

Sheila Ableman Literary Agency

Authors 2009

Sheila Ableman Literary Agency
48 –56 Bayham Place
London NW1 0EU
Telephone: 020 7388 7222
e-mail: sheila@sheilaableman.co.uk



Danny Allan

Danny Allen is an experienced traveller who, during 2004 and 2005, followed in the footsteps of the extraordinary Elizabethan traveller, Thomas Coryate. Danny rode through Turkey, Iran and India by bicycle, in his attempt to find traces of the elusive but fascinating 'first tourist'. His book, *The Sky Above, The Kingdom Below*, recounting his adventures, was published by Haus in 2008.

James Ashcroft

James 'Ash' Ashcroft is 37. He went from Winchester to Oxford and took his law degree to Sandhurst. He joined the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1993 as an infantry officer and "across the water" survived an IRA bullet in South Armagh. It was his first "contact". Like a drug, it can be addictive. After five years service with tours of West Belfast, Bosnia and on secondment with American Special Forces, Ash faced the dilemma of pursuing a military career or having a bash in civvy street. He chose PSD. Private security is commonly called Close Protection (CP) or Private Security Detail. The pejorative term 'mercenary' has fallen into disuse. CP operatives are invariably highly trained ex-military personnel with experience undercover in special ops, guerrilla wars and drug wars.

The work traditionally performed by Special Forces and Marines is increasingly being contracted out to private companies and on the battlefields of Iraq there is a new kind of soldier on the front line. *Making a Killing: The Secret World of Private Security in Iraq* shows us what life is really like in Iraq in the front line. It was published by Virgin Books in October 2006. James is currently working on a second book about his time in Iraq which will soon be on offer.



Dr Jonathan Balcombe

Jonathan Balcombe was born in England, raised in New Zealand and Canada, and lives in Washington, D.C. Since gaining his PhD in ethology (animal behaviour) from the University of Tennessee in 1991, he has worked primarily in animal protection. His love of nature and zest for bird watching have taken him to five continents. He has published scientific papers on communication in bats, nesting in freshwater turtles, cooperative breeding in birds, and medical simulation.

His first book, *The Use of Animals in Higher Education: Problems, Alternatives and Recommendations*, was published by Humane Society Press in 2000. *Pleasurable Kingdom: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good*, an exploration of animals' experience of pleasure, has been sold to Macmillan and was published in May 2006. His next book *Exultant Ark* was sold to the University of California Press, and he is also writing another book on animal behaviour, *Chickens Prefer Beautiful People*, which has been sold to Palgrave.

Simon Brighton

Simon Brighton is an enthusiastic historian and photographer. A number of his photographs were used in The Da Vinci Code illustrated edition. *In Search of the Knights Templar: An Illustrated Guide to the Knights Templar Sites* (UK) which is an introduction to the Knights Templar and gives clear information about the sites, and where they can be found. The book includes map references, specially-taken photographs and text which prompts the visitor towards the less visible features - for example hidden graffiti or carvings and other hidden items that have significance for the Templar order. Weidenfeld Illustrated published this in July 2006. His book, *Echoes of the Goddess. The quest for the Sacred Feminine in the British Landscape* will be published by Ian Allan Publishing in 2010.

Dr Nigel P Brown

Nigel P. Brown gained a master's degree in Classics from Downing College, Cambridge before going on to forge a highly successful career as an advertising copywriter. *Nike, Nurses and Neon* was published by John Blake Publishing in Autumn 2008. This book is a *pot pourri* of evidence that shows how the Greek and Latin languages are still alive in the English we use today. He is currently writing *From Argonauts to Astronauts* which explores the links between the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome and our modern world, and which is on offer.

Dr Alixe Bovey

Alix Bovey is a Canadian art historian and writer. After completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria, she moved to London to study at the Courtauld Institute of Art, from which she received her MA and PhD. Her research interests include the art of the Middle Ages and the legacy of medieval culture in the modern world. She is the author of *Monster and Grotesques in Medieval Manuscripts* (British Library/University of Toronto, 2002) and *The Smithfield Decretals: Tales from the Margins of a 14th century Law Book* (British Library/Toronto) to be published in 2005 as well as articles and book reviews. She presented a BBC4 TV series called *In Search of Medieval Britain*, which transmitted on BBC4 in April 2008. She is working on *Monster: A Cultural History of Things that Go Bump in the Night* which will be on offer in late 2009.

