

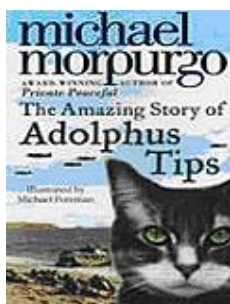
What's On at Wenlock Books: December 2007

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



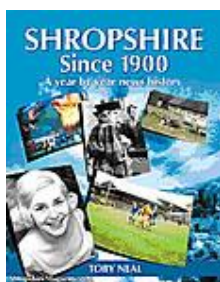
Reading for Pleasure

On Wednesday 12th December at 2pm and again at 7pm, we shall be discussing the *Lost Art of Keeping Secrets* by Eva Rice. It will make quite a change from *Villette* by Charlotte Bronte (Last month's read, which some of us were very relieved to have finished!) as it's quite light, a little bit 'frothy', but a good story nonetheless, and reminiscent, I think, of *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith. I'm looking forward to it!



Children's Reading Group

The children's groups are both meeting on Friday December 14th for a slightly longer meeting for a Chocolate Cake Party (thanks to Tina for offering to make the cake!): we'll spend the first half an hour discussing *Kensuke's Kingdom* and *The Amazing Tale of Adolphus Tips*, both by Michael Morpurgo, and then play *Snatch*, a brilliant word game that we have become quite addicted to, finishing off with cake and juice. You might want to avoid the second hand section of the shop on that occasion!



Tea and cake

Our next guest for Tea and Cake is Toby Neal of the *Shropshire Star* on Saturday December 8th at 3pm. Toby will be talking about his latest book: *Shropshire Since 1900*, which is a fabulous collection of fascinating articles taken from the *Shropshire Star* over the last hundred years. It's full of memories and surprises, and is a must for anyone who loves Shropshire. If some of your memories have been rekindled by leafing through Toby's book, why not come and tell him about them! Do join us. All welcome.

Venice



Our trip to Venice was wonderful; huge thanks to Anne and Mike our very own tour guides who look after us so well, and whose knowledge of Venice is surely unsurpassable. We stayed in a converted monastery just off Campo San Stefano, just around the corner from the Accademia Bridge, and a mere five minutes walk from St Mark's Square. We were a group of twelve again, this time attracting readers from Ludlow, and Oswestry as well as Wenlock. We visited the ghetto; Miss Garnett's church; the palazzo where Brunetti's parents-in-law live, and many other literary sites. Our next trip will be in May 2009: if you'd like to know more, just contact me at the shop, or check out the blog.



Thank you to Shipton Play Group for our lovely shiny letter-box!

Christmas Fayre

We shall, as before, be inviting children to write their letters to Father Christmas and posting them in our special bright red letter-box. We will provide paper and pens and sticky bits and pieces; in return we ask for a small voluntary donation to Deaf Africa. Please stay with your children if they are very small, but if they are used to the bookshop and are happy to be here, we are quite happy for them to while away a little time writing their Christmas Letters while parents do some child-free book browsing with a glass of mulled wine – and maybe even a mince pie!



Christmas Eve

Do join us at any time on Christmas Eve for a glass of our special mulled wine, and this year it will be served with mini-mince pies made by the Queen of Tarts herself, Clare Wozniak.

We will hold our traditional reading of the Night Before Christmas in the shop Christmas Eve at 4 o'clock. Children of all ages very welcome, but please book. We make old-fashioned stockings for every child who comes, so numbers are limited. Parent may stay and listen, too, and we are asking for contributions towards the Deaf Africa Fund. This is a magical occasion much loved by all who attend - and a wonderful birthday treat for me!



Winter Opening Times

We shall close for the holidays at five o'clock on Christmas Eve. We will be open again on Saturday 5th January and Saturday 12th January from 10 – 5pm and then re-open on Tuesday January 15th. Our opening hours will be 10 – 5 until Easter. We will be closed on Sundays from Christmas until Easter, when our Sunday opening hours will be 11 – 5 as usual.

One last thing....

On Saturday December 15th at 4pm on Channel 4 I shall be joining Richard and Judy for a Christmas Special: we shall be reviewing a selection of Christmas Coffee Table books, and choosing their winning book, so do watch if you can!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and peaceful, healthy and happy New Year,

Anna.