



Newsletter 4

Spring 2007

Magic beans

The long-term project to build a permanent Story Museum continues to progress. With the help of Oxford City's planners we have identified potential sites in the West End of the city. And with the help of a generous benefactor we have received our first collection – the UK's most important and valuable Lewis Carroll and Alice collection in private hands.

In December 2006 we launched our 'magic bean' campaign to raise £130,000 to prepare and run a three-year international fundraising campaign for the capital to build The Story Museum.

Please visit our website or contact sarah@storymuseum.org.uk if you would like to support our outreach programmes or the development of a unique museum for children.

We are grateful to the following bodies for their generous support of our family events:

Awards for All
Help a Local Child
Oxford City Council
BMW
Starbucks
Inspired Selection
West Oxfordshire District Council

Forthcoming family events

Saturday 9th June 10am
**MICHAEL MORPURGO'S
DESERT ISLAND BOOKS**
A STORY-MAKER'S JOURNEY
with MICHAEL MORPURGO

Join Michael Morpurgo on a virtual journey as he re-visits the books that have a special place in his life and have shaped his own prolific writing. Michael will re-visit 'Treasure Island', 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' and the 'Just So Stories' before embarking on his own journey from 'War Horse' to 'Why the Whales Came'.



Michael Morpurgo OBE has written one hundred books for children, won numerous awards, was appointed Children's Laureate from 2003-5 and has an unparalleled reputation in the world of children's literature. Oxford publisher David Fickling will interview Michael for this unique 'Desert Island Books'.

Oxford Playhouse
Tickets Adults £6.50 Children £4.50
Box Office 01865 305 305
Family event for 7-12 year olds

Followed by...

Saturday 9th June 11.10am

WHEN THE WHALES CAME

A rare opportunity to see the 1989 film *When the Whales Came* starring Helen Mirren and Paul Scofield. A magical tale with a splendid cast, not to be missed.

Oxford Playhouse
Film tickets £2.00
Box Office 01865 305 305

Saturday 7th July

ALICE'S DAY

A *frabjous* day of family fun – a city-wide celebration of the golden afternoon in 1862 when Oxford don, Lewis Carroll, told Alice Liddell the fantastical tale that became *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Storytelling, wonderland circus characters, one-man shows, talks, films and drop-in family activities and a self-guided trail around Carroll- and Alice-inspired displays and rarely seen treasures at Christ Church, The Bodleian, The Ashmolean, Oxford Playhouse and the University Museums of Natural History and History of Science.

Curious Company will also be on hand (or rather on stilts!) for the day, presenting scenes from the book, with interactive, walkabout performances at a number of venues, including a croquet match at the Museum of Natural History in the morning and at tea time, of course, a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, complete with walking table, at The Perch, Binsey.

Stories in schools

In 2006 we brought stories and exhibitions to more than 10,000 children in 60 Oxfordshire schools. Children loved feeling part of the story as they listened and then explored the interactive exhibition. Teachers found a well of enthusiasm to work with in writing, drama, speaking and listening, and world education. They asked us for more stories to 'help children fly with their imaginations' - so here is our new expanded programme for 2007.

Performances with interactive exhibitions

One hour storytelling with music for up to 250 children, on site exhibition and resources for classroom activities.

The Minotaur Greek myth for KS 2, 3, 4. A powerful telling of the life of Minos from the abduction of his mother by Zeus, through the birth and death of his Minotaur son and the flight of Icarus, to his death.



The Tree of Life Iraqi wondertale for KS 2, 3, 4. This enchanting story, with Arabic songs and music, tells of a prince who journeys to the tree of life, wins its fruits and struggles with the consequences. The story exhibition includes a section on Iraq and Islam as context.

NEW Stories to be part of World tales for KS1. Five participative stories from India, Africa, America, Ireland and

Europe with singing, movement and storytelling and play activities for younger children.

NEW Story performances

Top quality tellings with music and song of stories from all over the world. One hour performances for up to 250 children.

The Hottest Story: The Story of Climate Change (Year 2, KS 2, 3) Ancient and modern fable introducing key issues of global warming (developed with Oxford University Environmental Change Institute).

Arthur and Gawain (Year 2, KS 2, 3, 4) Retells favourite Arthurian legends of the Green Knight and the Loathly Lady

Oxfordshire legends: Wayland Smithy (Year 2, KS 2, 3, 4) The Norse myth of Wayland the Blacksmith.

Oxford myths (Year 2, KS 2, 3, 4) Founding tales of the City including the Mabinogion legend of the two dragons, Frideswide, and the Oxford riots.

Greek myths: Creation (KS 2, 3, 4) Funny, sad and extraordinary stories from Ancient Greece of the creation of gods and men.



Solomon and Sheba (KS2, 3, 4) An epic tale of quests, riddles and love that appears in the Old Testament, the Qura'an and the folklore of Europe, Africa and Asia.

World tales (Versions for KS1, 2 or KS3, 4) A medley of stories from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Tales to sing and move to (KS1) Magical world tales which give children and teachers ideas for joining in with storytelling.

School residencies

We also work more intensively with individual schools or classes through tailor-made residencies that can last days or weeks. These can include sessions for teachers and parents.

Teacher/librarian workshops

Teachers and librarians are uniquely placed to inspire children about story. Our workshops offer a range of ideas and skills to help. These can be at any time of day, as one-offs or as part of longer programmes or partnerships, and include:

- storytelling for teachers and librarians
- developing speaking and listening skills through story
- storymaking and the creative imagination.

Want to know more?

Check our website, www.storymuseum.org.uk, email office@storymuseum.org.uk, phone 01865 790050 or write to The Story Museum, Town Hall, Blue Boar Street, Oxford OX1 4EY

We are grateful to the following for their financial assistance with the development of our schools programme:

