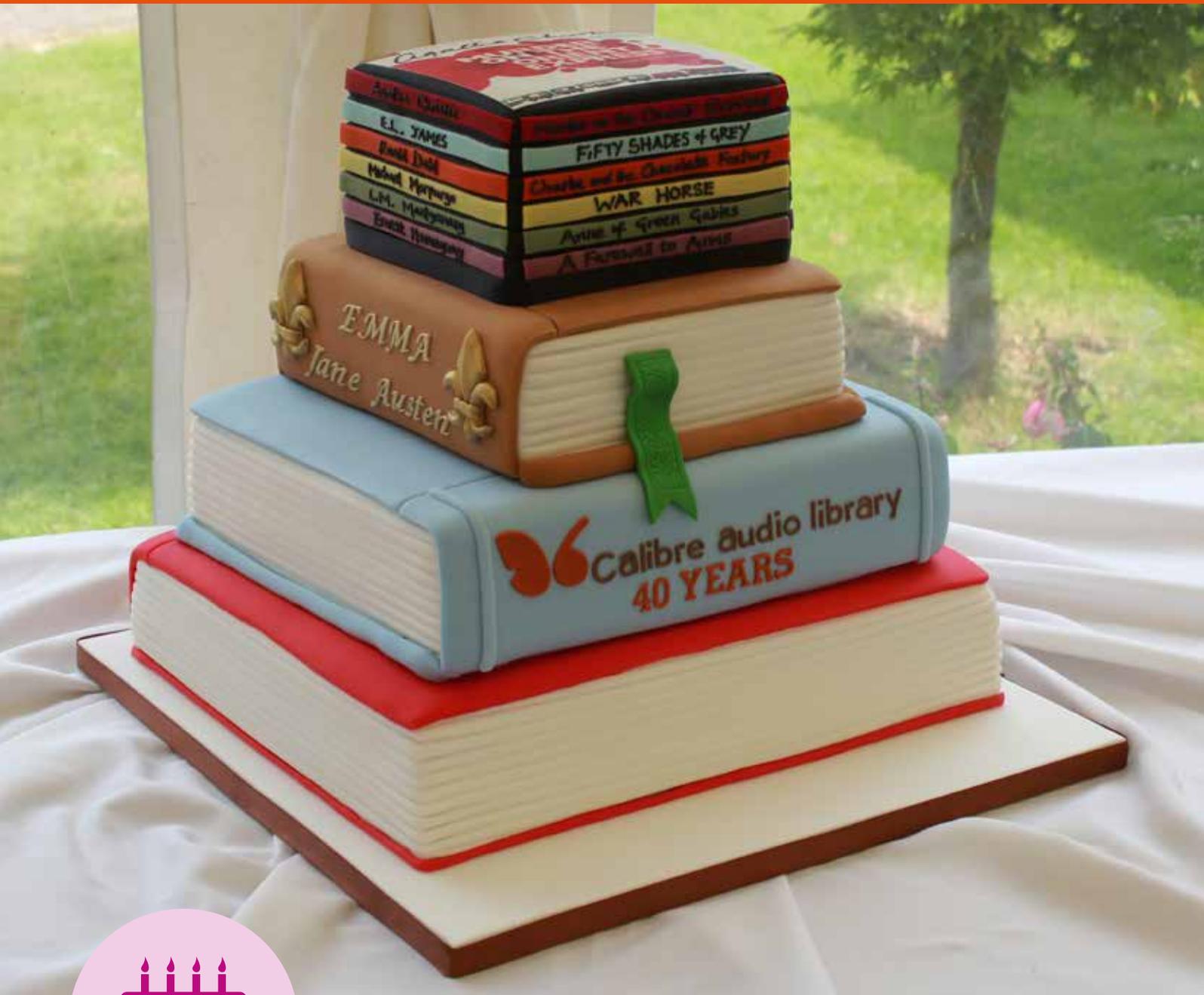


# Calibre News

for staff & volunteers working directly with visually impaired people

WINTER  
2014/15



## Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday

The champagne corks were popping at Calibre as we celebrated our 40th anniversary. Staff, readers, volunteers and patrons enjoyed a trip down memory lane and were entertained to a witty speech by patron, Simon Brett. To mark the occasion, Sheryl Hostler from The Cake House, created a wonderful literary cake.



