

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

October is nationally celebrated as Black History Month. This year, as ever, we have prepared many loan collections for schools: Some schools ask for whole school displays; individual teachers' ask for resources for their classrooms; others ask us for book and artefacts suggestions.

We always try to reflect diversity in our loans, but Black History Month gives further opportunities to use our carefully selected stock. For example, we buy US books to give a different perspective, particularly on civil rights and famous American artists, such as Jacob Lawrence and Faith Ringgold. It is one of our ambitions that all Islington students have the chance to look



Obama Kanga from Kenya

at Rosa Parks during their school career and we have a great range of books about her life.

This year we have encouraged schools to work on Barack Obama as his 'Yes we can' message appeals to all ages. There are children's biographies available including

some for the very youngest reader. We have posters and newspapers from USA, UK and Kenya celebrating his nomination and inauguration and lots of fabulous Kenyan Kangas (see photo) where the traditional Swahili proverb is replaced by messages in Swahili – 'Hongera Barack Obama'!

## Book of Michelle Obama's visit to EGA School



Lesley Cheetham, the Learning Resources Manager, has worked with the staff and students at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School to publish a book about the visit of Michelle Obama. It includes the full text of her inspirational speech and the reactions of various members of the school community. It is on sale from Lesley for £5.

Lesley published the book using the Scholastic school publishing scheme, also recommended by Rachel Boyce, the English co-ordinator at Christ the King School. As Lesley says: 'If you go to [www.scholastic.co.uk](http://www.scholastic.co.uk) and then to the section 'We are writers' it tells you all about it – it's very easy!'

# Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Book Awards 2009



Islington ELS organised the shadowing scheme for the Carnegie and Greenaway Book Awards in June 2009. This year's Islington winner was Frank Cottrell Boyce's humorous story about the adventures of an exceptionally tall boy - *Cosmic*.

The national winner was Siobhan Dowd's fourth and final novel, *Bog Child*, set in Northern Ireland during the Troubles.

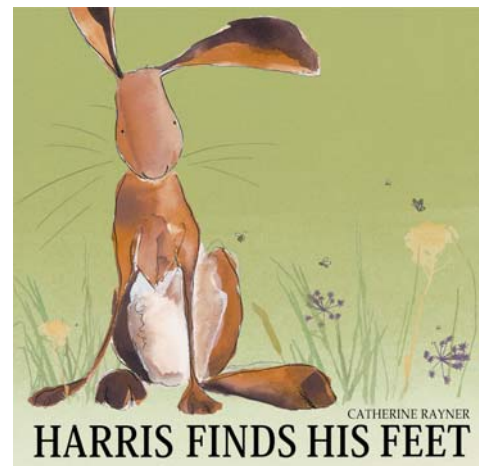
"This is the greatest endorsement of the quality of Siobhan's writing yet" comments her editor and publisher, David Fickling, "The CILIP Carnegie Medal has real integrity and is unique amongst literary awards: there is no prize money; it does not reflect the commercial interests of publishers and book-sellers;

it does not depend on votes or the celebrity status of the author. Judged by librarians who spend their lives connecting young people to good writing it is the purest recognition of quality writing for children."

7 Islington secondary schools participated in the shadowing scheme this year. All secondary schools are welcome to join, so contact the Library Service to participate.

## Kate Greenaway Winner

*Harris Finds His Feet*, one of Catherine Rayner's delightful animal stories - brilliant for their artwork and use of perspective as well as the story—won this year's prize. For more information about both awards, previous winners and the award archive visit, [www.ckg.org.uk](http://www.ckg.org.uk)



## New Costumes Bid

The Library Service is developing a funding bid to expand our collection of original 20<sup>th</sup> century costumes. The project focuses on teenage identity from the 1950s to the 1980s (fashion, music, politics) in London but with emphasis on Islington – people, places, and events. We aim to work primarily with young teenagers – and have already made contact with potential partners in secondary schools and after school clubs. Any new acquisitions will also help support teaching about Britain since 1948.

If you would like to be involved in this project as a teacher or support worker, or if you have a story to share, or any donations, please contact Rachel Bailey on 020 7527 5524 or email [els@islington.gov.uk](mailto:els@islington.gov.uk)