Dr Clive Bromhall



After gaining his doctorate in zoology from Oxford, Clive Bromhall became a natural history documentary maker. During his filmmaking career he has studied subjects as diverse as deadly snakes, human sexuality and shark births. As well as many other awards he received an Emmy nomination for the documentary series *The Human Sexes*.

The Eternal Child is the product of a lifelong fascination with the evolution of mankind. *The Eternal Child* was published by Ebury Press in 2003. His latest book, *Why Breasts are Beautiful*, is on offer

Jim Burge



Jim Burge is a writer, producer and director of factual television programmes with a strong narrative element. He has been fascinated by the Middle Ages since studying medieval philosophy at university. He has made films for BBC's *Timewatch*, as well as a series entirely about the Middle Ages, *Strange Landscape*. Among his many films on science and the arts, Jim made *The Transmission of Roger Bacon*, which he wrote and directed using Bacon's original writings. He also made programmes for Channel Four's acclaimed series about the Industrial Revolution, *The Day The World Took Off*. His latest series, *Untold: An Indian Affair* was a Channel Four series about the

relationship between Britain and India. He also writes periodically as a columnist for the *Independent on Sunday*.

His book, *Heloise and Abelard*, was published by Profile Books in 2003, and was published by HarperCollins in the USA in 2004. His latest book, *Dante*, has been sold to HarperCollins in the USA. ROW rights are on offer.

Giancarlo and Katie Caldas



Giancarlo and Katie Caldas are the proprietors of *Caffe Caldesi*, *Caldesi in Campagna* and *Caldesi Restaurant*, and have been running their cookery school in London since July 2005. BBC2 will be showing a 20 part series on their *Tuscany Cookery School Course* that they organised in the summer of 2005. The book to accompany this, *Return to Tuscany*, was published by BBC Books in May 2006. Their first book, *Italian Mama's Kitchen*, was published in September 2005. Katie is bringing out *The Italian Cookery Course*, which will be published by Kyle Cathie in 2009.

Professor Caroline Cox



Caroline Cox is an international authority of fashion history, whose work explores the relationship between fashion, beauty and culture. She works as a Cultural Trends Advisor for Vidal Sassoon's Advanced Academy as well as lecturing and broadcasting throughout the world. Caroline Cox was awarded the great honour of a Visiting Professorship in Cultural History at the University of the Arts, London. This honorary title was bestowed for her 'services to the development of Cultural History' in particular her writing on fashion.

Her books on fashion history and theory have been published internationally and include *Lingerie: A Lexicon of Style* (Thomas Dunn Books 2001), *Hair and Fashion* (V & A Publications) and *Stiletto*. (Mitchell-Beazley U.K./Harper Design International U.S.A) Her book, *Seduction*, was published by Michael Beasley in 2006. *Bags: an Illustrated History* was published by Aurum Press in 2007 and *Vintage Shoes*, was published by Carlton Books in 2009. *How to be Adored: A guide to Modern Glamour* will be published by Quadrille in 2009.

Lord Crisp

Nigel Crisp has unique experience in health. He has moved from running the world's largest health system, the UK's National Health Service, in one of the richest countries in the world, to working in some of the poorest.

In the last three years he has worked for Tony Blair, the Gates Foundation and the World Health Organisation on improving health in developing countries and published two influential reports – *Global Health Partnerships and Scaling Up, Saving Lives*. He is currently working with African leaders to increase the number of trained health workers in Africa and leading a campaign for greater Africa/UK collaboration.

G Health draws on his personal experience, his knowledge of current thinking and his wide range of international contacts to describe what rich and poor countries can learn from each other and to show how the first truly global professions, with global outlook and global reach, are appearing in health.

Dangerous Films

Dangerous Films is one of the world's leading independent producers. At its core are the awardwinning talents of Richard Dale (Director), Peter Parnham (editor) and Tim Goodchild (Designer). In 2004, Mike Kemp joined the company, completing quorum of sharp creative and business minds. Formed in 2003, it has since produced the television events 9/11-The Twin Towers, Diana – The Last Days of a Princess and D-Day. *Blackbeard* was made for the BBC and Discovery in 2006 and *Human Body Pushing the Limits* (Discovery) shows how the body can cope with extreme circumstances. *Medical Frontiers* delves into the human stories behind frontier medicine. There are several thrilling space-based programmes in production: *Nasa: the Greatest Missions*, *Hubble on High*, and the drama, *Moon Shot*.

