

from **Malcolm Saville**  
author of  
Dark Danger  
Power of Three  
The Purple Valley  
Three Towers in Tuscany  
White Fire  
The Dagger and the Flame  
Come to London

Chelsea Cottag  
Winchelse  
Sussex TN36 4H1

10 NOV 1978

Dear Larry Cadogan -

Hope you are now safely  
back. I have had a wonderful  
trip. Here is my latest  
Newsletter just going out to  
about 500 readers who have  
reserved it. 'Home to  
Witchend' seems to be doing  
well. I'm losing a few  
'Favourite' copies but I am  
going to send you one  
duly autographed in due  
course. Meanwhile I've

seen a copy of Brian Doyle's  
filed in "20th Century Children's  
Writings". It is substantially  
correct except for his reference  
to Marston Baines being in his  
"early twenties". And actually  
my output is nearly 90  
words is not 80.

Let me know if there is  
anything else you want. I should  
like it very much if you could  
spare the time to lunch with  
me in London one day. Or  
are you too busy?!

Best wishes

Anthony Smith



Ad

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December 5.12.78.

Dear Mary.

Please suffer my handwriting. Thank you for your letter. By now you should have the parcel. I have asked Nigel Watts of Heronmore to let you have what you would like to read & also told Jimmy Dunbar of Luffenham of our meeting & talk together. I hope she will send you copies of what I have written as Foreword to 'Words for All Seasons' & Intro to each season. She is one of the best & most sympathetic editors with whom I have ever worked & I have great admiration for her. I do hope you will like this book but it is vital that they do not launch it as 'just another kids book by MS'.

I don't know much about the Bodley Head monographs & don't think I've ever seen one, but of course I'd be very happy & proud if you did write about me & my work.

I used to see 'Junior Booksellers' occasionally but  
I don't think they've ever done anything for me.  
Maybe I'm 'too popular & prolific' for them?  
The fact is that I've never been 'recognized'  
by the pundits. Some librarians reluctantly  
acknowledge that children do like what  
I write, but I have an idea that  
librarians prefer to advise children on what  
they should read rather than be asked  
for the books by any one author. But  
perhaps that is unfair. My reward  
comes from such letters as I sent you to  
read \_\_\_\_\_ and the generous appreciation  
of professionals like yourself.  
Let's keep in touch.

Muriel

I never thanked you properly for pushing me  
into that taxi! I just caught the 3.30

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12th February, 1979

Mrs. Mary Cadogan  
24 Southend Road  
Beckenham  
Kent BR3 1SD

Dear Mary,

I was really very pleased indeed to hear from you this morning.

There is no need to return the Marston Baines letters, but I have just seen Michael Horniman again, and, as I told you in my last letter, he has nothing much to add to the solving of this particular problem. He did tell me, however, that there are now so many young editors in the children's paperback field, that they do tend to shy away from anything which they think is 'old fashioned'. I am absolutely sure, and I think you are too, that basically most children are old fashioned, and I am still certain that with some luck and a lot of expertise and the knowledge of how to go about it, we may get them into this vital market one day.

It must be nearly ten years ago now that they were offered to America - presumably by the publishers - and the answer came back that they were good stories but young American readers of about that age wanted 'sex' in their stories. How true this is I do not know, but I think it is quite time that the American market was tried again.

Thank you so much for talking to Livia Gollancz. I do want to do this book for her and I will write her a friendly note this week to tell her that I am still interested, and what my present situation is and the difficulties confronting me for writing the sort of book we both want dealing with the Shropshire Hills.

Of course, I am interested in your approach to Bodley Head and I should like you to take that on.

When you first got into touch with me last year - lucky time for me - I think the purpose was that you were including me in a paperback about children's writers that you are doing for Penguin. Presumably this is still on? If so, of course, I would like to know how you are getting on. As I said before you would be welcome down here at any time, providing you give us some notice.

Yours ever,

*Michael*

*I'll keep in touch & Hanlyne so much for your interest & support*

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19th February, 1979

Ms. Mary Cadogan  
24 Southend Road  
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Kent BR3 1SD

Dear Mary,

I hope you have got my only copy of POWER OF THREE by now, but I do want to thank you most sincerely and warmly for what you have said to me in your letter of February 16th. You have expressed my ideas quite clearly about what prompted the Marston Baines series, and I am very, very grateful to you for putting it all so clearly - particularly the point you make about my belief in the value of the individual. I am going to let my agent see extracts from your letter and see exactly where we stand with regard to America.

I think I told you that I have written personally to Livia and I am already making arrangements to try to go to Shropshire in May and to drop all my other work until I have got down some preliminary material which I can discuss with her.

But I do hope that before that you will be able to find the time to come down here for the best part of a day.

Finally, may I say, that for years I have wanted to find somebody who would write THE LONE PINE STORY under that title.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm Saville



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March 18 79

Dear Henry.

