

Newsletter - April 2008

Reading Groups: please enquire at the shop if you are interested in joining any of the reading groups listed below.



World Book Day

Once again, the children attending the Writing Masterclass to celebrate World Book Day absolutely amazed me with their passion for writing, their enthusiasm for the event, their willingness to work (they worked hard for three hours!) and the sheer joy with which they entered into the project. Well done to Lawrence, Mona, Anna, Lucy and Molly from Shrewsbury, Telford, Longden and Morville. Manda Scott was equally impressed and has already agreed to come back next year!

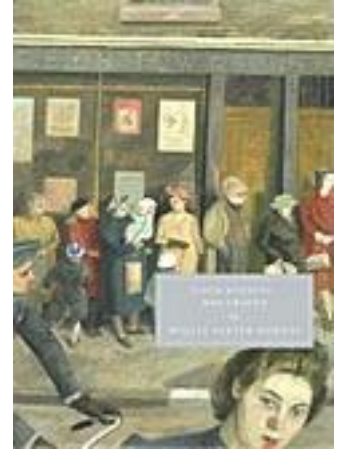
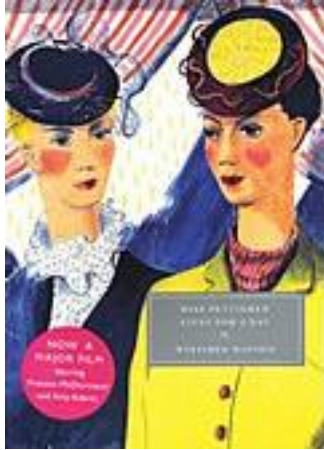


We have three really super events coming up, all in some of the most beautiful houses in the county:..



June 20th An Evening with Persephone Books

As part of Wenlock Festival, founder of the Persephone Publishing Company, Nicola Beauman, will be launching her new "Persephone Classics" at Acton Round House, courtesy of Huw and Sue Kennedy. We will serve Pimms and smoked salmon sandwiches; further details and pre-booking available at the bookshop. Tickets now available from the festival Committee & Pennyfarthing.



The Morville Hours
**EVENT
 SOLD
 OUT**

May 30th

Grand reception at Morville Hall for the launch of Katherine Swift's new book; The Morville Hours

The reception will begin at 6pm with a private tour of the Dower House Garden, followed at 7pm in Morville Hall by Katherine talking about her book, and signing copies. Tickets are £5 to include a complimentary glass of fizz - courtesy of Bloomsbury - and delicious nibbles! Our thanks to Dr and Mrs. Chris Douglas for their hospitality.

We are incredibly proud that Katherine's book is going to be the Radio 4 Book of The Week beginning May 5th; do listen out for it! The book will be for sale at the Morville Flower Festival over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend and of course in the shop. Pre-bookings now taken!



14th September

The Atonement Tour at Stokesay Court

We are very pleased to be able to offer a reader's tour of Stokesay Court - the setting of the film Atonement, based on the book by Ian McEwan. The cost will be £12.50, to include afternoon tea at Stokesay Court and a wander through the grounds afterwards. All welcome, make your own way there (but let us know if you need help with transport or if you can offer a place in your car). Booking is essential and places are going fast. contact the shop for further details.



On Tuesday April 1st

we are beginning a series of eight weekly seminars of literary criticism using James Wood's new book, *How Fiction Works*. Betty James will be leading the seminars. This first programme is already full but we may run it again in the autumn if there is demand, so do let us know.



Wednesday April 2nd at 5pm

we are launching a group to read from the 40 Booker prize winners of the last four decades, to celebrate the Booker Prize's 40th anniversary and to choose the "Wenlock Books' Best of the Bookers"!

<http://www.themanbookerprize.com/prize/archive>

We have chosen four books across the four decades to read as an "alternative Booker Shortlist"! The books are - *Heat and Dust* by Ruth Praver Jhabvala; *Moon Tiger* by Penelope Lively; *The Famished Road* by Ben Okri and *Disgrace* by J M Coetzee. We will be meeting to discuss these books on the following Thursdays: April 17th; May 1st; May 15th and May 29th at 5.30pm for about an hour. We may add in a couple more books once the official shortlist is announced. Do join us if you'd like to.



Saturday April 5th. Lesley Durbin

town councillor, turned children's author Lesley Durbin, will be in the bookshop at 10.30 to read from her book "Arthur". All children are very welcome and we look forward to welcoming them to this session. There will be a badge and a lollipop for every child: do come!

Sunday April 6th

there will be a reading day at Brook Cottage, reading the *Poisonwood Bible*, *Boating for Beginners* and *Not the End of the World*. (The next reading day is Sunday May 25th.)

Friday April 18th

Poet Roz Goddard will be running a writing workshop in the bookshop. This event is fully booked.

Reading Groups:

9th: Reading for Pleasure - *An Amateur Marriage* by Anne Tyler - 2pm

11th: Children's Reading for Pleasure - 4.30pm

23rd: Reading for Pleasure - *An Amateur Marriage* by Anne Tyler - 2pm

Our next Persephone Group is June 18th at 2pm and June 25th at 7pm. We are looking for new members and welcome men as well as women.

Poetry Workshops

March 14th saw the launch of a series of poetry appreciation workshops. Future dates are June 6th, September 26th and December 5th. 7 - 10pm in Little Wenlock. Anyone interested, please contact the bookshop in the first instance.

Author Events

May 17th: Tea and Talk with writers Sue Moorcroft and Judith Alnatt 3 - 5pm: all welcome.



May 23rd, 7pm: Manda Scott

will be appearing the Guild Hall to talk about her latest book *The Crystal Skull*. There is a limited number of hard back copies of this book available at a special discounted price for people attending the evening; first come first served! Otherwise, the paperback is available to order at £6.99. Manda will sign books on the night. We hope that you will read the book before the evening so we can have a good "reading group" discussion. We are very pleased that Manda is coming back for her third visit to Much Wenlock (see the World Book Day info on our events page) and we are looking forward to another stimulating evening with her. Tickets are £5.

Thanks so much to everyone who had a FairTrade coffee break with us. We raised £138.06!!



Money raised by the Deaf Africa Fund is currently being used to build the toilet structures at a centre for deaf children in Ghona Village, Tanzania where young people can learn the skills that lead to employment and dignity

Deaf Africa Fund

During April we would like to invite you to have a coffee break at the shop to support the Deaf Africa Fund. Come alone for a quiet browse and a peaceful cuppa, or (but warn us first if possible!) bring some friends and have a coffee morning! All money raised will go towards the Deaf Africa Fund's work with children and young people in East Africa. The bookshop has a longstanding commitment to this charity, which was founded by Miss Doreen Woodford, who lives in Wenlock. Miss Woodford works tirelessly on behalf of the deaf, and still travels to Africa several times a year to work "on the ground". Every bit of money we raise is put to excellent use and we do ask you wholeheartedly to support this charity if you can.

If you have any spare energy, time or money and would like to help us raise money for Deaf Africa, do please let us know.

Anna