

**REPORT NO 69/01**

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**18 JANUARY 2001**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**23 JANUARY 2001**

**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 2001.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

The Committees are 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 Angus Book Award was the first of its kind in Scotland.

The award is now in its sixth 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 by participating classes and some reading groups within the libraries 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 evening ceremony gives pupils the chance to hear from all the authors and is staged to highlight the high profile status of the award. The role played by pupils in the ceremony has increased each year and this involvement has led to a growing sense of

ownership.

Last year, for the first time, pupils acted as “masters of ceremonies” for the evening as well as talking about their favourite books. All shortlisted authors receive a cheque for £50 and the winner is presented with a miniature replica of the Aberlemno Serpent stone and £250.

Each year the reaction of pupils to the announcement of the winner demonstrates the impact that the award has; by empowering pupils and 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 2001**

This year’s award will be officially launched in January at Brechin Library.

The shortlisted titles are:

*Missing* by Catherine MacPhail

*The Other Side of Truth* by Beverley Naidoo

*Truth or Dare* by Celia Rees

*Thanis* by Hazel Riley

*Plague* by Malcolm Rose

Opportunities to promote the Award electronically will be developed this year, with details about the shortlisted books featuring on the Council’s website and, in a separate initiative, pupils will have the opportunity to send in reviews by e-mail.

The Award ceremony will take place on Tuesday 27th March at Brechin City Hall with the five authors, participating pupils, teachers and representatives of the wider school community as well as members and officers of the Council.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The net costs of some £5,000 can be met from within the 2000/01 Cultural Services Revenue Budget. A contribution towards the costs of the books is made by participating schools and publishers meet half the authors’ expenses.

#### **6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this report.

#### **7. 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

No background papers, as defined by Section SOD 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.