I hope all goes well with you & yours  
in this disgusting winter. As you are  
good enough to be so uncomplaining about my  
work I thought it time to bring you up-to-date  
with some news which would be mentioned in  
my next Newsletter.

I'm sure you will be interested to read  
the enclosed letter about 'Home to Witchford'  
from a Paxon & his wife who, whether it or  
not, are actually named 'Pakunowski'.

About 3 years ago my wife & I shared a  
railway carriage with this couple on a  
train from Charing Cross to Ashford where we  
have to change for Baye. We exchanged  
courtesies & just before Ashford, Mrs P  
asked, or rather confirmed, that I was  
who I am. She was, or had been a  
Lithuanian & a "fan." Their parents - or  
in laws - live in Fethersham, but they have

him to see us here & we have become friends. Naturally I am willing my letters  
worry me to go on with L.P. but I'm  
fairly sure that would be a mistake although  
Colman are behaving rather oddly.

And so are Herimann & our old manager!  
'Power of Three' is O.P. & they cannot promise  
to reprint this, or any other of the titles  
when they go out. This is a very serious  
matter for me, but I have found a young  
playwright who has just had two original  
plays accepted by Radio & together we are  
trying to tempt the BBC chap running the  
series for teenagers. We shall see &  
more of this when we meet again which  
I hope will be soon. London perhaps  
before you can spend a day down here?  
My wife has been ill with bronchitis so  
I am very pressed at present. I must  
admit that I don't like the present



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situation in Publishing any more than the  
political scene.

But I do like the way Lutterworth are  
handling Words for All Seasons: I'm  
sending out the enclosed with the Newsletter.  
As soon as we get a decent set of  
proofs I'll send you one. Or Jimmy  
Orsbon will I'm sure. You might  
like to see my letters to each of  
the 4 seasons. Or did I send you  
these.

We had a blizzard yesterday but today  
is better.

All the very best.

Lutterworth

—

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May 28 '79

Dear Mary -

I've been wondering whether it would be easier for you if our proposed meeting was to be in London again? Don't hesitate to say so although you will always be welcome here. Actually I have a few very interesting & I think significant scope of matters I would like to share with you. Some of the developments in children's publishing I think most intriguing, & I know how concerned you are in this subject. And thank goodness you are, because it needs some informed champions!

I'm not quite sure <sup>how</sup> the two of us now stand with what you are - or mine - working about me. As far as I remember you were going to do a piece on me & my work for the new Penguin on Children's Writers. Have you done this; or are you still getting information?

Anyway I think it time that the question of children's reading, the children's market & the Publisher's attitude to it needs airing. First there is the problem of hardbacks of children's fiction which are now, or quickly becoming,



estimate. For the first time since 1943 I have only one  
hard Pine story in handback & that is the 20th & last  
both in the series published by Ginn House. Editors  
have allowed every other title to go out of print  
not only of hard Pine but of the Buckinghams which  
were specially commissioned by them. Heinemann are  
doing the same with Winston Barnes & this means that  
only paperbacks of H.P. are available for libraries.  
We are still unable to get Winston Barnes paper backed  
& yet my readers have never been more enthusiastic  
& the problem<sup>is</sup> that Publishers cannot find my readers  
- & not only there! I also believe that

there is a bigger chance of using Radio drama for  
children rather than TV. I hear constantly that  
the TV adaptations distort - sometimes disastrously,  
the author's characterization. Children have warned  
me that there is sure to happen if hard Pine is  
attempted. I have been having some

fascinating exchange of views with Eric Baker  
of Children's Book Centre. He has most interesting  
& definite views on children's fiction. He doesn't  
want so many new, "trendy" books by comparative  
new comers, but reprints of old favourites. And



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You should  
1 have been on the borders of Children's Books Editors  
all trying something new to strengthen their  
own standing with their Publishers — & then  
moving on somewhere else!

I'm sure you have some very definite views on  
these subjects, but every day of my working life  
my big belief in the new generation, which does read  
books is strengthened, but not enough is being  
done to get at them.

I've just heard that 'Works For All Seasons' will  
be published at the end of July. This is not  
primarily a book for children as you know  
— I think Janey Oulton is going to send you  
proofs — but what is needed for this, under my  
title — is a Radio Programme, possibly even  
Radio 3, but I'm not so sure of that. Have you  
~~ever~~ done much broadcasting? I wish 3 or 4  
of us could get together & invent some  
programmes on 'Children & Their Books', because  
if we're not careful the market will dwindle  
away.

Is there anything we can do to wake up the sleepy  
"Booksellers"? There is so much to work for, but of  
course it is true that there are no children  
left after the age of 12!

Apologies for drivelling on so, but wouldn't it be  
a good idea to have an exhibition of children's  
books ~~at~~ selected by readers themselves & not  
by self-appointed critics?