A book accompanied *Blackbeard* and was published by the National Maritime Press in 2007 while BBC Books published *D Day* in 2004. *Moon Shot* will be published by Ebury Press in 2010

Terry Denby

Terry was put into care by his mother at the tender age of six and, with nothing to call his own, slowly began to accept the truth that he was entirely alone. This startlingly honest and heart-rending account follows Terry through his early recollections of a lonely, misunderstood childhood spent in the cold surroundings of the East London 'Buildings', through to his tumultuous and confusing early adolescence in an uncaring children's home.

Denied all the opportunities children so desperately need, Terry's account builds a picture of a bewildered and deeply troubled boy who was let down time and time again by the very people he needed the most. Brutal and often shocking in places, this powerful book evokes fifties Britain in astonishing detail. The author's ability to relate his harsh treatment at the hands of not only his mother, but also the authorities responsible for looking after him, brings this social period into stark reality. *Spoilt* was published by Hodder and Stoughton in May 2007.



Professor Robin Dunbar

Robin Dunbar was for many years Professor of Psychology at the University of Liverpool but is now Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology and Director at the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology at the University of Oxford. He is also a Fellow of Magdalen College in Oxford. He is renowned for popularising science – making complicated material accessible to the general reader. He appears regularly on radio and television science programmes and writes for science magazines, such as *New Scientist*,

The Scotsman and BBC Wildlife Magazine, as well as The Times, Independent on Sunday and the Higher Education Supplement.

Robin studied philosophy and psychology at Oxford and, having gained his doctorate in psychology at the University of Bristol, held fellowships at Cambridge, Liverpool, the University of Stockholm, and was Professor of Biological Anthropology at University College London. His main research interests are the evolution of the mind and the social systems of human and non-human primates. He has carried out field studies of monkeys and antelope in East and West Africa and of wild goats in Scotland.

He has published eleven books, over 150 scientific papers and 100 items of popular science journalism. *The Trouble with Science* (Faber & Faber, 1995) has been translated into five languages and published in the US by Harvard. *Grooming, Gossip and the Evolution of Language* (Faber & Faber, 1996) has been translated into six languages, with a US edition published by Harvard, 1997. *Cousins: Our primate relatives* with Louise Barrett (BBC Worldwide, 2000). He published *The Human Story* (Faber & Faber 2003). His book *Evolution of Man* is on offer and his book *Why We Love* will be published by Faber & Faber in 2010, along with *Dunbar's Number*, a book based on his highly-acclaimed articles.

Tadg Farrington

In 1996 Tadg won a grant under Scottish Screen's New Voices scheme to develop his treatment - *Cluny MacPherson* into a feature length screenplay and he was the writer for *The Human Footprint*, which was broadcast on Channel 4 earlier this year.

Over the past 6 years he has worked as an editor most notably on *The Machine Doctor* by Peter Burnett which won a Scottish Arts Council book of the year award in 2002. His book, *The Life Almanac*, will be published by Square Peg, Random House, in 2009.

Peter Firstbrook

Peter Firstbrook's first book, *The Voyage of the Matthew* (BBC Books, 1997) accompanied the TV series of the same name. Peter Firstbrook is also the producer of the BBC film *Lost on Everest* and wrote the highly successful accompanying book *Lost on Everest – the Search for Mallory & Irvine* (BBC Books, 1999). *Lost on Everest* won first prize at the Premio ITAS del libro di montagna Publishing Awards, the Italian award for non-fiction books devoted to mountaineering.

He was also the series producer and author of the accompanying book for *Surviving the Iron Age* (BBC Worldwide, April 2001) and is the series editor for BBC Travel Specials. He is currently working *A Year in Tibet*, the 12 part BBC4 series. He is also working on a book, *Captain John Smith A biography of a braggart and a bounder*. This is currently on offer. He is also working on a book about President Obama's family which is also on offer.



