



# Bologna and Beyond

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**Marc Vyvyan-Jones**, our illustrator, has recent first-hand experience of what Margaret Carter is talking about. Following a self-financed foray into the world of children's books at Bologna last year, he's just produced his first picture book. It's called **Maurice** (Spindlewood, 0 907349 64 1, £4.95) produced with a text by a neighbour and family friend, Sue Stops. 'Marc needed a book,' says Sue 'and one day I suddenly woke up with an idea that seemed to fit him perfectly since he's a morris-dancing fool as well as being daft about illustration. It's the story of a little kid called **Maurice** who simply can't keep still. He decides he wants to dance - and one May Day gets involved with morris-dancing...'

They worked on the book together, then took it to Michael Holloway who runs Spindlewood Press. The book was published on St George's Day this year. Sue insists 'every teacher of primary-age children will recognise Maurice'. She should know since she's a member of staff at Westbury Park Primary School, Bristol. Though she's organised many a book event - including Avon's highly successful Book Week last year - this is her first published work, too. Not her last, though. Later this year, also from Spindlewood, comes **Methusalah**, the tale of a boy who catches a monster-pike with a wine gum. Her illustrator? Marc Vyvyan-Jones, naturally.

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