

WORLD UP

The latest news on the community campaign to Get Hackney Reading

April 2008

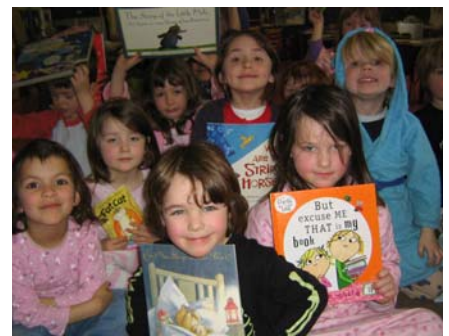
Hackney Big Read unites community

World Book Day was celebrated in true style by hundreds of people in Hackney on 6 March. More than 20 schools, community groups and businesses took part in the Hackney Big Read, which involved simultaneously reading a poem written by the new Hackney School's Poet Laureate at 11am to promote the importance of reading.

Schools' Poet Laureate Jamie Bell-Bradford wrote the poem 'My World Book Day Book' especially for the Big Read. The Cardinal Pole RC School pupil led 80 people in the reading at a joint event by The Learning Trust and London Borough of Hackney at the Hackney Town Hall Assembly Rooms.



A big thank you to everyone who took part in the Hackney Big Read or held their own World Book Day event!



From left: Linklaters' Partner Andrew Carmichael reads with a pupil at Burbage School; Parkwood School do the Big Read and Grasmere Primary pupils celebrate in their pyjamas.

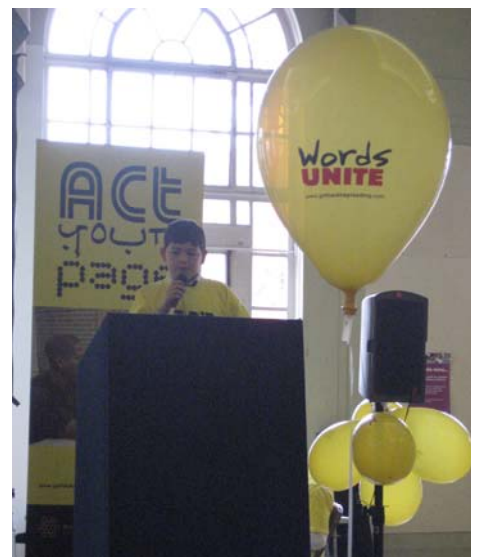
16-year-old crowned as schools' Poet Laureate

'I was in year six when I was asked to write rhyming couplets, it was then I thought to myself – I really have a knack for this.'

This from Year 11 pupil Jamie Bell-Bradford from Cardinal Pole RC School, who was crowned in January at Countdown, an evening to recognise Hackney students who are breaking barriers and achieving excellence. Jamie entered The Learning Trust's search for a poet laureate with his poem 'Lover's Last Touch' inspired by artist Leonardo Da Vinci.

Part of his role involves writing five poems and attending five events in 2008, the first of which was the Hackney Big Read for World Book Day on 6 March.

While poetry is Jamie's focus at the moment, the teenager has plans of becoming a film director or scriptwriter.



Jamie Bell-Bradford leads the Big Read

Reading and Writing Challenge winners

A love of Hackney and the Olympics saw three young stars take part in a Words Unite competition run by international law firm, Linklaters. The winners of the reading and writing challenges are:

★ *Primary Reading Challenge:* Beatrice Morrison from Our Lady and St Josephs with her speech about the power of the Olympics and Paralympics to inspire people.

★ *Primary Writing Challenge:* Shacklewell Primary School's Samuel Rohleder-Cooke with 'The Big Sprint', which describes the experience of an Olympic runner fighting through pain to win a race.

★ *Secondary Writing Challenge:* Abubakar Sidduque from Hackney Free and Parochial School with his upbeat poem about Hackney; starting with the words "In the heart of Hackney you'll find Hackney Central. It may look run down, but it sure has potential."



From left: Beatrice Morrison, Abubakar Sidduque and Samuel Rohleder-Cooke

Linklaters placed 200 volunteers and organised 111 events in 37 Hackney schools. The next phase is the debating challenge - workshops are underway in schools and the first debate is in May.

Library makeover at Millfields School



Themed like a forest with a thumb scanner to loan books – what more could you want from a library?

Millfields Community School launched its new library on World Book Day. Pupils and teachers spent the week doing reading related activities including poem writing. Pupils, dressed as their favourite book character, took their first glance at the new library with green mesh ceiling and forest animals. A £500 funding boost from The Learning Trust and Team Hackney as part of the Words Unite campaign helped buy more reading material for the library.

'We now have a wide range of books – fiction and non-fiction, comics and guided reading. We made an effort to stock books on a range of topics including divorce, homosexuality and other social issues,' says Library Coordinator and Teacher Vicky Noakes. 'It's a bright, inviting space for children to come and read. With exciting and up to date resources, including a thumb scanner so pupils can loan books – we hope it inspires more children to read.'

The primary school raised £120 on the day, half is being spent on the library and the other half will be donated to Book Aid International.