Alastair Fothergill

Alastair Fothergill was the series producer of *Planet Earth* and the director of *Earth*, the associated feature film. He has been the head of the BBC Natural History Unit, and was series producer of the award-winning *Life in the Freezer* and *The Blue Planet* for the BBC. He wrote the accompanying book, *Life in the Freezer*, BBC Books, (1993) and co wrote *Blue Planet*, BBC Books, (2001).

His latest book is *Planet Earth The Photographs*. BBC Books,(2007). Alastair is working on the next major series for the BBC, *Frozen Planet*, and will be writing the accompanying book with Vanessa Berlowitz. It will be published by BBC Books, Random House in 2011.



Ken Howard

Ken Howard is an award-winning TV and film producer and director and also an award-winning composer. He has made many films for the South Bank Show and Central TV. His films for BBC TV, *Braveheart* and *Today I am A Man*, both won the Royal Television Society Award for Best Children's Programme in 1990 and 1991 and were followed by *Listen To Me*, a study of deaf children, *You've Got A Friend* with Alan Ayckbourn, that dealt with children's imaginary friends and the drama, *Open Mind* with

Anna Massey, about child psychotherapy. For BBC's Bookmark he wrote, directed and composed the Christmas special drama *Sunny Stories* - an evocation of the life of Enid Blyton, starring Maureen Lipman and Anna Massey. His *You've Got a Friend* won the Special Prize at the 6th Rencontres Européennes Télévision in Reims, France.

His 8-part rock history of London, *Routes of Rock* was transmitted on ITV and two 6-part children's series for BBC, *Court In The Act* aired on BBC2. His most recent *South Bank Show Maxim Vengerov: Living the Dream* won the Silver Screen Award at the US International Film & Video Festival. He filmed a profile of the Greek singer Nana Mouskouri for the series. Ken Howard is a director of Landseer Productions Ltd in London and his novel for young adults, *The Young Chieftain*, is on offer.



Paul Kieve

Paul Kieve is the only illusionist to have been connected to the Harry Potter films - as physical magic consultant to Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (in which he also appears) and as a pre-production consultant on Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. He privately tutored Daniel Radcliffe who became hooked on magic and has written the introduction to Paul's innovative book *Hocus Pocus – a Tale of Magnificent Magicians and their Amazing Feats* published by Bloomsbury in the UK and Germany in October 2007.

The title was published in the USA by Scholastic in June 2008. Further editions have been sold in Brazil, Spain, Denmark, The Netherlands, China and Israel. It was 'Children's Book of the Month' at Borders.

Paul has been passionate about the subject of magic since the age of 10 but his professional career started at the age of 16 when he performed magic in the video for Sade's hit *Your Love Is King*. He was runner up in the international Young Magician of the Year competition in 1985 and after leaving school toured the globe for 4 years performing his acclaimed magic act in Japan, Italy, the QE2 and The Magic Castle in Hollywood. Since 1991 Paul has mainly concentrated on creating innovative illusionary effects for theatre productions, and is now considered to be one of the leading international designers in this field.

He is considered to be a leading expert in the subject of magic history and was magic consultant on the BBC History of Magic series. Paul has tutored many celebrities and even supervised the sawing in half of Pop Idol / American Idol star Simon Cowell live on BBC TV! Paul is now working on another book on magic.



Christine King

Christine King (Ghost-writer) Christine has edited, written and co-written many best-selling books. Apart from the innumerable books which she has rewritten and edited for many publishers, she has worked with Iain Stewart on *Journeys from the Centre of the Earth* and wrote and ghosted *In Search of the Knights Templar*. She ghosted Elaine Lordan's *Whatever it Takes*, and Gail Porter's autobiography *Laid Bare*, and wrote *Sold* which was published by Hodder in 2008. Christine is currently ghosting an autobiography for Ebury.