Do think over some of these points before we  
meet again & if you are finding it difficult to  
find the time to come down here, lets try  
another lunch in London

All the best — & thank you for listening!

Arncliffe



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15 NOV 1979

Dear Henry -

I don't think you will be  
surprised to hear that Livia has  
returned my material — Frankly  
I don't think that your treatment  
is either strong or deep enough for  
... to fit into our series.

This is the first book in my  
career to have been turned  
down, but I do feel that if we  
had had some sort of editorial  
discussion earlier we might  
have got somewhere. I don't  
think I've wasted my time &  
will ~~not~~ approach Collins  
through Jean Chilton the Publisher



Director. I can't remember now  
how you got implicated in this  
except that you were keen for me  
to do it & I'm grateful for  
your support. I'm not suggesting  
that Lisa's judgement is wrong  
for them, but I think you'll agree  
that she hasn't handled me very  
cleverly! I still think there is  
a market for my books & I'm  
still getting great support for  
Head Pine.

We've had a few nice notices  
for 'Words' & I may have  
told you that I had two good  
interviews on Radio Brighton.  
I wish you could interview  
me or that we could do a

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Radio Programme together - I've  
having a piece I wrote for  
'Bother For Your Children' & I'd  
send you a copy in a few days.  
It might give you some ideas.  
Anyway thanks for all your  
help & interest

As ever

Lawrence

Would you like to borrow the  
tapes of my Radio Brighton  
interviews?



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22 NOV 1979

Dear Mary -

At the risks - which I am  
purposed to take - of becoming a  
bore I'm sending you some  
enclosures which I hope will  
interest you. Belladon Kicks  
hand-out for Sea Witch is also  
going to Local Radios I  
believe & the letter from Dawn  
Penney is really a remarkable  
tribute which surely can  
be used somehow, some day  
Did you ever tell me that  
you have done some work



with Woman's Hour? What about  
an interview with me & on my  
relationships with my children?

On thinking this over I remembered  
a piece I wrote for 'Parker  
For Your Children' some years  
ago & thought you might  
like to see a copy. I still  
hold to what I wrote then,  
& have been wondering if I  
re-wrote it shorter it  
would interest 'Sunday  
Telegraph' magazine. What  
do you think? Not really  
fair to involve you, but  
I do value your opinion.  
This is the sort of situation

from **Malcolm Saville**

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Dec 23/11/79

I should be discussing with  
my Agents, but that unhappy  
situation is adding to my  
daily work & anxiety.

What do you think of the  
situation at Collins? Not  
perhaps as worrying as is  
suggested in this week's  
'Bookletter' but it looks as  
if there will be changes on  
the Children Publishing side.  
I've written to Joan Chilton



& mentioned 'Silent Idyll' &  
sent her a copy of my introduction  
but not mentioned Giannini!  
Have you had a word with  
your friend there? I still  
think that if Livia had  
asked me up to have an  
editorial discussion with  
perhaps one of her editors  
at an earlier stage we  
could have sorted things  
out, but she has a right  
to consider her series  
before he takes possession  
of one book!

Are you going to the  
Rheg Wood Bonanza next



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well? I was asked by nice  
Tamsyn who was at our  
Party but can't manage such  
a lengthy journey at this  
time of year.

All the best.

Mark

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12th November, 1979

Ms. Mary Cadogan  
24 Southend Road  
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Dear Mary,

I have been very busy since I returned from Italy, but this problem of THE SILENT HILLS has to be faced, and although I have written some more of the Stiperstones Chapter, I felt that I must write to Livia and I am enclosing a copy of the letter, which is being posted to her today.

Frankly I am surprised that she does not want the sort of factual treatment, which is obviously essential and I must give a book which is so personal. As you know both you and I felt strongly, when I first talked to you about it, that it must be factual and show the reader literally how THE SILENT HILLS have changed my life.

I think that you told me on the telephone that you thought that what I had done was interesting and readable and I think, but I am not sure, you have some sympathy for Livia's point of view.

I am very grateful to you for your interest and counsel, and although I think that Collins are going through rather a difficult patch at the moment, I should be interested to know whether you have mentioned this project to your friend, who has recently joined them. If not I think that the approach should be made to Joan Clibbon, who I have known for a number of years. The important thing about Collins is that they have Fontana and it seems to me that this is a book that could go straight into paperback.

I have had two excellent visits to both Exeter and Shrewsbury Book Fairs and two admirable interviews with Radio Brighton for WORDS FOR ALL SEASONS. One of these has been taped and although it is at present with Lutterworth, if you would like to hear it, I will see that it is sent to you. Of course, I am hoping that we shall get more reviews before long for this book, but there have been two excellent ones in the Church Times and the Methodist Recorder.

I hope all goes well with you and all the best.

Yours ever,





