

## Christine turns a new leaf

THE Orange Birmingham Book Festival was an unforgettable occasion for Adult Education manager, Christine Coleman, with the launch of her first novel at the Orange Studio in Cannon Street.

The large audience included many of her work colleagues as well as friends and family. Christine was introduced at the event by Clarissa Dickson-Wright, of BBC 'Two Fat Ladies' fame.

The pair first met at school in Sussex aged 11, and have remained close friends ever since.

Better known as Chris Wain-Heapy to her colleagues at Osborne Adult Education Centre in Erdington, Christine Coleman's book 'The Dangerous Sports Euthanasia Society' is a story about a 75 year-old woman overcoming the stereotype of old age by taking on a series of challenges. Reviews so far have described it as: "...brilliantly inventive...", "...a funny and poignant story...", "...great stuff for anyone planning to grow old disgracefully..." and "...a terrific adventure with a most unusual heroine who will steal your heart."

Christine said: "As a manager in Adult Education I have sourced inspiration for the book from seeing older people's zest for learning new skills – including some



*Brilliantly inventive – Christine Coleman*

90-year-olds who participate in keep fit classes. It has taken almost five years from starting the first page to a having a finished copy of my novel in my hands, and it was a terrific feeling to be able to thumb through my first ever copy."

Clarissa Dixon-Wright said "Christine first got the idea for the lead character after we were discussing the idea of a television script based around older people. From as

early as I can remember, she's always wanted to write a novel, and I knew she had the ability to succeed. I loved the book as it was a seriously good read. What's more, it's helped solve my annual Christmas present dilemma!"

• *The Dangerous Sports Euthanasia Society*, published in paperback by Transita at £7.99 (ISBN 1 905175183), can be ordered from bookshops as well as Amazon.co.uk