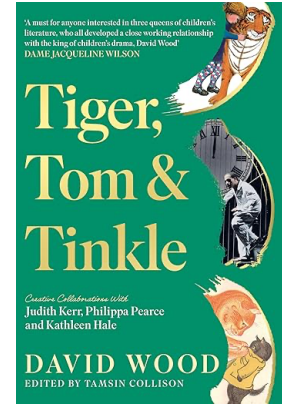
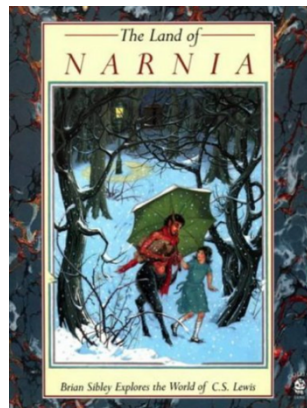


THE CHILDREN'S BOOKS HISTORY SOCIETY
invites you to
A STUDY DAY ON

Adapting and Working with Children's Classics



Saturday 14 November 2026
at the Church Hall of the Great Crown Court Church of Scotland,
Russell Street, Covent Garden, London WC2B 5EZ

Speakers, in alphabetical order, will be:

Professor Kimberley Reynolds: "Adapting Noel Streatfeild's *Ballet Shoes*"

Brian Sibley: "the Scenery is Better on Radio"

Dame Jacqueline Wilson: "Paying Homage to Edith Nesbit and Susan Coolidge: The Challenges"

David Wood: "*Tiger, Tom & Tinkle* – and Other Adventures in Adaptation"

Details at www.cbhs.org.uk or contact the Society's Secretary,
Robert Kirkpatrick, at:

rkirkpatrick.molesworth@virgin.net tel. 020 8567 4521 or 07905 847 951

Please note that spaces are limited. Before paying for a place, please register with the Secretary first. Once offered a place, please pay as per the instructions overleaf.

BOOKING FORM *Cost £25 per person (includes lunch).*

I shall bring..... guest(s).

Name:

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Address:

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Telephone:

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Email:

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Payment by bank transfer direct to the Society's bank account:

Name of account: Children's Books History Society

NatWest Bank plc, London Sloane Square Branch

Sort code: 60 – 19 – 26 Account number 23712457

or by Paypal, to: sarahjwilloughby@aol.com

**or please send a cheque, payable to the Children's Books History Society,
to the Secretary:**

Robert Kirkpatrick

Secretary, Children's Books History Society

6 Osterley Park View Road

Hanwell, London, W7 2HH

Tel: 020-8567-4521

e-mail: rkirkpatrick.molesworth@virgin.net

Please do not send a payment unless you have been offered a place.

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

- 9.30 – 10.00** Arrival, Coffee and Registration
- 10.00 – 10.10** **Welcome and Introduction:** Chair
- 10.10 – 11.10** **Brian Sibley:** “The Scenery is Better on Radio” – radio explorations of Middle-earth. Narnia, Gormenghast and other far-flung realms.
- 11.15 – 12.15** **Dame Jacqueline Wilson:** “Playing Homage to Edith Nesbit and Susan Coolidge: the challenges.”
- 12.15 – 1.30** **LUNCH**
- 1.30 – 2.30** **David Wood:** “*Tiger, Tom & Tinkle* – and Other Adventures in Adaptation”
- 2.35 – 3.35** **Professor Kimberley Reynolds:** “Adapting Noel Streatfeild’s *Ballet Shoes*” – from radio to the National Theatre.”
- 3.35 – 4.30** **TEA and DEPART**

Information about the speakers in order of appearance:

Kimberley Reynolds: Emerita Professor, OBE School of English Literature Language and Linguistics, University of Newcastle. Her publications include *Left Out: The Forgotten Tradition of Radical Publishing in Britain, 1910–1949*; *A Very Short Introduction to Children’s Literature*; *Radical Children’s Literature: Future Vision and Aesthetic Transformations in Juvenile Fiction* Kim’s talk is based on her forthcoming book in the new Children’s Classics Critically series (OUP, New York): *Ballet Shoes: A book in three acts and eight entr-actes*.

Brian Sibley: An award-winning dramatist, Brian Sibley has been adapting literary classics for more than 45 years, and his best-known contribution to BBC Drama, *The Lord of The Rings* (1981), is to be reissued for the first time on vinyl in its original 26-episode format this December. He has authored over 100 hours of radio drama and has written many film-making books, notably for the *Harry Potter* series and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogies. In 2012 he received the BBC Audio Drama Award for Best Adaptation, for his six one-hour episode series *The History of Tutus Groan*.

Dame Jacqueline Wilson: Since her debut novel in 1969, Jacqueline Wilson has written over one hundred books and is a household name. Past Children’s Laureate 2005-7 and Chancellor of Roehampton University (2014-2020), she also taught modules for the Children’s Literature and Creative Writing master’s degree (MA) programmes offered by the university. She has received many honorary degrees in recognition of her services to children’s literature and was elected an honorary fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge in 2012. In 2004 she received the Eleanor Farjeon award and most recently, in 2025, was made Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire for services to Literature. Her publications include: *The Primrose Railway Children*, *Four Children and It* and *Katy*, and her latest book is *Esme Pepper*.

David Wood OBE is “the national children’s dramatist” (Irving Wardle, *The Times*). He wrote his first children’s play in 1967 for the Swan Theatre, Worcester, and has since written over 75 more, which are performed worldwide. They include *The Gingerbread Man*, which became a rep regular, and which David co-produced with Cameron Mackintosh at the Old Vic; double award-winning *Tom’s Midnight Garden*; and the Olivier Award-winning *Goodnight Mister Tom*. He adapted and directed the Olivier Award-nominated *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, currently in its 18th year of touring the UK and internationally, including 11 West End seasons. For 25 years, he wrote book, music and lyrics for, and directed many plays for his company, Whirligig Theatre. He adapted 8 classic Roald Dahl books for the stage, and, most recently, Floella Benjamin’s *Coming to England*. His book *Theatre for Children* is a set text on both sides of the Atlantic. David Wood is President of Action for Children’s Arts. In 2026 David was awarded an Industry Recognition Olivier Award for a lifetime’s contribution to children’s drama.



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The Crown Court Church entrance is located in Russell Street, off Covent Garden, next to the Fortune Theatre and opposite the Theatre Royal. The Church Hall where the conference is taking place is next door to the Stage Door of the Fortune Theatre – a ring of the bell will bring someone up to answer the door.

