

John Ericson's Digital Presentations

Stimulating talks presented with style and humour....

A Lecture or Day of Special Interest

The Wind in the Willows

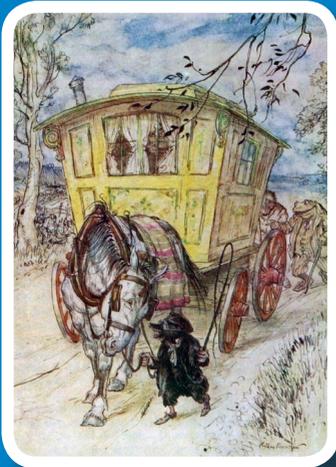
REVISITED

through its illustrators

The riverbank adventures of Mole, Ratty, Badger and the incorrigible Mr Toad have now taken their place among the earliest memories of at least four generations of children.



'Messing about in boats'
E H Shepard

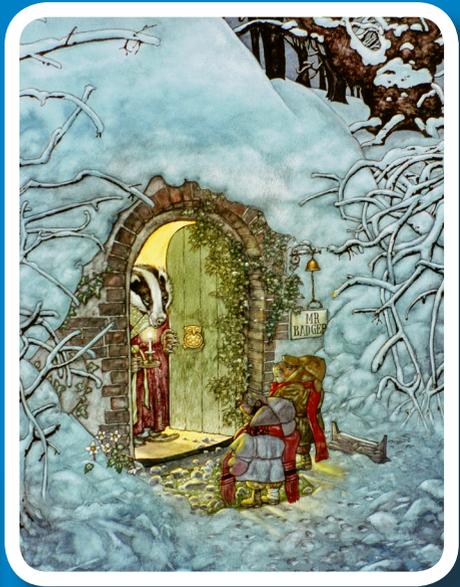


'It was a golden
afternoon'
Arthur Rackham

The beauty of Kenneth Grahame's prose is widely acknowledged but the story is so full of wonderful imagery that it almost demands to be illustrated - despite this, when first published in 1908 it was without pictures. The book has been in print ever since but what is less well known is that it has now been illustrated by more than **ninety** artists – making it the most widely illustrated book in the English language!



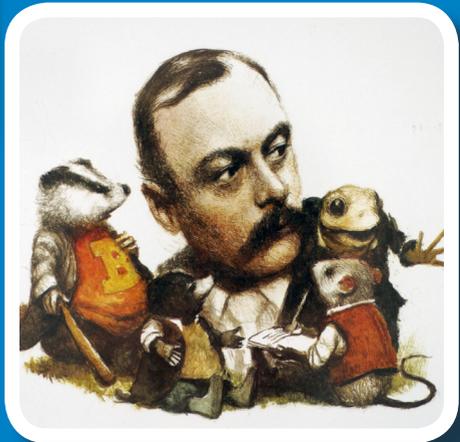
'The Wind in the Willows' is notable for its mixture of adventure, camaraderie, morality and mysticism. It is however a far more thought provoking and interesting book than its popular and often young audience might appreciate. It deserves recognition as a novel in which adult readers will find not just humour and entertainment but wisdom and meaning. Quite intriguingly, academics continue to argue as to whether it is a book for children or for adults – a theme I shall expand upon.



'Finding Badger'
Angel Dominguez



'Toad at the Red Lion'
Inga Moore



'Grahame and friends'
Robert Ingpen

In this evocative presentation we will revisit the story through the eyes of famous children's illustrators such as E H Shepard, Arthur Rackham, Robert Ingpen, Inga Moore and Val Biro among others. Where appropriate I will compare and contrast the same scene as depicted by different artists – a study known as 'comparative illustration'.

We will also explore how the story came to be written for Kenneth Grahame's son Alastair and the interesting but ultimately tragic life of Kenneth Grahame.