

# National Award celebrates Pupil Librarian Achievements at the House of Commons

Award winning author Tanya Landman is joining school librarians, authors, publishers and other names from the literacy organisations to celebrate the [Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Award](#); a joint venture between the School Library Association and the CILIP School Libraries Group.

An eight-strong shortlist has been selected from a very impressive field of nominations from school librarians across the UK. The winner will be announced by Landman at a special ceremony on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March at Portcullis House, Westminster.

The eight finalists are:

James Belcher, Abbeyfield School, Chippenham

Colin Dowling, Moulsham High School, Chelmsford

Ed Goundrey-Smith, Sibford School, Banbury

Brougham Hardy, Belmont Community School, Durham

Maia Hipwood, Howarth of Effingham School, Leatherhead

Hannah Marsden, Ribston Hall High School, Gloucester

Destiny Rothery, Caister Academy, Great Yarmouth

Anna Heathcote Woodbridge, Derby High School

Barbara Band, Chair of the Judging Panel and founder of the award said *“Week after week many students support the libraries in their schools by giving of their time and effort. Sadly, this is too often unrecognised and unrewarded. Yet these students are not only helping to create a lively and effective library that responds to the needs of its users, they are also gaining valuable skills and experience in the process, skills that will enable them to succeed in further education and the workplace. This award was created to recognise that work and also to highlight the unique synergy that often exists between a pupil and the school library.”*

Tricia Adams, Director of the School Library Association said *“Pupil library assistants are a valuable element in the running of school libraries – giving service to the school but also gaining skills and confidence from the work they do in the library, which ultimately feeds back into their academic achievement and their motivation.”*

Caroline Roche, Chair of the CILIP School Libraries Group said *“The work that pupil librarians do is invaluable in their schools. Many school librarians are lone workers and therefore rely heavily on assistance from pupil librarians during busy periods. But, more than that, many of these pupils enrich their libraries: recommending books, talking to their peers, creating newsletters, contributing to blogs, helping create displays - all the extras which can make a library vibrant and interesting. All of this enriches not only the library, but adds to their personal development. SLG thoroughly endorses this Award.”*

Open to pupils who assist in school libraries across the UK, the award recognises the impact of their work on their school and its library and equally the value of the experience to the children’s lives. Entries are judged by a panel of leading figures from the children’s book world and school library community.

- Ends -

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## Notes to Editors

### The judging panel:

- Steve Cole, Guest Judge, Author
- Sufiya Ahmed, YA Author
- Barbara Band, CILIP Past President & Library and Literacy Consultant
- Elizabeth Bentley, CILIP SLG Committee Member & School Librarian
- Dawn Finch, CILIP Past President & Children's/YA Author
- Annie Everall, Director, Authors Aloud UK & CILIP SLG Committee Member
- Sally Harrison, Principal Library Advisor, EES for Schools

### About the School Library Association

The School Library Association is an independent charity that believes that every pupil is entitled to effective school library provision. The SLA is committed to supporting everyone involved with school libraries, promoting high quality reading and learning opportunities for all. Website: [www.sla.org.uk](http://www.sla.org.uk)

### About the CILIP School Libraries Group

The School Libraries Group (SLG) of CILIP affirms that school libraries and school library services are fundamental to the development of a literate population able to participate fully in a thriving democracy, culture, civilization and economy. [www.cilip.org/slg](http://www.cilip.org/slg)

### Tanya Landman

Tanya Landman is the author of more than thirty books for children, teens and young adults. Tanya's first books were "adventure stories with a sprinkling of magic and a spoonful of humour." However, she is best known for her historical novels. **Apache** - set in 19th century America - was shortlisted for several UK awards including the Teenage Book Trust and the Carnegie Medal, **The Goldsmith's Daughter** - set in the Aztec empire during the Spanish invasion - was nominated for the Carnegie Medal and the Guardian Children's Fiction prize and **Buffalo Soldier** won the 2015 Carnegie Medal. **Hell and High Water** - a swashbuckling thriller set in 18th century Devon - was shortlisted for the 2016 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and nominated for the Carnegie Medal and **Beyond The Wall** tells the story of a slave in Roman Britain.