

# SUNRISE



Newsletter of **CILIP** East of England Branch

2008 : 2



*East Melbourne Library. Built as a model of environmental sustainability, it features interior climate control, water catchment tanks, furniture made from recycled timber and materials, flooring made from recycled car tyres*

See [www.cilipeoe.org.uk](http://www.cilipeoe.org.uk) for further information on the Branch and forthcoming events.

**cilip**

Chartered Institute of  
Library and Information  
Professionals

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# Reader Development in Australia

I recently had the opportunity to speak at the Auslib conference *Reading Critical: Developing readers in Australia and New Zealand* held in Melbourne, Victoria. There were two full days of presentations as well as a half-day tour of a number of new public libraries in and around Melbourne.

## Why was I invited?

The annual Auslib conferences always include overseas speakers and the UK is seen to be far ahead of Australia and New Zealand in strategic planning and investment in reader development. Essex County Council Libraries has a national reputation for reader development activities, which include the annual Essex Book Festival, a large number of reading groups, and pioneering work in developing Quick Reads. My brief was to open the conference with an overview of reader development in Essex in the context of regional and national developments and then, on the second day, talk specifically about bibliotherapy, which is very much a new area in Australia.

## Public Libraries in the State of Victoria

The day before the conference began there was an organised coach tour of four new public libraries in the Melbourne area. There has been a lot of new building in Victoria stimulated by a State scheme, which provides a financial incentive for new library buildings.

We visited:

- Wheelers Hill Library - an extension opened in 2002 with an architect designed gallery housing a photographic collection. Situated in an attractive and affluent area, the library has a long panoramic view of gardens and ponds. The library is the only part of a vision for a new cultural precinct to have been realised so far.
- Clayton Library and Community Centre - opened in 2008, this is part of a brand new 20 million dollar development which also



includes a swimming pool, fitness centre and child health centre.

- Carnegie Library, Glen Eira - opened in 2005, the Council closed off a street to build the library, which includes on the upper level a full suite of community meeting rooms and conference facilities.
- East Melbourne Library - this city branch library opened in 2005 as a model of environmental sustainability.

The buildings were all spacious, attractive and modern. The interiors, however, were less reader friendly with traditional layouts, minimal guiding and little face on display. This was a surprise to me as I had associated Australia and New Zealand with the John Stanley retail approach. It highlighted for me one of the recurrent themes of the conference: the huge challenge of sharing ideas and good practice in a country as vast as Australia with small public library services. In the State of Victoria the average public library authority has only five libraries.

Staff training and improvement of skills emerged as another key theme. In my own presentation, I stressed that staff training has been key to progressing reader development in the UK, from the hugely significant Branching Out three-year staff development programme to the online Frontline training now available to all authorities. Many Australian and New Zealand speakers highlighted the need for greater collaboration between and across

states in a range of areas. Making the case on behalf of all public libraries is not easy in Australia and New Zealand because of the lack of a developed infrastructure. There are no equivalents of agencies like The Reading Agency and Opening the Book which, working with Society of Chief Librarians, have had a major impact for all services from Frontline training and Stock Quality Health Check to Vital Link and partnerships with the BBC and publishers.

It was very exciting to be part of the conference, and to be contributing to the debate in Australia and New Zealand about the role of libraries in promoting reading. Everyone I met was not only very friendly but also extremely interested in what was happening in my own authority and the UK. Two people at the conference have since contacted me to say they are applying for study tour funding so they can see for themselves. I will look forward

to continuing the dialogue!

Many thanks to the CILIP East of England Branch, who supported my trip to Australia with a small grants award.

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For a full report of the conference please see

*Reading critical: developing readers in Australia and New Zealand. Conference proceedings* edited by Alan Bundy. Auslib Press, 2008



*Carnegie Library and Community Centre, Glen Eira. A bookworm/playground park links the library to an adjacent playgroup creating a lively and attractive area.*

## What has the Branch been doing for you?

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Currently as members of CILIP you are automatically members of the branch where you live or you can ask to be allocated to the branch where you work. We are all in one of the biggest branches covering the East of England.

Since CILIP formed your Branch Committee has been busy on your behalf but many of you may not be aware of what we are doing so we have listed some of our activities.

Our Branch aims and objectives are:-

- to act as a communication channel with CILIP and to assist with the local implementation of policies
- to be a source of advice to appropriate regional bodies, a focus of expertise
- to coordinate and stimulate professional activity by liaison with Groups and through the provision of meetings, training courses, publications etc.
- to promote personal development, inclusion and equality of opportunity.

We have achieved this by organising a number of events, funding activities for groups and individuals, maintaining our website, feeding back on CILIP consultations and producing *Sunrise*.