## Tudor Workshop Exchange



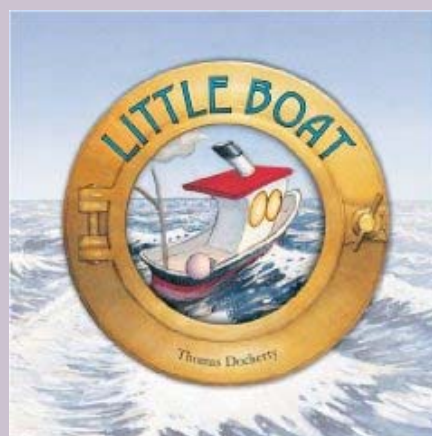
This is the second year of Elizabeth Garret Anderson School's exchange programme with Réunion. On this visit the students looked at Tudor London, visiting the Globe and other landmarks. Lesley, the school's Learning Resources Manager, asked us if we would run a Tudor morning in school using the ELS Artefacts and Costume collections. We set up a carousel of activities: dressing up as a rich or poor Tudor; doing a brass rubbing; looking at the menu for a Tudor feast and writing it out with a quill; discussing mysterious Tudor objects; handling original Tudor clay pipes and discussing the importance of tobacco – all of which was done in a humorous mixture of French and English. Everyone involved had great fun and appreciated being able to handle replicas of the objects and clothes that they had seen in the museum or photos. We all felt that secondary history teachers may enjoy setting up similar mornings – please contact us if you are interested.



## My Favourite Book...

Sharon Smith, Peripatetic Primary Librarian

I often find myself reading stories to groups of children especially in the schools where I spend most of my time. During this summer I looked at the books nominated for the Kate Greenaway award with the children before they were asked to vote for the one they considered the best picture book published that year. At St John Evangelist School a firm favourite was *Little Boat* by Thomas Docherty. When Saturn class arrived we were all excited to discover that the book was written for the class teacher Ms Martin, the story of *Little Boat* was in fact Ms Martin's life story with all its ups and downs. The children were quick to point out that they must be the 'treacherous rocks' that Little Boat had to navigate in order to search for its friends.



## Ron's View - The Library Driver

### What is your job?

Delivering and collecting the Library boxes to schools. My day starts with collecting the van. Then I work out my route and pack the boxes according to first and last to be dropped off. I put about 50-60 red boxes in the van. I could fit in more but then the towers get too high and fall over. I keep moving towers around. It's like that game Tetris. As the van gets emptier there's more danger of things being broken, so after each delivery I've got to un-stack towers and fill the floor space. Outsize objects (laundry bags, tubes, big book bags, everything from Victorian wheelchairs to giant African masks) can get thrown about in the back of the van, so it's really important that they're packed well.

### What do you like best about the job?

I like driving and listening to radio phone-in programmes, the social topical ones like Vanessa Feltz, and sometimes I listen to Radio 2 –that reflects my age I guess. Really, I like supporting the service and the education of children.

### What's the most difficult part

### of your job?

Collecting boxes that aren't packed properly. If the lids don't close, when they're stacked on top of each other the tower isn't stable, all the boxes can fall. I've had them fall on me a few times - lots of grazes and bruises. Even worse, they might fall on children. So I've got to un-stack the tower, take out stuff from the boxes that are bulging and find space in another box, then re-stack the tower, but I'm in a hurry because I might get parking tickets.

### What other jobs do you do for the Library?

Whatever's needed. I've put up shelves and made boxes for special artefacts. This term I was the minibus driver for the NQT teachers on their induction to IELS.

### You've been at the Library 8 years now, what did you do before?

When I left school I had an apprenticeship as an electrician, then I worked in adventure playgrounds and at the Islington Bus Company. I did the hippie thing and travelled round India. I've been a Youth Worker and was responsible for the

### September 2008 to July 2009 Ron delivered:

Red Boxes	2717
Tubes	291
Bags	666
Other items	959

That's **4633** packages!



resources; loaning projectors, sports equipment and sound systems. As part of the Outdoor Education Team I led climbing and canoeing. I also work as a self employed Handy Person, "Ron'll Fix It". I can do everything from woodwork to electrics.

### What things do you like best in the library?

I like the electricity and magnetism section, in fact most of the stuff in the science area. I borrow bits for my granddaughter, mostly stuffed animals – the real ones.

### I hear you have a band?

Yes, it's called "Player". We cover a bit of everything; Blues, Reggae, Soul, Country & Western. The other members are all from the Islington Play and Youth departments and a few teachers. We're playing the CE Staff Christmas Party on Thursday 10th December.

## My Favourite Thing...

### Eloise Moody, Costume Librarian

One of my favourite artefacts is this Islington school punishment book 1901-1945. The crimes of the children range from 'sulkiness' and 'gross carelessness' to 'urinating on another boy' or, in the case of poor, hungry Eileen Hall; 'Eating sweets. Denying that she had them. Then refusing to put them in basket'. Deciphering long-forgotten handwriting about everyday life from an original school document brings the classroom and its mischievous characters back to life.

Name of Child	Age	Offence	Amount of Fines
E. Raughter	11	Drinking & smoking	1 shilling
M. Storey	14	...	2
L. P. ...	15	...	2
Lily Parker	10	...	1
L. Handfield	11	...	1
Nate Green	12	...	2
B. Thomas	13	...	1
E. Webb	9	...	2
P. Lehmann	12	...	2
E. Webb	9	...	2