

## North Norfolk Children's Book Group – Spring Newsletter

Many apologies for keeping you in suspense regarding author visits - but it's because of World Book Day etc that there is a gap. Every author is currently racing round the country visiting schools and consequently the publishers have been very reluctant to add to their busy schedules.

Do not despair however. We have author events for you but they just happen to have fallen within the same couple of weeks later on in the year. We may also be able to slip an extra one or two in between now and then. Here is what we have arranged for you.

Next term.....

**7.30pm on 8th June.** Venue to be confirmed. Y5 - adult.

**Garth Nix**, author of the wonderful 'Sabriel' and its sequels, the 'Seventh Tower' sequence and the seven books in the 'Keys to the Kingdom' series, as well as many more wonderful books will be coming to talk about his new book 'Trouble Twisters' which he has co-written with 'Star Wars' writer Sean Williams. Sean wrote 'Star Wars The Force Unleashed' along with many other books including an award winning Space-Opera series. We are really lucky that these two authors from the other side of the world are coming all the way out to deepest North Norfolk to talk to us! I can't wait!

**7.30pm on 9th June.** Venue to be confirmed (yes we know it's the next day - hope you'll be able to make both events!) Y3 - adult.

The irrepressible **Kes Gray** is making his first visit to our group. Kes is the author of such books as 'Eat your Peas', the 'Daisy' series and the naughty and ridiculous 'Nuddy Ned', he is a real entertainer and this will be a fantastic evening of hilarity.

**7.30pm on 22nd June.** Venue to be confirmed. Y2 - adult.

The delightful **Julia Jarman** will be talking about her writing career. Julia has visited us a number of times and is a prolific author for young children and teenagers alike. This event will focus on Y2 and above, so should be a real family event.

And in September...

**Malorie Blackman** is coming to talk to us at last! (Date to be confirmed) If you haven't done so already read 'Noughts and Crosses' which is a hugely popular book and highly acclaimed title for 14s and up. Her new book 'Boys don't Cry' is about teenage pregnancy and has the young father left holding the baby. Malorie will be talking about her entire output, not just her current new title, so this should be a fascinating evening.

There's no telling whether we will be offered more events this Spring/Summer and will keep you informed. In the meantime look out for some great new titles published for children this year. In May there are two utterly brilliant books coming our way.

Some new reads.....

Eva Ibbotson's final book 'One Dog and His Boy', completed just before her death in October at the age of 85, is an absolute treat. Introducing a group of extraordinary dogs, and a small boy whose parents don't recognise that a child needs love in order to thrive, this book has a plot which carries the reader on a deliciously satisfying journey to a perfect conclusion.

'A Monster Calls' was written by Patrick Ness from an idea of the late Siobhan Dowd. Ness has created an extraordinary story about a young boy's anguish at the prospect of his mother's death. Finely drawn characters, excruciatingly emotional scenes and wonderful spare dialogue are set against Conor's struggle with his demons and his nightmares. Beautiful sombre illustrations enhance the mood perfectly. This is an outstanding book over which I wept copiously and embarrassingly while reading it on the train between Ipswich and Norwich!

Mal Peet's new book 'Life is an unexploded diagram' due out this June is set in and around North Walsham in the 1960's during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Needless to say we are in hot pursuit of Mal and hope to persuade him to comeback to his home county to talk about this brilliant new book.

Marilyn Brocklehurst, March 2011