



Welcome to the latest Special Operations Newsletter!

Dear Reader,

With the summer holidays here, I hope you're all having a great time and are chilling out. As for me, well I'm breathing a huge sigh of relief because I've just finished the first draft of my next Special Operations adventure (Hooray!). I've given it the provisional title *The Hunted* and it sees our heroes Finn, Loki and Freya heading off to the dark and dangerous streets of Nazi-occupied Paris to search for a fellow agent who's gone missing with a suitcase load of cash. Has he simply done a runner? Will our heroes have to 'eliminate' him because he knows too much? Or are things not quite as they seem? It's one heck of an adventure.... and will be published next year, so keep your eyes peeled for it.



Wolf Squadron: On Sale Now!

If you're looking for a great summer read, why not try my latest book *Wolf Squadron*. It's just been published and is the third in my Special Operations series (*Dogfight* and *Death Ray* being the first two).



To celebrate the launch I was invited to talk to students at the Norwegian School in London. I received a fantastic welcome and really enjoyed my visit. As many of you know my heroes Finn, Loki and Freya are Norwegian and this was my first opportunity to talk about my books with 'natives' of their homeland.



The launch also coincided with a number of other events, including the highly competitive *Solent Kid's Lit Quiz* held at Bay House School, Gosport. I teamed up with fellow local authors Ali Sparkes (you may have read her *Shapeshifter* series, or her book *Frozen in Time* which won this year's Blue Peter prize) and Andrew Norris and Judy Waite. Teams from various schools in the area took part, cheered on by a crowd of parents, teachers and friends. A great evening!

Other summer term highlights included taking part in Eagle House School's first ever book festival celebrating children's literature. With events taking place in a huge marquee



throughout the week, the festival was open to the public as well as other schools in the area (Sandhurst). Loads of authors participated, including Marcus Sedgwick, Jeremy Strong, M.G. Harris, Chris Priestley and Anne Fine.

Eagle House School's Celebration of Children's Literature (17th June 2010)

In June I was also invited to join fellow authors Bali Rai and Pete Johnson for a discussion with school librarians at their annual training conference in Nottingham – this was really interesting with loads of questions about how we can make school events as exciting as possible. There were librarians from all over the country and from as far afield as Poland, Italy, Luxembourg and the Channel Islands.

So far this year I've done over twenty events and met well over a thousand students. For World Book Day back in March I was at one of the largest secondary schools in Europe – Exmouth College. In fact, they won a visit from me as a prize in a national competition run by WBD and The Reading Zone! And to celebrate they gave me a nice big cake (pictured) on which they'd printed the cover of Death Ray from my Special Operations series – it looked (and tasted) great! You can download some Special Ops images to have printed on cakes or whatever you like from my website at www.craigsimpsonbooks.com



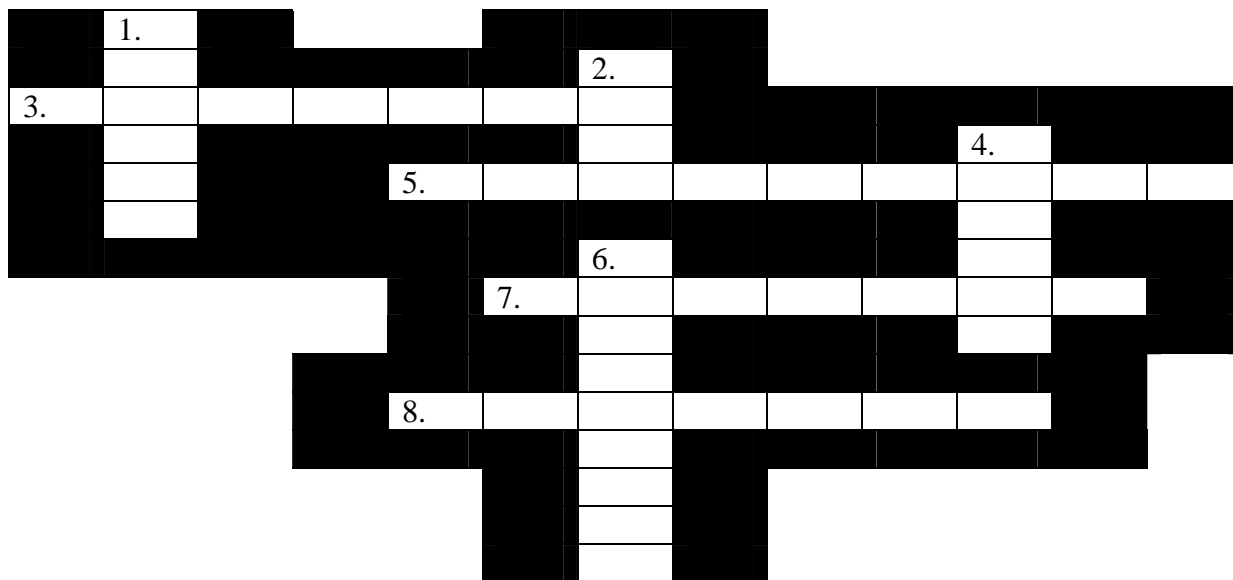
Below is a snapshot of me at another Kid's Lit Quiz event earlier this year alongside the winning team and fellow authors Ali Sparkes (again!) and Andy Briggs (who writes the Hero and Villain.com series of books). The quiz was held at Fratton Park stadium home to Portsmouth football club. Better luck for next season Pompey!



Competitions.....

The closing date has now passed (End July) for the initial round of on-line competitions run by my publisher and which you entered by visiting my website and registering. The winners have been drawn at random and they will be notified in due course (if not already). Congratulations if you won! Better luck next time, if you didn't. Hopefully we'll be running more competitions very soon.

Short Crossword (All questions based on my books – answers at the end of this newsletter but no sneaking a peek!)



Across

- 3. What is Loki scared of in Dogfight (7)
- 5. Finn's home town in Norway (9)
- 7. Type of shop owned by Otto in Wolf Squadron (7)

Down

- 1. Jacques' sister's name in Death Ray (6)
- 2. Finn's dog's name in Dogfight (4)
- 4. Nazi Spy's codename in Death Ray (6)

8. Type of windmill on farm in Wolf Squadron (7)

6. Doctor's surname in Wolf Squadron (3,6)

Things to do during the hols....

If, like me, you're crazy about airplanes then as it's the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain this year look out for various air displays around the country. Also, many aircraft museums will be putting on special exhibitions. I'm going to try and get to one at RAF Hendon just north of London. Hopefully, I'm also going there to do some photography. They have a Westland Lysander there that I want to get a really good picture of for including in my next book.

And finally,

Don't forget, you can keep up to date with my latest news by following my blog at www.craigsimpsonbooks.com

**Quick
Crossword**

Answers:

1. Amelie

2. Oslo

3. Heights

4. Renard

5. Trondheim

6. Van Alblas

7. Tailors

8. Paltrok