### Events

Every year we arrange an AGM meeting and other events around the region. This includes organising venues, arranging speakers, taking bookings and trying to keep attendance fees low and non-prohibitive. We are always happy to hear about good venues if you would like an event in your area. Examples over the last few years include:

- 2004 “Skilling ourselves for the future” (Essex)
- 2004 AGM and training event on “Knowledge Management” (Hertfordshire)
- 2005 AGM and Meet the Presidents of CILIP and CDG (Norwich)

- 2005 Joint course with ANGLES on “Portals and Consortia” (Cambridge)
- 2006 AGM with speakers from MLA and Inspire (Cambridge)
- 2007 Joint course with ANGLES on “Service Delivery” (Bury St Edmunds)
- 2007 AGM at Umbrella Event (Hertfordshire)
- 2008 AGM on “Working with Older People” (Bedfordshire)
- 2008 Visit to the Open University Library (Milton Keynes)

### Small Grants Fund

This was set up in 2004 and any CILIP members from the region may apply. We have contributed funding for people to attend conferences as well as regional groups to hold events locally. These have included funding towards attendance at:

- “Virtual References Libraries” Seminar in Birmingham
- Federation of Children’s Book Groups Conference
- Joint Colleges of Further and Higher Education and University, College, and Research Group (CoFHE/UC&R) Conference in Norwich
- School Library Association Conference in Glasgow

Also contributions to events run by Youth Libraries Group (YLG) and Eastern Information Services Group (ISG).

### Framework of Qualifications

The East of England Branch was one of two pilots for the new CILIP Framework of Qualifications including ACLIP and Revalidation. Members of the Committee joined the first assessment panels and were able to feedback to the Committee on the processes involved. We made presentations on the assessment process at a number of Career Development Group (CDG) events in the region. We continue to work on the panels although now these are combined and

meet centrally rather than in the region.

## **Consultations**

The Committee responds to CILIP's requests for feedback on various documents, policies and procedures including the new changes in CILIP organisation. If you have any burning issues, we are happy to facilitate communication with CILIP via consultation and the new Policy Forum.

## **Communication**

We produce the *Sunrise* newsletter that all members are welcome to contribute to. It has showcased libraries in the regions, projects and events as well as reports from individuals who received funding from the Branch. We host a website that includes details of events in the region and booking forms as well as information on the Branch and contact details. Representatives from groups in the region attend Branch Committee meetings or send updates on activities, these include YLG, ISG and CDG. We also sent a representative to the Library and Information Services Advisory Panel held by MLA: East of England.

So as you can see the Branch is busy in lots of areas and there are opportunities for you to be involved. You could join the Committee as we need some new members, contribute to *Sunrise*, request funding to organise an event or just send in ideas for training events you would like us to hold. Our contact details are in *Sunrise* and on the website. Below are some comments from members of the committee on how and why they got involved.

## **The Committee – is it for you?**

The Branch Committee is looking for some new members and if you are interested just get in touch with any of the current Committee. You are welcome to observe a meeting if you want to find out more. Read below about why some of the current members got involved and what they have got out of the experience.

### ***Ann Halliday (Currently Chair of the Branch)***

#### ***Library Services Manager, Thurrock Library Service***

"I have been involved with the East of England Branch of CILIP for many years. In the beginning, I joined because I thought it would be an excellent way of finding out more about different library sectors and would be a valuable part of my CPD. Both of those elements proved to be correct. I continued to be part of the Branch because I feel that it is a way of giving something back to the profession. By taking an active part in policy formation and helping to support SIGs in the region, it is possible to really influence the national picture for libraries across the sectors and I would strongly encourage anyone who can to come along and be part of the future."

### ***Marjorie Smith (Secretary of the Branch)***

#### ***Cambridgeshire Library and Information Service***

"Hello - I'm Marjorie Smith and currently I'm secretary of the East of England Branch. Ever since coming to work part-time for Cambridgeshire public libraries in 1994 I'd been aware of the Branch and had occasionally attended events, but I didn't have anything to do with the committee until 2004 when I was appointed to help organise the regional pilot for ACLIP certification. Getting involved with that project widened my horizons, I met so many library staff doing all sorts of varied jobs, but also became more aware of the efforts made by CILIP to support our profession. When the project came to an end I volunteered to join the committee - partly because I enjoyed the company and the opportunity to have my say - but also so that I could play my part in this network."

