

EDITORIAL ISSUE 50

In the Spring of 1995 the seed of an idea about a new magazine, centred on children's books, was planted. Encouraged by Anne Wood – Founder of the Federation of Children's Book Groups and creator of *Teletubbies* – a small group of enthusiasts got together and six months later we published Issue 1. Incredibly, seventeen years later, that same team have published Issue 50. But not without your support so a big "Thank-you" to all our subscribers – parents, authors, illustrators, publishers, reviewers, agents, booksellers, teachers, librarians – indeed, everyone who has helped along the way.

Many illustrator friends have donated special artwork to celebrate our milestone. We would like this to support our 2012 *Carousel Calendar* appeal for help for the charity CCAA which supports children with arthritis and their families. Each one is in our auction and can be seen in this issue and on our website. If you would like to bid for one please send your offer, together with the name of your chosen illustrator, to *Carousel*, Ephraim Phillips House, 54-76 Bissell St., Birmingham, B5 7HX marked clearly 'Art Auction'. *Please* do not send any money until you have been notified as successful. The auction closes on April 30th 2012 – so submit your bid now! Another thank you to those generous artists who have donated their work to support us and a special thank-you to Jane Ray and Hachette Children's Books who specially commissioned the front cover which highlights our golden issue.

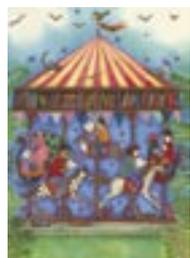
Sadly, we are also bidding farewell to some stalwart contributors and wish them well for the future. Jack Ousbey, who has contributed to every issue, feels it is time for him to put away his reviewing pen; Enid and Chris Stephenson are stepping down from our editorial team and will be greatly missed and, finally, Jenny Blanch is reducing her workload in the day-to-day routines. Pat Thomson, Valerie Bierman and myself welcome David Chant, a former children's bookshop manager and Martin and Sinead Kromer, both retired teachers and tireless workers for the Federation of Children's Book Groups, to our *Carousel* team.

We are all looking forward to the challenges of the future, including the need to move forward digitally, but with the back-up of fifty issues we have the confidence to look forward to the next fifty.



Best wishes, and a final thank-you to all our subscribers – past and present – and to all those interested in children and books who have made *Carousel The Guide to Children's Books* the magazine you cannot afford to be without.

David Blanch



We are grateful to Hachette Publishing and to Jane Ray for her illustration featured on the front cover



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