Kate Lock

Kate Lock is a writer and journalist based in York. As a features writer for Radio Times, she joined *Casualty* as an extra; interviewed Due South mountie Paul Grose in his underpants; got drunk with Johnny Morris; attended a wedding for *The Archers*; lurked in a graveyard on *Pride and Prejudice*; had a close encounter with a lion for *Vets in the Wild* and – almost - got a date with Richard E Grant. This knowledge of television stood her in good stead for writing TV tie-ins, including: *Jimmy McGowan's The Lakes* (BBC Worldwide, 1998) *Where the Heart Is: Home* (Headline, 1998) *Home and Where the Heart Is: Relative Values* (Headline, 1999) (BBC Worldwide, 1998) *Tiffany's Secret Diary* (BBC Worldwide, 1998) *Bianca's Secret Diary* (BBC Worldwide, 1999) *Who's Who in EastEnders* (BBC Worldwide, 2000) *Burnside: The Secret Files* (HarperCollins, 2000) and *Steve Owen: Still Waters*: (BBC Worldwide, 2001).

Ebury Press published *Carrion Kisses*, a work of autobiographical non-fiction, in March 2004, later published in paperback as *Dangerous Love*. She wrote a personal account of her attempts to live a greener life style. *Confessions of an Eco Shopper*, which was published by Hodder in 2008.



David Manners

David enjoyed an eclectic education in Epsom, Lichfield, Paris, Frankfurt and Stockholm. After a period of public relations in Pittsburgh and working the harvest in North Pennsylvania's Amish country, he returned to Britain to read Music, specialising in composition. David has been employed as a cabaret and ballet pianist in London, an English teacher to German bankers, a translator for a Parisian professor, a care-worker with autistic children, and as an assistant to a leading theatrical milliner. He worked for five years as a theatre designer, primarily with one of Britain's foremost dance companies, for which he was also commissioned to compose original orchestral work.

Whilst he continues to undertake professional genealogical research, David has spent the last twelve years as massage therapist at Glyndebourne Opera, where he also teaches *Shaiva Tantra Yoga*. He has led courses in the same, little-known tradition at English National Opera, for the Jerwood Young Artists' Programme, and with village groups in various regions of India. He is the co-founder of a charity that provides medical care, education and human contact for socially excluded individuals and communities on the Indian subcontinent. For the past fourteen years, David has divided his life between the Sussex Downs and the Bengal Himalaya. His book, *In the Shadow of Crows*, an account of his spiritual journey through India, will be published by Reportage Press in 2009



Professor John Oxford and Dr Rob Lambkin

Professor John Oxford is Scientific Director of Retroscreen Virology Ltd and Professor of Virology at St Bartholomew's and the Royal London Hospital, Queen Mary School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Rob Lambkin is Director and General Manager of Retroscreen. As one of the world's leading experts on the subject, Professor Oxford has presented and appeared in various TV documentaries concerning Avian Flu and is frequently asked to speak on Avian Flu for news and current affairs radio and TV programmes. Their forthcoming book, *The Flu Hunters*, will be on offer in 2009.



Fiona Rule

Fiona is a professional writer and researcher with over 15 years experience in a variety of disciplines including advertising copy, PR press releases, magazine features and columns, non-fiction books, newsletters and research papers. She has a particular interest in social history, interior design and furniture. She gained a valuable insight into how the publishing industry operates (particularly from the retail perspective) while working for two years at Books Etc (now Borders) Head Office as Assistant to the Marketing Director where she was responsible for the organization of many book signings, talks and readings. Fiona is also a trained vocalist and is experienced in performing in front of an audience. Her book, *The Worst Street in London* was published by Ian Allan Publishing in 2008 and Fiona is working on a new book, *The Docks*, which will be published by Ian Allan in 2009.

Seven Stones Media Limited

Seven Stones made a series with Giancarlo and Katie Caldesi called Return to Tuscany, and a book of the same name was published in May 2006 to accompany the series. Seven Stones plan to do further series with the Caldesis. Another cookery proposal will soon be on offer.

Dave Sharp

Dave Sharp has written a remarkable account of his search for his lost family. Given away at birth and brought up by a loving adoptive family, he discovers, late in life, that he is the full brother of Ian McEwan, the renowned writer. John Blake published *Complete Surrender* in 2008.



Professor Iain Stewart

Dr Iain Stewart has worked for the Centre for Geosciences, Department of Geography and Geomatics, University of Glasgow. He has presented Horizon programmes and presented the series *Journey from the Centre of the Earth*, which was transmitted in January 2005. He wrote the accompanying book, also called *Journeys From the Centre of the Earth*, which was published by Century. His next series was *Journey from the Centre of the Earth: Pacific Rim*, which transmitted in the autumn of 2006. He has written the book *Earth: The power of the planet*, which was published in 2007 to accompany the BBC2 5 part series, His latest book, *Geologica Britannica*, will be published by Atlantic in 2010.



