

Welcome to the first official Story Museum update. The last few months have seen some exciting advances in the Story Museum project. We've now 'gone public', and Autumn 2005 has more treats in store...



Philip Pullman launches a wild book

Michael Rosen helps launch the Story Museum

The sun wasn't exactly shining on 25th June, but nothing could dampen the spirits of nearly 400 children and parents who gathered at the Oxford Union to mark the launch of the Story Museum project.

After riotous anecdotes and a special poem from Michael Rosen, guests munched a delicious Story Museum cake in the garden. Ted Dewan, Korky Paul and storyteller Chris Smith were on hand with entertaining activities, and the 'wild book' stall positively buzzed. Philip Pullman finished off with an inspiring speech, launching a very special mini wild book into the Oxford skies.

The Story Museum has become public in a fittingly fun and original way. Thank you to everyone who helped us get this far and to all those who came on the day to help us celebrate.



Michael Rosen, Caomine Tumelty and the cake

7th-27th August

Summer Stories

Three weeks of epic performance storytelling at the Old Fire Station. Come and hear Chris Smith's spell-binding repertoire of world wondertales, myths, local legend and traditional tales.

Amazingly imaginative – compulsive viewing for anyone over five. Remember to tell your friends (groups of 10+ pay the concessionary rate) and handpick a selection from Chris' 11 different hour-long stories.

Box office 01865 297170

Ticketmaster 0870 400 0891*

Online www.getlive.co.uk/ofs*

*Open 24/7, subject to booking/transaction fee

Tickets £5 (£3)

Family ticket £12 (2 adults, 2 children)

Shows at 1 & 3.30 (+ 6pm on Wed). No shows on Thurs.

Gift aid forms make tax-effective donating easy. We can email you one to print out, or we'll post you a supply. You only need to fill it in once, and we'll benefit fully from every donation you make in the future.

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The Story Museum in schools

With the help of our expert panel of teachers and our resident storyteller Chris Smith, we've drawn up a master plan for the Story Museum schools programme. The resulting modular project aims to enthuse children of all backgrounds by bringing stories and storytelling alive. A mixture of 'Story days' – performance storytelling enhanced with magical 'story objects' and drama-based workshops – and Story residencies is set to reach nearly 10,000 school children all over Oxfordshire.

We're currently applying for funding to launch the programme, hopefully at the beginning of 2006. If your school would like more information, email office@storymuseum.org.uk.

Spread the word! The new Story Museum website was launched at the end of June. We've already had lots of positive feedback, and we'd love to know what you think of it. We've got exciting plans for online children's activities, so watch this space...

If you need a hand explaining the Story Museum project to friends or potential benefactors, email office@storymuseum.org.uk – we could help you out with some smart information leaflets.

To join, or remove yourself from this mailing list please send us an email.

The Story Museum
Town Hall, Blue Boar Street, Oxford OX1 4EY
T 01865 790050
Charity number 1107809

Story Museum autumn events

Saturday 17th September, 2pm-4pm

BISCUIT BEAR

Smarties Prize-winning children's author and illustrator **Mini Grey** comes to Bampton for a scrumptious afternoon of story telling and Biscuit Bear decorating.

Bampton Village Hall
Tickets from West Ox Arts Tel: 01993 850137
Family event for 4-7 year olds

Saturday 8th October

MONSTERS, MYTHS and CHOCOLATE

in association with the Theatre Chipping Norton

Hairy monsters, scary monsters and monsters under the bed.

10am, 1.30pm Monster Drawing Workshops with **Korky Paul** plus an exhibition of his illustrations for *Monster Poems*.

11.30am **Chris Smith** the Storysmith tells the tale of The Golden City. Join Cadmus as he serenades a monster and defeats dragons to build a city of peace.

2.30pm and 6pm Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

The Theatre Chipping Norton
Tickets Tel: 01608 642350

Saturday 5th November, 11am, 1pm and 3pm

PUMPKIN SOUP on stage

Blunderbus Theatre Company's enchanting adaptation of **Helen Cooper's** award-winning book.

Helen will be meeting children and signing books, including her new book *A Pipkin of Pepper*, after each performance.

Jacqueline Du Pre Music Building
St Hilda's College, Cowley Place, Oxford
Tickets Tel: 01865 305305
Age 5 and under

Esther, the Story Museum's projects administrator is leaving in September to return to Scotland. Please direct any emails to the Story Museum office or sarah@storymuseum.org.uk.