



Several TLG staffers attended the Children's Literature New England conference at Cambridge University, England, this past August and provided The Mad Hatter with some rather delicious news!

A Friend Indeed

English quarantine regulations didn't allow Canadian writer **Jean Little** to bring her guide dog to CLNE so someone had to play fetch for Jean. Her old friend and fellow writer **Claire Mackay**, who has helped out on many occasions, took on the role and led Ms. Little around, guiding her to talks, lectures and more!

And Speaking of Animals

I have it on the very best authority that *Looking Glass* editor **Annette Goldsmith** has gone ape! Well, certainly, her monkey puppet, Cupcake, caused quite the sensation at CLNE. One wag even likened him to the golden monkey who acts as Mrs Coulter's daemon in Phillip Pullman's *The Golden Compass*! The rather unkempt-looking Cupcake startled conference-goers by joining them at the local pub. Cupcake, who is underaged, was seen smoking AND drinking with a group of French students!! The Mad Hatter has personally experienced Cupcake's renegade activities on many occasions!

Graveside Story

The Mad Hatter was delighted to learn that author **Helen Cresswell** chooses where she's going to live by immediately going to the cemetery to check out the lifespan of the locals! Who says that children's authors aren't devilishly clever?!

Love in a Cold Climate

The Mad Hatter has always wondered what inspired **Arthur Ransome's** Russian fairy tales -- perhaps his own life? As a journalist Ransome travelled to Revolutionary Russia, where he met Trotsky's secretary, **Evgenia Petrovna Shelepina** -- "a tall jolly girl" he called her in his *Autobiography*. He finally married his Russian bride in 1924, after living with her for years! Was he seeking his own Amazon as he sailed through Communist Russia? The Mad Hatter will take Ransome's experiences to heart and take to sea!

Have you got something you want to share among friends? Something you might not want just anyone to know? Contact me, the MaD hAtTeR, c/o The Looking Glass. I promise to be really discreet and it'll be for my eyes only!