Peter Taylor

Peter Taylor, author of *Provos*, *Loyalists* and *Brits* has reported on Northern Ireland for over thirty years and has made more than fifty documentaries on the conflict for *This Week* and the BBC's *Panorama* in addition to numerous authored series for the BBC. In 1995 he received the prestigious RTS Judges' Award for his lifetime's coverage on the conflict and in 2001 was made fellow of the RTS. His most recent series was *The New Al Qaeda* (July 2005), while his latest *Panorama* Specials were *Real Spooks* and *Stockwell: Countdown to Killing*. He authored a new series on terrorism called *Age of Terror* in April 2008. His books include *Beating the Terrors* (Penguin, 1980), *Smoke Ring: the Politics of Tobacco* (Bodley Head, 1984 – awarded World Health Organisation's Gold Medal for excellence in scientific writing), *Families at War: Voices from the Troubles* (BBC Books 1989), *The Provos: The IRA and Sinn Fein* (1998), *Loyalists* (2000) and *Brits: The War Against the IRA* (2002), all published by Bloomsbury. He is now writing a book on his experiences as a journalist with all forms of terrorism, called *Talking to Terrorists* which will be published by Harper Press in 2010. Peter was recently awarded the James Cameron Memorial Award for Outstanding Journalism for 2008.

Ingrid Thomas

Ingrid Thomas has been interested in shells since childhood. She has devoted the past three years to researching them, and lecturing on the subject in the U.K. and overseas. Her book, *The Shell*, the definitive book on the subject, was published in 2007 by Thames & Hudson

Jacky Trevane

Jacky was 23 when she arrived in Egypt for a ten-day holiday. She twisted her ankle and was rescued by an Egyptian family - where she met Omar. It was love at first sight, they married and Jacky, converting to Islam and taking an Arab name, became, in effect, an Arab woman. Jacky's description of her life living with a poor Arab family reveals a culture totally alien to her own, of two worlds that would inevitably clash with terrible consequences.

When her meticulously planned and dramatic escape was discovered, the 'sin' of taking a man's children from him resulted in the Iman in Cairo issuing a fatwa, a death threat. Jacky has been looking over her shoulder ever since, hence the pseudonym Jacky Trevane. Hodder & Stoughton published *Fatwa: Living with a death threat* in January 2004 and *Invisible Women*, which was also published by Hodder & Stoughton in 2006.



Professor Chris Turney

Chris Turney is a British geologist and is currently Chair in Physical Geography at the University of Exeter. Chris did the radiocarbon dating on the 'Hobbit' fossil of Flores, Indonesia, that hit the headlines worldwide in 2004. He has published numerous scientific papers and magazines articles, and gives frequent media interviews, thanks to his infectious enthusiasm for working out how old things are. His book, *Bones, Rocks and Stars* was published by Macmillan in 2006, and *Ice, Mud and Blood* was also published by Macmillan in 2007. He has recently been awarded the prestigious Philip Leverhulme prize for 2008. He is currently writing a book on climate change which will soon be on offer.



Charlotte Uhlenbroek

Charlotte Uhlenbroek is the rising star of the BBC Natural History Unit. She has a degree in Zoology and Psychology from Bristol University and a PhD in zoology. While researching for her PhD, she spent four years in the forests of Gombe, Tanzania, studying the behaviour and vocal communication of wild chimpanzees. Her first screen appearance was in the BBC Natural History Unit's Dawn to Dusk series (1996), then she went on to present BBC2's Chimpanzee Diary as part of the Animal Zone (1998-1999). Cousins (BBC1, 2000) was her first three-part series, in which she set off on a global adventure to meet our closest living relatives – monkeys, apes and other primates.