## Book Groups

*Calibre provides audio books for 90 book clubs across the country on MP3 CDs.*

We can send multiple copies of a title to ensure that all group members receive the same book at the same time. The collection covers a wide range of reading tastes including bestsellers, classic novels, modern fiction, and popular non-fiction. The full range of books and an application form are available via the membership section of our website [www.calibre.org.uk](http://www.calibre.org.uk). The first three month's membership are FREE of charge thereafter the group is invoiced for the annual charge for up to 10 titles a year:

Up to 5 copies	£75 plus VAT = <b>£90</b>
Up to 10 copies	£150 plus VAT = <b>£180</b>
Up to 15 copies	£225 plus VAT = <b>£270</b>
Up to 20 copies	£300 plus VAT = <b>£360</b>

...and so on.

We can also support Calibre members who belong to mainstream books groups on an individual basis.

For more information contact Christine Ronaldson on 01296 432 339 or email [christine.ronaldson@calibre.org.uk](mailto:christine.ronaldson@calibre.org.uk)



Newbury Book Group

Here is what Susan Prior, Librarian and Community Learning and Outreach Assistant, says:

*“Reading Group Membership of Calibre Audio Library has allowed Bromley library to set up a successful reading group for the visually impaired customers by giving us access to a wide range of titles in sets to which we would not otherwise be able to share and discuss at our group. It has helped to level the playing field for our visually impaired customers and enabled them to participate in an activity which our sighted customers take for granted.”*

Susan Prior  
Librarian and Community Learning & Outreach Asst.  
**Bexley and Bromley Shared Library**



## Supported Membership

*Calibre Audio Library is now offering supported membership packages for providers of services for visually impaired people.*

This has occurred following changes recently announced by another service provider. Instead of paying for an annual subscription without a player, Calibre can offer a complete membership and player package for a one-off fee of under £70 for their clients and set up a contract and invoicing arrangement if required. If users already have a players, providers have the option of just paying the £35 joining fee; both of these are seen as excellent value for money. Calibre is working with over 20 organisations to provide this bespoke service. One of these is Blind Veterans UK who have taken advantage of our supported service. Vanessa Young from the organisation told us why Calibre was their preferred option:

“At Blind Veterans UK, the ROVIs (Rehabilitation Officers for people with a Vision Impairment) frequently recommend Calibre Audio Library for talking books. The one-off payment is very reasonable and covers the administration and set up costs. After that, it's free to use the service. The biggest problem we have faced in the past is finding a suitable player. Now, with the introduction of the USB stick as an audio format, the Boombox

*Plus is ideal. This is a simple to use player, portable, reliable and with a great sound that complements the excellent sound quality of the audio books available from Calibre. Calibre provides all its books unabridged, split into tracks so it's easy to navigate and go back a track or two if needed. The choice is good, the books are sent promptly and, in our experience, the staff are very happy to help, enabling our blind veterans to enjoy their reading once again.”*

Vanessa Young  
Rehabilitation Officer  
**Blind Veterans UK**

Steve Hambleton, General Manager at Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind (SRSB) explained why they had chosen Calibre for their members:

“For many years in Sheffield, RNIB's Talking Book service was provided through Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind (SRSB), originally funded by Social Services and in more recent years, by Library Services. However, a combination of the change in RNIB's service in November 2013 with



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## Supported Membership cont'd

*the removal of the loan player and extreme funding pressures within the local authority, resulted in a complete review of accessible book provision for the city. The outcome was that by working with Sheffield Talking News who provide a Boom Box MP3 on free loan, Calibre for book provision on memory stick, SRSB managing the service and Sheffield City Council Library Service funding us to pay the Calibre joining fee, there is still an audio book service available to visually impaired residents of Sheffield at no charge to the service user. Naturally we and the*

