

MK kids, MAD about JONI-PIP

ENTHUSIASTS of Author, Carrie King's first novel, **The Life in the Wood with Joni-Pip**, enjoyed a great weekend at Waddesdon Manor, where the third Music, Arts, Dance and Drama Festival was held on Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th June.

The sunny two days included a Character Drawing Workshop, where children of all ages (ranging from 2-35!) listened to Carrie reading **The Life in the Wood with Joni-Pip Picture Book** and then used their imagination to draw [pictures](#) of some of the characters. The Workshop was scheduled to last for an hour but children and



adults kept arriving and drawing all day, even though the first prize had been won and presented.

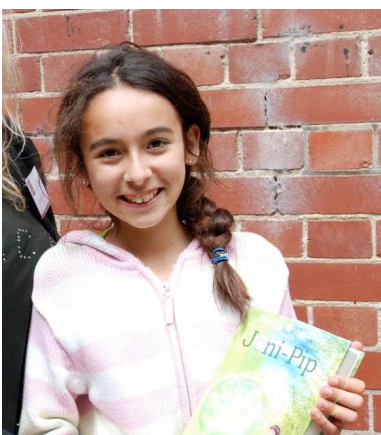
Children from MK Schools then took part in the Joni-Pip Adventure Trail, where they acted out parts of the book while Members of the public sought to find the answers to clues, set in the beautiful woods that surround the magnificent Manor House.

Carrie was interviewed about **Joni-Pip** on the impressive Stage One of the Event. She told the crowd how thrilled she was that Best Selling Author, **R.J. Ellory**, had read **Joni-Pip** with his 11 year-old son, Ryan and called it 'A rare feast for children....a fabulous journey'. R.J. Ellory's novel, **A Quiet Belief in Angels**, was featured on the Richard and Judy Book Club and over a quarter of a million copies have been sold this year.



Liam, Joni and Jessica from The Lord Grey School in Bletchley (left) played characters from JON-PIP, alongside Matt from Sir Frank Markham School and Paige from Loughton Middle School.

Beth, aged 4 (right), from Loughton Manor Nursery School, lights up the Way to Tunnel 6. "She stood for ages holding up that lamp while over seventy children passed through her part of the Trail" said her mother, Zoe.



First Prize winner of The Joni-Pip Trail was **Arantxa** (left), who was delighted to receive a hard back, signed copy of JONI-PIP.

The MAD Weekend's success was highlighted by the blazing June weather.

"I have had a wonderful two days," said Carrie King (pictured right). "It has been amazing meeting so many **JONI-PIP** Avids and it is so satisfying, hearing strangers tell how much they enjoyed the book."





Eliza (left) is seen showing one of Carrie King's illustrations from Joni-Pip. Eliza played the part of Amelia Plate, a Victorian girl living in a Workhouse in 1892. In the story, Joni-Pip and her friends Jump back in time (JIT) to change the Past and save her from a tragedy.



Josie Peters from Netherfield, played the part of Mother. Here she is seen sitting with Elle-Sahara (right), from Loughton First School. "The book is wonderful and I just loved playing the part of Sarah Garador, living in 1942; even though my curlers and hair net caused some amusement when I went to go and buy a burger! I recommend JONI-PIP to all ages," Josie enthused.



Carrie was interviewed on Saturday by Paul Dixon from BBC Three Counties Radio, based in Luton. He was covering the MAD Weekend for the Saturday afternoon slot presented by **Luke Ashmead**. Paul left Carrie's Live Interview until last and had a surprise for Luke when he brought Liam, Luke's 13 year-old son on the air. Paul asked Liam if he knew the Presenter. "Never heard of him!" Liam replied. Luke, who lives in Bletchley, burst out laughing. "Is he behaving?" he asked.

Luke spent Sunday at Waddesdon Manor and watched his son playing the part of Ethelred-Ted. "It was great!" he said and seemed to enjoy having a go at playing Ethelred-Ted himself.

"We are delighted everything went so well," said Dave Clarke, Carrie King's MARCOM Manager. "It was a raging success and everyone seemed to have a blast!"

Luke Ashmead (left), of BBC Three Counties Radio, donning his son Liam's Ethelred-Ted ears!

The Life in the Wood with Joni-Pip Picture Book, ISBN 9780955524622, is available at Waterstones, price £7.99 and The Life in the Wood with Joni-Pip (Text-only), ISBN 9780955524660, is available at £8.99.

www.joni-pip.com

Photography by Nefil