

Dear Members,

Just a reminder about our exciting event at Aylsham Lodge at 7pm on 11th November. Chris Ryan - ex-SAS officer and raconteur - will regale us with tales of his daring exploits. This is our fastest ticket-booker **ever** so phone VERY soon if you want to come (01263 761402). It's suitable for Y5 and up, and will be particularly interesting for teenagers and adults. We attach a flier for you to stick on your kitchen notice-board.

AND.....It's come round again!

It's our AGM at Norfolk Children's Book Centre, Alby on 8th December. It will start promptly at 7pm. Early finish we hope!

We are renowned for our speedy AGMs - if you're five minutes late you might miss it! After the business there's - nothing, actually. We usually just have a mince pie and a glass of wine and a chat - very relaxing in busy December. You are welcome to do a spot of Christmas shopping if you like - the Bookshop will be open.

This is the time of year when we start thinking about the Federation of Children's Book Groups' Annual Conference - **9th-11th April at Bradfield College, Reading**. It should be a lot of fun.

Every year our group offers one or two bursaries to enable members to attend the Annual Conference free of charge. You are eligible to apply if you are a book-group member and have not received a bursary from us in the past. You need to have joined our bookgroup in 2008 or before. We will organise travel for you, so don't worry about travelling on your own.

This year's conference will have presentations from Anthony Horowitz, William Nicholson, John Burningham, Jenny Valentine, Marcus Sedgwick, Judith Kerr, Kate Cann, Sarah Singleton and many more. Speakers usually stay for the entire weekend, so you might find yourself having breakfast with one of your favourite authors!

Attending the conference is a wonderful opportunity to spend a weekend steeped in children's literature with other like-minded adults. You'll meet authors, publishers and artists. You'll pick up loads of free proof-copies, posters, bookmarks and you'll have a terrific social time, returning relaxed, refreshed and madly enthusiastic.

All you have to do to apply is write a short letter to Gwynneth Bailey (Great Wood Cottage, Marsham, Norwich NR10 5QQ) explaining why you'd like to be considered. The closing date is 5th December. We will let you know before Christmas whether you're one of the lucky ones pulled out of the hat at the AGM. You'd need to be available to travel from early on the Friday, and you will probably get back to Norfolk late on the Sunday. Everybody who's ever gone to the Conference has had a fantastic time, and many people become regular conference-goers ever after, so I do urge you to think about coming!

As usual we have lots of irons in the fire with regard to our future programme - more will be revealed anon. In the meantime put Tuesday 2nd February in your diary (time and venue to be announced later) when new author David Miller will be entertaining us with stories about his adventures - some of which he is incorporating in his books. 'Shark Island' is already in libraries and bookshops, and his second book is out in February. It's exciting stuff!

Marilyn Brocklehurst