*service users had concerns around the change in provision of both the players and books but the transition was very smooth. We received excellent support from all parties and I know the users are very happy with the speed of service from Calibre. ”*

Steve Hambleton  
General Manager  
**Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind**

For more information about supported memberships please contact Liz Clarke, Head of Fundraising and Marketing on 01296 430 339 or email: [liz.clarke@calibre.org.uk](mailto:liz.clarke@calibre.org.uk)

## Calibre in a nutshell

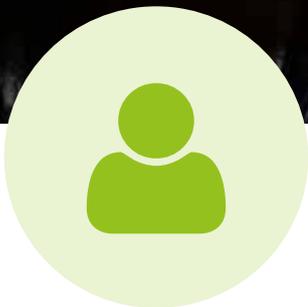
- ▶ Subscription-free postal and streaming service of audio books
- ▶ 8,500 titles in 60 categories covering fiction and non-fiction
- ▶ 1,500 books for children in Key Stages 1 – 4
- ▶ Books available on USB memory sticks, MP3 CDs or via streaming
- ▶ Option of personal reading list
- ▶ Free 3 month trial membership
- ▶ One-off joining fee of £35 (adult), £20 (under 16's) – lifetime membership
- ▶ Player inclusive packages from £65 for adults or £55 for children
- ▶ Dedicated Membership services team

# Calibre News

for staff and volunteers working directly with young people who have sight problems, dyslexia or other disabilities

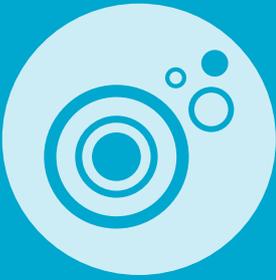
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Young Calibre has over 1,500 books for visually impaired and dyslexic children arranged in Key Stages 1-4. We also have a range of titles that support the needs of pupils studying GCSEs or A levels from the major examination boards, as well as books relating to Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). These include books on sex education, body image, bullying, drug abuse and overcoming exam nerves.



## Profile: Tora

It's been two years since we met bubbly seven year old Tora during an exhibition at the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds. Tora, who has the condition, aniridia, has been enjoying her books ever since. She likes to listen to a variety of authors via streaming on her iPad or on memory stick. Her favourite authors include Roald Dahl and Calibre patron, Anne Fine, OBE. These are some of the books that she's been listening to and would recommend for other children: Roald Dahl: *Esio Trot* (15736); *The Enormous Crocodile* (15070); *B.F.G* (15458) and Anne's *The Diary of a Killer Cat* (15918).



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Registered charity no. 286614

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✉️ [membershipservices@calibre.org.uk](mailto:membershipservices@calibre.org.uk)

🌐 [www.youngcalibre.org.uk](http://www.youngcalibre.org.uk)



## Profile: Tim

*There are not many teenagers who have access to a 1966 E-type Jaguar, that is unless you are Young Calibre member, 14 year old Tim from Essex.*

He's currently working on a year long project with his Grandad restoring his Dad's classic car.

In the early days Tim found his dyslexia challenging. He says he would sit down to write, look at a blank page, become upset and walk out of the room with frustration. He would ask his teacher additional questions and ask to move to the front of the class which led to people thinking he had a hearing problem and might even need glasses. However, since his condition has been diagnosed he is now given the additional support he needs. For examinations this includes working in a separate room which enables him to read the questions out loud and express his thoughts as well as

being given extra time to complete his work. This has resulted in higher grades which he is really chuffed about.

It was Tim's Mum, Valerie, who is a founder member of the charity, Dyslexia Assist, who discovered Calibre whilst browsing the web. Tim has always been an avid listener of audio books which he used to borrow from his local library but there weren't too many titles for teenagers. He now streams his books to his iPhone so he can listen whenever he wants and prefers books which aren't too long. He did try Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom* (4496) but at 7 hours 30 minutes he admits it was pushing his attention span. However, he does recommend Malorie Blackman's *Hacker* (15724).

## Young Calibre in a nutshell

- ▶ Subscription-free postal and streaming service of audio books
- ▶ Free 3 month trial membership
- ▶ One-off joining fee of only £20