More than 700 books donated to schools

Library shelves are getting fuller at five Shoreditch schools, thanks to Project Shoreditch. The initiative is an East London Business Alliance (ELBA) scheme in partnership with Shoreditch Trust, UBS, Deutsche Bank, and Linklaters.

Thanks to the generosity of staff from these organisations, 724 books have been allocated to De Beauvoir (338), Whitmore (36), Burbage (314) Randal Cremer (15) and St Monica's (21) primary schools to support the Words Unite campaign.

"We are getting books almost every day thanks to Deutsche Bank staff,' says De Beauvoir School Headteacher Vijay Bhanaut. "They also donated £3000 to the school for a new ICT suite for pupils. We are planning a lunchtime reading mentors' programme for this summer."

Hackney pupils become literary critics

Fifteen reluctant readers from Stoke Newington and Cardinal Pole RC schools have consulted on a new book published in February by Barrington Stoke - the Children's Publisher of the Year. The children were sent the manuscript of 'Arctic Hero' by Catherine Johnson in 2007, which is about the co-discoverer of the North Pole Matthew Henson.

A ceremony was held at Victoria Park Books on Friday 7 March to acknowledge the pupils, whose comments were incorporated into the final draft. All children received a free copy of the book, which has their names printed in the acknowledgements at the back.

"It was very rewarding to work with the Victoria Park Bookshop and local schools on this project. The process not only means we are able to get the books right, but it is also a hugely motivating and rewarding experience for the children themselves. They see themselves in a new way - as literary critics and an important part of the publishing process," Barrington Stoke Trade Sales and Marketing Director Jane Walker.



Catherine Johnson (middle) talks to pupils about her latest book

Authors' Day to become annual event

More than 140 people attended the Authors' Day at Hackney Museum, a Words Unite event organised by The Learning Trust's Family Learning team and Victoria Park Books. Many parents and children bought dozens of books signed by the seven children's authors in the gallery: Jessica Spanyol, Catherine Vase, Karin Littlewood, Sam Enthoven, Lyndsay Russell, David Clement Davies and Catherine Johnson. The event was such a success the organisers have decided to make it an annual event.



From left: Illustrator Karin Littlewood; Sam Enthoven draws a raffle; Jessica Spanyol (in green) with a parent and child

Kids reading for the love of it

A visit from a popular teen author surprised a Muslim children's reading group of eight children in Stoke Newington earlier this year. The North London Muslim Community Centre's 'Kids reading for the love of it' project has been funded by the Words Unite campaign, thanks to Team Hackney.

In January, the eight children in the group were asked to read part of Karen McCombie's 'Oops! I Lost My Best(est)friends.' At the second session in February the children came armed with questions about the book- what they didn't realise was they would get to ask the author face to face.

"Their questions were very impressive! The children listened intently when Karen talked about where she got her ideas from," said Project Coordinator Atia Hafazjee.

The project aims to encourage reluctant readers to read more, and challenge higher ability readers to progress to the next level and try their hand at writing.



Teen author Karen McCombie signs copies of her book

Words Unite Conference - invites on the way!

Keep an eye on your inbox for an invitation to an exciting celebration and valuable learning experience!

The Words Unite Conference on July 1 is a showcase of everyone's work since the campaign started in 2007. Attendees will be able to share learning and foster enthusiasm for reading beyond 2008.

More than 200 teachers and community, business and library representatives are being invited to the event at the Queen Mary University of London in Mile End.

The day runs from 9:30am– 4:00pm and includes three keynote speakers and interactive workshops. Workshops include storytelling, Reading is Fundamental, reading volunteers, debating, Power of Reading and more.

Library event - bring a friend!

Inspirational authors and exciting stalls hope to draw in hundreds of new members to Hackney libraries this month.

It's 'Visit your Hackney Library Day' on 12 April.

Each of the seven libraries are handing out goodie bags for every person who turns up and special prizes for people who bring a friend!

Adult Learners Week 17 - 23 May

More than 100 exciting and interactive workshops are coming to Hackney to encourage adult learners to try something new.

The focus of the week is reading with storytelling, playwriting, stone carving and brand new language courses including 'Japanese with Sushi' and 'Mandarin and Calligraphy'. Look out for the Adult Learners Week booklet in April.

Website hits

More than 4000 new visitors have checked out www.gethackneyreading.com this year.

This brings the total number of people having visited the site to 8707 since October 2007, with an average of 1451 people per month. Monitoring shows people look at 18 pages (on average) each time they visit the website.

Multicultural bookmarks

A new and exciting range of multicultural products including bookmarks are here!

London based Marmaduke Marmalade aims to create a fun and stylish representation of diverse nationalities. Samples are available.

www.marmadukemarmalade.co.uk



New library cards

Words Unite library cards are now available from all Hackney libraries.

Get yours today!



Word Up is published by the Words Unite Communications and Marketing Team, The Learning Trust, 1 Reading Lane, London E8 1GQ. If you would like to contact us please email wordsunite@learningtrust.co.uk or call 020 8820 7078

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