

June 2010

SHOREDITCH TRUST ANNOUNCES STARLIT 2010

**4 to 8 October 2010
Hoxton Square, London, N1**

Shoreditch Trust announces **StarLit** - a week-long festival of children's literature from 4 to 8 October in London's Hoxton Square, which will celebrate the very best of writing for 5 to 15 year-olds during Children's Book Week.

StarLit has been developed and produced by Shoreditch Trust as part of their commitment to encouraging children to develop a passion for literature and reading, self-expression and creative writing.

StarLit will encourage over 2400 children in Hackney to read new books by supplying 117 classes and reading groups with copies of a different book title to read throughout September followed by the opportunity to meet the authors and illustrators of each title in a creative event in Hoxton Square.

Over 60 authors, illustrators and poets are taking part in the StarLit 2010 programme including **Philip Reeve, Malorie Blackman, Andy Stanton, Paul Stewart & Chris Riddell, Catherine Forde, Michael Foreman, Philip Ardagh, Beverley Naidoo** and **Emma Chichester-Clark**.

Starlit 2010 has grown out of a successful pilot festival in 2009 when over 2,000 children from Hackney schools and over 80 authors participated in a week-long celebration of literature. A key finding from the evaluation suggested that participating in StarLit helped children become more confident and resourceful readers, actively seeking books from a range of sources and becoming more aware of the variety of uses to which reading can be put.

Monitoring and evaluation evidence underpins all aspects of StarLit and all participants were asked to complete a two phase online questionnaire to observe the impact of festival participation last year.

The key findings of the second phase survey included an **increased appreciation of the value of reading, knowledge of authors** and the **development of improved reading and critical learning skills**. Following StarLit 2009, children appeared to be more aware of the positive value of reading; the most significant improvements were in Year 3-6 group which included "to understand the world" (12% increase), "to help get jobs" (13%) and "for fun" (13%). Furthermore, pupils were more inclined to use narrative based strategies to support their reading, such as "read again", "read on", "ask myself questions" and more likely to "try a few pages" when choosing a book and discuss their choices with friends.

- **Editor's Notes**

Shoreditch Trust was established in 2000 under the New Deal for Communities initiative. This was a new way of looking at regeneration that encouraged an approach that really paid heed to how people lived their lives in their communities. The Trust has delivered over 400 projects ranging in size from London's first environmentally friendly social enterprise restaurant – Acorn House - to the refurbishment of. Partnership is at the heart of the Trust's work and have worked with over 300 other organisations.

More than anything we retain our community focus, we are an organisation that knows the value of commercial acumen, knows that issues of access, equality and opportunity are pivotal to what we do and understands that making a broader contribution not only across Hackney and London but way beyond is part of that opportunity offer.

www.shoreditchtrust.org.uk

Shoreditch Festival, produced by **Shoreditch Trust**, is an annual highlight of the East London cultural calendar. This year's weekend programme of activities, events and performances is completely free to all and takes place in Shoreditch Park from **16 to 18 July 2010**.

On Saturday 17 July at 3pm in the Literature and Spoken Word Tent, Shoreditch Trust will launch the **2010 StarLit Children's Literature Festival programme** at Shoreditch Festival with a special session with children's laureate **Anthony Browne**. Local children will have the opportunity to take part in the session, meet Anthony and ask him questions on his work and discuss the importance of picture books.

www.shoreditchfestival.org.uk

Booktrust is an independent charity dedicated to encouraging people of all ages and cultures to engage with books. The written word underpins all our activity and enables us to fulfil our vision of inspiring a lifelong love of books for all. Booktrust is responsible for a number of successful national reading promotions, sponsored book prizes and creative reading projects aimed at encouraging readers to discover and enjoy books. www.booktrust.org.uk

Children's Book Week is an annual celebration of reading for pleasure for children run by the national reading charity Booktrust. www.childrensbookweek.org.uk

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