Her series, Talking with Animals, which explores the secret world of animal communication, was screened on BBC1 in the summer of 2002. Hodder & Stoughton published the accompanying book, and also published her book, *Jungle*, in autumn 2003, which accompanied the BBC TV series of the same name. Charlotte's latest book is the comprehensive book on animal behaviour, *Animal Life: The Definitive Visual Guide to Animals and their Behaviour*, which was published by Dorling Kindersley in 2008

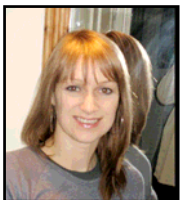
Michael Williams

Michael Williams writes widely on railways for many publications, including The Independent, Independent on Sunday, Daily Mail, New Statesman, The Oldie and the railway specialist press. He is a senior Fleet Street journalist of many years' experience and the former Deputy Editor of the Independent on Sunday. He is currently Senior Lecturer in the School of Journalism, Media and Communication at the University of Central Lancashire. His previous books include *Society Today* and *Britain Now Quiz*.

He commutes regularly by train on the 435-mile return journey between his home in London's Camden Town and his office at Preston in Lancashire. His book *The Good Rail Journey Guide* is on offer.

Hubert van den Burgh

Hubert van den Burgh gained a master's degree in Modern Languages from Keble College, Oxford, before going on to forge a successful career in the city. As a reaction against glib city chat, he cultivated ways to improve his vocabulary, a project he has converted into his book, *How to Sound Clever (without sounding like a Clever Dick)*. This book sets down the 1000 words, which people encounter in everyday life, which they think they know, but don't actually have the confidence to use. This book gives the etymology of the words but also gives lively examples of the how the words can be used, citing celebrities to make them memorable, and is currently on offer.



Amanda Vliestra

Since she was a witch and ghost-obsessed child, living in a haunted old mill cottage, top of the class in English and addicted to the books of Eva Ibbotson, Diana Wynne-Jones and Margaret Mahy, Amanda has wanted to write supernatural fiction. So a mere 25 or so years later (she is 33) she has finally got down to it. In the intermittent years, she has indulged her love of writing by working on the features desks for a wide range of women's magazines including Chat, Eve, Top Sante, Real and Full House! before finally finding her niche as features editor of Chat It's Fate magazine - the best psychic magazine in the business. In her 20s, she lived the high life in Camden, hanging out with pop stars, drug addicts and lunatics (some were a combination of the three), and generally behaving very badly. Once she turned 30, she had a vision of herself as a raddled old Camden groupie, chasing boys half her age.

Not fancying this future much, she decided to move away. She now lives a very respectable existence in Maida Vale with her husband Ian, who works in the City and doesn't believe in ghosts at all. Her life in Camden Town is the inspiration for her 'crossover' book, *Camden Souls*, in which the heroine, an angel, is sent from Heaven, to save souls from this most hellish corner of earth... *Camden Souls* is on offer.

Hasso and Catharine Von Bredow.

This is an account, painstakingly written by Hasso von Bredow, of the rare and devastating stroke in the brain stem. which he suffered when a seemingly healthy father of three and City professional. Unable to

communicate other than by blinking an eyelid, this is a deeply moving story of his last years, written with the help of a machine, and which includes a beautifully written account of their life together by his devoted wife Catherine who shared his grief and pain with him. Orion will publish *In the Blink of an Eye* in June 2009



The Estate of Paul Ableman

Novelist, playwright, and screenwriter, Paul Ableman's play, *Green Julia* was a noteworthy success at the 1965 Edinburgh Festival and led to a career writing plays for radio, television and the stage. He was chief fiction reviewer for *The Spectator* and *The Evening Standard*, as well as London Literary Correspondent for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

His main focus, however, was on fiction. The critically acclaimed *I Hear Voices* was published by Olympia Press in Paris in 1958 and was described by Philip Toynbee in the Observer '...a strikingly fresh and original work of art.... The writing is brilliant; both terrifying and hilariously funny'. Maurice Girodias, Olympia Press's publisher described it as, 'the book, not excluding *Lolita*, which gave me the greatest pride and pleasure to publish'. As well as many successful commercial novels, he wrote four more literary novels, *As Near As I Can Get* (1962), *Spearman*, and *Twilight of the Vilp* (1966), *Vac* (1968), and *Tornado Pratt* (1977) all published by Victor Gollancz Ltd. His last book was *The Secret of Consciousness; how the brain tells the story of me.* (Marian Boyars Publishers Ltd 1999). Faber Finds will publish the five novels in 2009.