

## CWIG AGM Report from current Chair:

*Shoo Rayner*



### **Committee**

We will welcome three new award-winning members to the CWIG Committee in 2020: Sita Brahmachari (dramatist and novelist), Ross Montgomery (MG and picture-book) and Isabel Thomas who stood as a candidate. How could you choose between them? Rather than waste a talent; we would like to exercise our constitutional right to co-opt Isabel to the committee for her expertise and contacts in non-fiction publishing.

We are always seeking candidates as people retire, so if you would like to stand please contact Jo before March 2020. We will be doing plenty of reminders throughout the year.

At the end of the year Daniel Blythe and I will retire, and I'm pleased to be able to announce that Dawn Finch will be taking over as chair. Remaining committee members also representing picture-books, MG, non-fiction, fantasy, horror, theatre, TV, animation, poetry, YA and educational works include: Steve Antony, Keren David, Candy Gourlay, Curtis Jobling, SF Said and Robin Stevens. All but Steve are present today, so do chat to them in the breaks.

### **Members**

About YOU, the group

We number 1,241 – the largest of the special interest groups and have grown to 12% of general SoA membership. 2/3 of the membership identify as women, and the majority of you live in the south. Do encourage others to join, as we have lots to offer – particularly younger emerging members who could do support. Remember we have a private facebook group and twitter list – sign up and participate! These are lively and full of advice and warnings. And all but a few members subscribe to the CWIG mailchimp of which there are around ten a year.

### **Resources**

This year we issued new guidance on virtual visits and before the end of year will revise and reissue guidance on school visits (and rates) and high discounts/special sales. Watch out for them!

### **The Big Move**

The move from Drayton Gardens to Bedford Row has been a major upheaval for everyone at the Society. Committee meetings have been held in many interesting places around town. The move has probably slowed down the work of CWIG and the number of events it has been able to put on. But now, with such superb facilities in a more convenient situation, we can look forward to a new, exciting future for CWIG.

### **Campaigns**

We fed into the SoA's response to Ofsted's consultation on their Inspections Framework. We continue to meet and correspond with WBD following much better lists earlier this year, and will keep lobbying for the inclusion of non-fiction and poetry; with the aim that publishers will put these texts forward. We encouraged authors to participate in their Share A Story Campaign and hope to do so again. We supported #GreatSchoolLibraries and met Alison Tarrant, CEO of the Schools Library Association, to share resources and case-studies.

### **Reading for Pleasure Award**

66 were given this year which brings us to a total of 121 awards in all. Steve Skidmore awarded the 100th to a Conway school and we've seen commendations for schools across the UK and in China, Turkey and Brussels. We are now open – don't delay in making your award – they are really valued and show governors and headteachers how much librarians and libraries are valued.

### **Events in 2019**

You are at this day conference. And it's big and packed with speakers. Aside from this we held a series of *How to Present Your Picturebook* and *School Visit* workshops with the ever-popular Cat Weatherill. Next year will see a schedule including animation, TV, sensitivity reads and an outing to Oxford's Story Museum.

That concludes my report. Thank you all for your support this year.

**Shoo Rayner**  
**21 September 2019**