

ANGUS COUNCIL**RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

2 MARCH 2000

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

7 MARCH 2000

ANGUS BOOK AWARD**JOINT REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL SERVICES AND
THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION****ABSTRACT**

This report details the continuing development of the Angus Book Award and the proposed arrangements for the Angus Book Award 2000.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Angus Book Award was launched in 1996 as an Angus Council initiative to encourage pupils to read and enjoy quality teenage fiction. The Award was the first of its kind in Scotland.

The award is now in its fifth year. The numbers of pupils participating has grown as schools have recognised the contribution it makes to creating an environment in which pupils are enthused about books. The reputation of the award amongst authors and publishers as a significant event in the teenage book world is now well established and its success has prompted other authorities to set up similar schemes across the UK.

3. BACKGROUND

The award involves 3rd year pupils from all eight secondary schools in Angus in reading five shortlisted titles chosen by local teachers and librarians. The titles are selected from books written by authors living in the UK and published in paperback in the preceding 12 months. The books are read and discussed in detail between January and March before the pupils vote in a secret ballot for their winner.

As part of the shortlisting process authors agree to visit schools and attend the Award ceremony. This is an important element of the award; meeting authors motivates pupils to read and helps them to develop their own potential as writers. Each school is visited by one of the shortlisted authors on the day of the Award Ceremony helping to build a sense of anticipation as authors, pupils, teachers and

librarians wait to hear who has won. The ceremony itself involves pupils talking about their favourite books as well as giving pupils the chance to hear from all the authors. All shortlisted authors receive a cheque for £50 and the winner is presented with a miniature replica of the Serpent Stone at Aberlemno and £250.

Each year the reaction of pupils to the announcement of the winner demonstrates the impact that the award has; in empowering pupils, in emphasising the exciting nature of the initiative, the Angus Book Award helps pupils to see reading as a stimulating and exciting activity.

4. ANGUS BOOK AWARD 2000

This year's award was officially launched by the Conveners of Cultural Services and Education on January 17th at Arbroath Library.

The shortlisted titles are:

Tiger without Teeth by Bernard Ashley
Shadows by Tim Bowler
Tightrope by Gillian Cross
Day of the Dead by Anthony Masters
The Rinaldi Ring by Jenny Nimmo

This year numbers involved have increased to 465 All schools have two Third year classes participating through their English classes and several schools also have other pupils participating through lunch time clubs or independently through the school or public library.

The Award ceremony will take place on Tuesday 28th March at Forfar Academy with the five authors, participating pupils, teachers and representatives of the wider school community as well as members and officers of the Council present.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A contribution towards the costs of the books is made by participating schools and publishers meet half the authors' expenses. The net costs of some £5,000 can be met from within the 1999/2000 Cultural Services revenue budget.

6. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Law & Administration, Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

NORMAN ATKINSON
Acting Director of Cultural Services

JIM ANDERSON
Director of Education

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.