**January UpdaTED 2016**

**Dear Group Chair**,

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| **Happy New Year to you and all your members**Please forward this newsletter on to all your members and encourage them to think about joining the Exec. |
| **Reminders*** Don’t forget to let me know the number of copies your book group requires for 2016, and you can pay your 2015 invoice by cheque or BACs, if you haven’t already done so.
* You will have also received by email a group information form and the invoice for your subscription due on January 1st.
* You can email this back to me and pay by BACs or if it is easier, print it all off and post it to me at the address at the bottom of this page.
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| **Conference 2016****C:\Users\denis-asus\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\M55UBUNI\conferencead.png*** Please let me know if your group would be keen to host future Conferences in 2017 /2018. We pride ourselves on the smooth running of our Conferences and the effective and efficient way in which book group members pull together is a major feature commented upon by delegates
* I would also welcome any ideas/suggestions to celebrate our 50th birthday in terms of activities, venues, and displays. Contact me on info@fcbg.org.uk.
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| **Conference Programme 2016**Deadline for final bookings is **March 10th 2016 to Jane Etheridge on** fcbgconference@gmail.com i

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| **Friday**  |  Event |
| 4.00-5.15 | Opening of Conference, Teas and Coffees, Welcome to the Publishers’ Exhibition |
| 5.15- 5.45 | Annual General meeting |
| 6.00-7.30  | Dinner |
| 7.30-8.30 | Katherine Rundell |
| 8.30 |  Quiz in Bar |
| **Saturday** |  |
| 9.00-10.00 | Phil Earle |
| 10.05-10.50 | YA panel, Harriet Reuter Hapgood and Sara Barnard chaired by Julia Bell |
| 10.50-11.30 | Coffee and signings |
| 11.30-12.15 | Andy Griffiths |
| 12.15-13.00  | Horatio Clare, Mike Revell chaired by Julia Bell |
| 13.00-14.00  | Signings and lunch |
| 14.00-15.00 | Seminars Joseph Coelho, Pamela Butchart, Shane Hegarty. |
| 15.00- 15.45  | Ali Sparkes |
| 15.45-16.30  | Tea, signings, publishers and bookshop |
| 16.30-17.30 | Book Group meeting |
| 19.00 | Cocktails with Jill Murphy |
| 19.45  | Gala Dinner with Jenny Downham |
| **Sunday** |  |
| 9.00-10.00 | Daniel Hahn, Jane Ray and SF Said in conversation with Prue Goodwin |
| 10.05-10.50 | John Boyne |
| 10.50-11.30 | Coffee and signings |
| 11.30-12.15 | Piers Torday |
| 12.15-13.00  | Anna Conomos Jean Russell storyteller 2016 |
| 13.00-14.00  | Signings and lunch |
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Don’t forget to browse the Publishers’ Exhibition and sign up to anything on offer.In preparation for the AGM all Book groups will receive forms to nominate a person for election to the Exec and to table a resolution for consideration at the AGM, by Friday 3rd of March. These should be returned to me at info@fcbg.org.uk by Friday 10th March.Book Group MeetingAny items for the agenda to me on info@fcbg.org.uk by March 1st please. |
| **We have received the information for the following events which you may find of interest** |
| **Bloomsbury publishers are pleased to announce details of the next Harry Potter Night Thursday February 4th 2016** cid:8B00BA6D-2069-4FD6-9CFE-F06ECD03E564Justin Somper writes “Last February, FCBG groups helped to make the first ever HARRY POTTER BOOK NIGHT a night to remember. I’m delighted to confirm that HARRY POTTER BOOK NIGHT will now be celebrated annually and returns on Thursday February 4th 2016 as HARRY POTTER BOOK NIGHT: A NIGHT OF SPELLS...Bloomsbury’s NEW event kit is packed full of activities and inspiration for hosting an utterly spellbinding event - from creating a potions corner to designing your own magical spells to testing your knowledge of spells in HARRY POTTER with the Ultimate Spellathon trivia challenge! We’ve kept in some of the favourite activities from this year, including the Sorting Hat, but there is also a host of NEW ideas to inspire you to organise even bigger and better celebrations. As before, the event kit is free and easy-to-download from  [harrypotterbooknight.com](http://harrypotterbooknight.com/) and will help those looking to host a HARRY POTTER BOOK NIGHT event in a school, library, bookshop or community setting - or even as the ultimate sleepover party!”“NEW FOR 2016 - This year, hosts can publicise their HARRY POTTER BOOK NIGHT events by uploading the event details on our interactive map at [harrypotterbooknight.com](http://harrypotterbooknight.com/). On January 14th, we’ll be launching an online poll at [harrypotterbooknight.com](http://harrypotterbooknight.com) to decide the nation’s favourite HARRY POTTER spell. Spread the word and be sure to register your own vote!” |