### ***Lyn Bailey (Co-editor of Sunrise)***

#### ***Librarian, Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge***

"I used to be on the National Committee for the UC&R Group but a change of job made it

harder to get away for the meetings held around the country and I left. However, I enjoyed being involved and contributing back to the profession as well as learning new skills so when I saw an advert for committee members for the Branch I decided to apply. As the meetings are held in the region there is, usually, much less travelling although the region can take a while to get around! I have enjoyed the chance to work with people from other sectors and share experiences. I also discovered that a lot of the issues are the same wherever your library is based. The committee meetings are friendly and supportive with people sharing responsibilities so if this is your first experience of committee work you don't have to worry about being inundated with work. So get in touch and take the opportunity to

develop yourself and the Branch.”

***Jennie Bunning (Committee Member)  
HMRC***

“I joined the Branch in 2006 to gain an understanding of the issues affecting other sectors within the profession. Becoming a committee member has given me the opportunity to liaise with other professional colleagues, on the Committee and other groups, and have an awareness of the changes happening at CILIP HQ. Being on the Committee has helped with my CPD which in turn will assist me with my application for Chartership.”



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## **Libraries Leading Learning – School Library Association Conference, 13-15th June 2008**

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The School Library Association's annual training weekend in Glasgow was a brilliant three days packed full with inspirational speakers, author events, and wonderful networking and social opportunities. As a librarian who had moved from university libraries to a school library some nine months previously, this was my first real opportunity to meet up with others in this sector and share best practice.

Friday afternoon began with an opening from Martyn Wade, National Librarian of Scotland. He stressed that his Library's priority was one of widening access and presented impressive strategies and evidence that the work they were doing was paying off, in terms of increased awareness of the relevance of their resources. A sign of the times that a legal deposit library must work so hard to prove its relevance, but reassuring to see that an ever greater audience was appreciating the work that they do.

During the weekend I attended the following workshops: Rite of Passage, Library Transition and Induction; Sneaky Learning; and Passive Learning is an Oxymoron, Paving the Way to Information Literacy through the Library. The two other speakers that really gave me food for thought were Mike Brearley from the Thrive Project, Independent Thinking Ltd. and Dr Jonathan Sharples from Oxford University.

The Thrive Project is all about changing the culture and ethos in schools in order to create positive and emotionally intelligent organisations. Storytelling and dialogue lie at the heart of this process. Mike draws on the educational theory of Jerome Bruner and stresses how for every emotional experience we create a story which becomes a memory, which in turn can become a barrier to learning. As you might have guessed this presentation involved audience participation and Mike soon had us telling our stories to the delegate we were sitting next to. He left us confident with

the belief that if we were not failing then we were not pushing the boundaries enough!

Dr Jonathan Sharples, working with Susan Greenfield at the Institute for the Future of the Mind, conducts research on the developing and the ageing mind. He outlined the exciting research that they were undertaking, including findings on the negative impact that the unstructured use of computers, TVs and consoles can have on sleep patterns. His presentation showed how technology is transforming the human mind and how brain science should be used to inform learning and educational policy.

This was my first visit to Glasgow. The accommodation and food at Strathclyde University was very good. I was sorry that the only exploring I had time to do was a quick walk around Glasgow's "greatest undiscovered cultural treasure" the 37 acre Victorian Necropolis.

The School Library Association does a wonderful job organising this conference. One of the challenges of working as a school librarian is maintaining the cast iron belief about the importance of the library and reading within the school. Working as the only member of library staff and falling somewhere between teaching and admin/support staff

can feel isolating. The weekend left me on such a high of inspiration and enthusiasm for the job; it reaffirmed my belief that if we don't keep shouting about reading and all the riches that books can bring then we are robbing our children of a rich, creative and satisfying dimension to their lives. I only hope the feeling lasts until next year!

Thank you to the Small Grants Fund for help towards the cost of this weekend.

**Judith Brown**

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Presentations from the weekend can be found on School Library Association website [www.sla.org.uk](http://www.sla.org.uk).

National Library of Scotland [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk).

Independent Thinking Ltd  
[www.independentthinking.co.uk](http://www.independentthinking.co.uk).

Institute for the Future of the Mind  
[www.futuremind.ox.ac.uk](http://www.futuremind.ox.ac.uk).

Glasgow Necropolis  
[www.glasgownecropolis.org](http://www.glasgownecropolis.org).



## **October 2008 in Southend-on-Sea Borough**

### ***The Out of the Box5 Festival celebrating diversity***

This includes the "Threads" exhibition at Southend Central Library on family heirlooms by local schoolchildren and in Southend Library, Focal Point's exhibition from 28th – 31st October called "Southend on Sea in my Home" as well as on Saturday 25th October, Caribbean Storytelling sessions take place in Southend Library from 1-4pm. There are many other events throughout the Borough.

Why not let us know what is going on in your area and we will happily publicise it.

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