free to spend on more school books and resources of their choice.

Currently, BookLife has given away over £2.5 million and hope that they can help even more schools in the coming months. They have started to already see the benefits their scheme has been having with schools. "Our school is in a deprived area and it has always been our aim to provide a fantastic range of books to inspire our children to develop a love of reading. With BookLife's amazing Match Funding offer we have been able to expand our resources to further achieve this goal." – Julie Jones, Orchards C of E Primary School.

How to take advantage?

The Match Funding scheme is open to all UK primary schools, large or small and has no minimum or maximum limits or cap on the amount of orders any one school can place. This allows any school to ensure their budget is working efficiently to provide educational and fun books for pupils of all ages.

BookLife's Match Funding scheme is running until 24 July 2018 and they advise schools to make use of it whilst they can. To find out more about Match Funding, go to www.booklife.co.uk or call 020 7649 9565.

New JCS Conference

JCS 2018

From Digital Literacy to Independent Learning: challenges and opportunities for librarians and teachers

JCS is delighted to be holding its first ever conference on Friday 30 November 2018 at Aston University (Conference Aston) on the theme: From Digital Literacy to Independent Learning: challenges and opportunities for librarians and teachers.

Digital literacy skills are becoming increasingly essential for learning, employment and citizenship. It is often assumed that young people are already digitally literate, but research proves otherwise. Educators and librarians have a crucial role to play in guiding and supporting their students to think critically about digital technologies and the opportunities and risks they present.

For this conference, JCS brings together experts in the field of digital literacy, school and university librarians, school leaders, and providers of authoritative sources to share their knowledge and good practice in supporting the challenges and opportunities for school librarians and teachers in an increasingly complex and digitised world. Places are limited, so to find out more and book please via <https://connect.eventtia.com/en/dmz/jcs2018/website/page/6b273bf4-4>.



Staff Updates

We were very sad to say goodbye to **Dawn Barras** who leaves the SLA for new adventures after nearly 30 years service. SLA Weekend Courses won't seem the same without her friendly face behind the reception desk! We wish her well in her move to West Wales where she is working at The Clock House B&B and Café in Marloes.

Dawn writes: '29 years at the SLA – has it really been that long, it only seems like yesterday that I started. Over the years I have seen it change and grow. When I first started there was only me, Valerie Fea and one part-timer doing 8 hrs a week, sharing office space in a local library. Now the SLA has its own premises and employs 6 people. No two days were ever the same in the office which is probably why I stayed so long and also having such brilliant colleagues who made coming to work a pleasure.



I have attended so many Weekend Conference and Committee meetings over the years which give me the opportunity to meet the people who really care about libraries and you really are amazing people.

I really thought that I would be at the SLA until I retired, but an opportunity arose to move to Pembrokeshire and after much soul searching I decided to make the move and start the next chapter in my life. It is beautiful here and the dogs and I enjoy walking along the beach most evenings and working in the café is completely different to what I am used to but I am enjoying the challenge of learning something new. I am going to miss the SLA and all the people I have met, keep up the amazing job you all do, but I am now looking forward to this new adventure in my life.'

Obituary: Sheila Ray

We are sad to report the death on 2 March 2018 of **Sheila Ray**, a former Editor of *The School Librarian*. Sheila Ray BA MPhil FLA had a distinguished career as Schools' and Children's Librarian in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire and then in academic librarianship, notably as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Librarianship at Birmingham Polytechnic.

She first became involved with the SLA in 1958 when she addressed the Lincolnshire Branch on the topic of the support service she was then establishing and developing for schools in the Lindsey and Holland parts of the county. She continued this involvement throughout her career, taking over from Ray Astbury as editor of *The School Librarian* from 1988 to 1994, before handing over to her successor, Ray Lonsdale (though there was no requirement to be named Ray!). She became an Honorary Lifetime Member of the SLA in 1995 and continued to contribute articles to the journal.

Her highly practical books informed a generation of school librarians, and an early thesis on Enid Blyton led into a broad knowledge of the history and criticism of literature and publishing for children. She worked frequently with her husband Colin Ray and they both served on the Carnegie Medal panel and published widely in the fields of school librarianship and children's literature.

We are delighted to welcome **Naomi Moth** into the SLA team as our new Administrative Assistant. Naomi writes: 'Since leaving school I have very much enjoyed temping within a handful of different companies over the years, but I am excited by this new challenge.

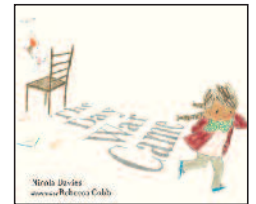


In my spare time, I am part of a Volkswagen Wiltshire Club and have a passion for classic Volkswagens and old-school Porsche 924s. For the past six years, I have proudly owned a sunflower yellow 2006 Luna Sport Edition VW Beetle with bright pink flower power stickers on! I hope one day to restore a VW Camper with my fiancé and have family holidays in it by the coast.'

Poster Offer

The Day War Came

Imagine if, on an ordinary day, war came. Imagine it turned your town to rubble. Imagine going on a long and difficult journey – all alone. Imagine finding no welcome at the end of it. Then imagine a child who gives you something small but very, very precious...



When the government refused to allow 3,000 child refugees to enter this country in 2016, Nicola Davies was so angry she wrote a poem. It started a campaign for which artists contributed drawings of chairs, symbolising a seat in a classroom, education, kindness, the hope of a future. Nicola's poem has become this book, *The Day War Came*, movingly illustrated by Rebecca Cobb, which should prove a powerful aid for explaining the ongoing refugee crisis to younger readers.

'*The Day the War Came* reminds us of the intimate human impact of the refugee crisis on children. This story of loss, solidarity, and hope suggests how we can each make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable among us.' —Dawn O'Porter, co-founder, Help Refugees.

£1 from every copy sold goes to the charity Help Refugees – find out more about their wonderful work at their website, helprefugees.org.

For your free *The Day War Came* poster, simply contact jo.humphreys-davies@walker.co.uk.



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