|  **Handa’s Hen on tour from Eileen Browne**C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\RRL75ZIM\image1.JPGHooray! The LITTLE ANGEL THEATRE production of HANDA'S HEN is about to begin. It opens in Greenwich Theatre on Saturday 16 January.The Tour will go to Barking, Barnard Castle, Burnley, Cambridge, Canterbury, Herts, Ipswich, Lichfield, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Pewsey, Radlett, Rayleigh, Rosendale, Salisbury, Southend-on Sea, Southport, Wolverhampton and LOTS of London venues. CLICK ON THE LINK for places and dates.In Handa's Kenyan village, Mondi the hen has gone missing. Handa and her friend, Akeyo search everywhere. They find stripy mice, little lizards, jumpy crickets and lots more. But where is Mondi - and what's her secret?The shows are for 2-6 year olds ~ so please pass this on to anyone you know who might be interested.>> <https://littleangeltheatre.com/upcoming-tours-2/touring/upcoming-tours/handas-hen-2> |
|  **Young Creatives Competition** I received this email from Clare Willcocks of Holiday Cottages.The theme of the competition is ‘What do you love about the UK?’ and writing, photography, artwork and short films from primary and secondary school age groups will be acceptedAll information can be found on our website here: <http://www.holidaycottages.co.uk/youngcreatives> working in partnership with Penguin.There are a lot of prizes to be won in each category, including bundles of books for the school and students, holiday vouchers and more. Judges include popular children’s authors Jeremy Strong and Chris Bradford.Submit your entry by 3pm on Friday 15 April 2016. |
| **BBC Radio 2’s 5OO WORDS competition** On Monday 18th January in his Radio 2 Breakfast Show, Chris Evans launched 500 WORDS. The writing competition returns for the sixth year, and children around the country aged between 5 and 13 years of age are encouraged to send in their amazing stories by 7pm on Thursday 25 February. Chris revealed that the Duchess of Cornwall - who is a passionate advocate for children’s literacy - will be an Honorary Judge for the competition. And, for the first time ever, The Duchess of Cornwall features with Chris in a short animation specially created for 500 WORDS in which they have both recorded the voiceovers for their own animated character. View the animation now at [www.bbc.co.uk/500words](http://www.bbc.co.uk/500words).To tie in with the BBC’s celebration of Shakespeare ,the Final will take place in a spectacular live broadcast from Shakespeare’s Globe in London on Friday 27th May 2016. New this year, every single child who enters will be entered into a ballot to attend this show along with the finalists.  Chris Evans said, *“So come on kids, what are you waiting for? Get inspired, get writing and make sure you send your entry to us by 25 February for the chance to join us there!”* Last year, The Duchess of Cornwall hosted the live Final in the beautiful surroundings of St James’s Palace and presented the Gold medal winners with their prizes. For this year’s competition, HRH joins the esteemed 500 WORDS Judging Panel - Malorie Blackman, Charlie Higson, Frank Cottrell Boyce and Francesca Simon. They will all read the shortlisted entries, debate them and ultimately decide who will be the 2016 winners. The competition asks children in the UK aged 13 and under to compose an original work of fiction using no more than 500 words. Entries are in two categories - 5-9 years and 10-13 years. Budding young writers have until 7pm on Thursday 25 February to submit their stories. Full terms and conditions are available at bbc.co.uk/500words. Also on the website, children will find an array of tools to inspire them, such as the Alphabot - a friendly robot who lives on the site - and helps kids combat writer’s block.   |