

Storytelling at the Alton Library and Allen Gallery



Naming the Crazy Gang

In response to the publication of two old photographs of the Alton Crazy Band last week, Mrs Hunter of Orchard House has contacted us with further names to fill in the gaps.

Her father was in the photograph and she remembers the days of the Crazy Gang well.

The first man in the middle row was a Mr Binstead while the man furthest to the right in the same row was Mrs

Hunter's father, Charlie Curtis.

She thinks the picture may have been taken at the Jubilee Parade or carnival as she remembers her father's costume and that he carried her precious jubilee souvenir mug home in his hat.

If anyone can put any other names to the unidentified faces, please contact the Editor on 01420 84446.

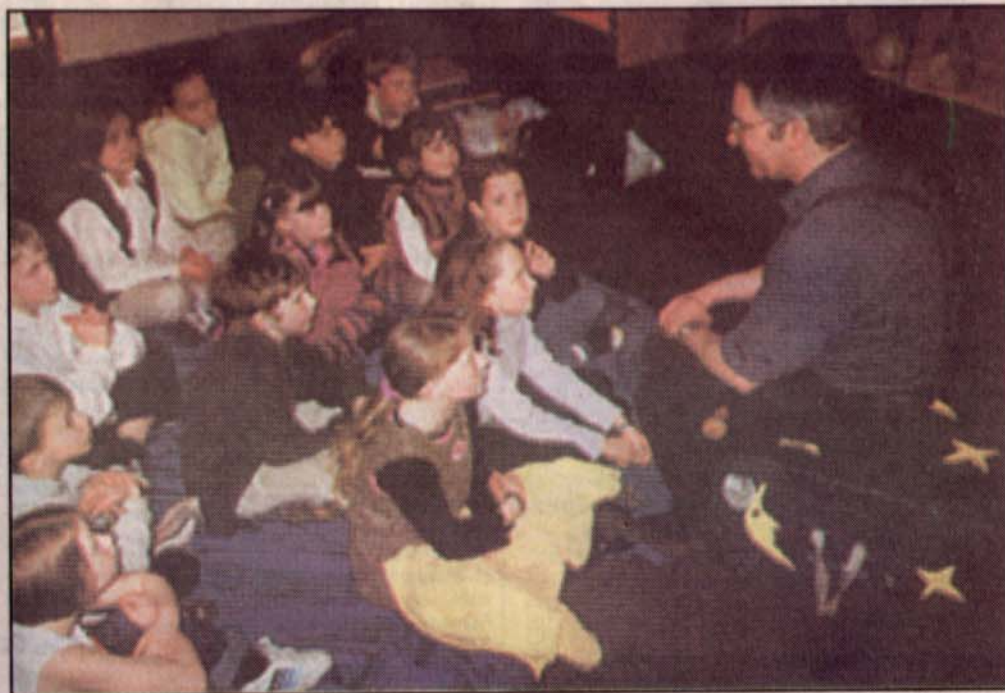
Over 40 children attended Alton library's half term story time last week, hearing of magic and magicians and having their own treasure hunt and colouring session. Above, some of the apprentice magicians search the shelves for clues. (photo order 280201/CM/2A)

Keeping the storyteller's art alive has been Michael O'Leary's passion for a number of years now. During last week's half-term, local children formed an appreciative audience at Alton's Allen Gallery as they listened to him spin his enthralling web of magical tales about enchanted lands and unforgettable characters.

"We listened to a story about three children and

the older and younger ones picked on the middle one. They made her do all the work," explains Ashleigh, a member of Michael's young audience. "But it was alright, there was a happy ending."

Formerly a teacher, Michael's style is derived from building a rapport with the children; discussion and communication are integral parts to his whole



Above, Michael O'Leary transports his young audience at the Allen Gallery to a magical new world.

(photo order 280201/MS/4)

storytelling experience. For example, the children Michael entertained last week were soon busy building puppets of the characters from the stories they had just enjoyed.

"My love is traditional stories," says Michael. "I feel I am a link in a chain stretching from the past to the future.



Left to right, Eleanor Sorsby, Anna Bailey and Honor Barker put together their treasure trail of magicians. (photo order 280201/CM/5A)