

## What's On at Wenlock Books: February 2008

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

### 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Celebrations

Twenty one years ago, Perce Muscutt bought the bookshop at 54 High Street, Much Wenlock, and Wenlock Books was born. We shall be celebrating this auspicious occasion all year, with a wide ranging programme of bookshop events, which I hope many of you will enjoy. Here are some of the highlights of the next six months:

#### **Thursday February 7th at 7.30pm.**

##### **An Audience with Jonathan Coe.**

Jonathan is coming to talk about his latest book *The Rain before it Falls*. We're delighted to be sharing this event with the Edge Arts Centre, which will make a super venue for the evening with Jonathan. It is particularly fitting that Jonathan should come to Wenlock to talk about his book, as it is set both in and around Much Wenlock. Also, one of the central characters is an 'extra' in the making of the film *Gone to Earth*, based on Mary Webb's classic book, which was actually filmed here. So, lots of local interest, and a great opportunity to meet and talk with this highly acclaimed author. Tickets available from the bookshop, or the Edge. £7.50/£5.

#### **Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>**

##### **World Book Day children's writing competition.**

To celebrate our 21st birthday, we will be asking local school children to write a celebratory story in a local setting. The stories will be judged by a local children's author, and the winning children will be invited to the bookshop for a writing master class on Saturday March 8th. Teachers, and children, please apply to the bookshop for entry forms and further details. £2 per entry.

#### **April 18th at 6.30pm**

##### **Writing Workshop with Roz Goddard.**

Working in conjunction with the West Midlands Readers Network and the Arts Council, this event will be led by former Birmingham Poet Laureate, Roz Goddard. The theme will be "the bookshop". Cost £17/£14. Light refreshments will be served. Minimum age: 15 years – no upper age limit!

#### **June 20<sup>th</sup>**

##### **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 tickets from the Festival Committee.

## **July (date to be confirmed)**

### **Bookchase©**

This fabulous board game (think Trivial Pursuits but with all the questions about books!) was launched at Hay Festival last year: I want to have a marathon play in Much Wenlock!

### **Gifts and special editions**

We will be launching a special, limited edition, commemorative silk bookmark, and a limited edition 21st birthday bookbag, and also extending our range of bookshop cards and stationery. We will also be randomly giving away "birthday presents" so call in and wish us Happy Birthday and see if you get lucky! ☺

### **Regular Stuff In February: (In Brief)**

6th: Reading for Pleasure 2pm The Lizard Cage

8th: Kids' Reading for Pleasure 4.30pm

20th: Reading for Pleasure 7pm The Lizard cage

28th – 2nd March; Reader's Retreat at Llandyssul, Cardiganshire

### **Bits And Pieces**

- We raised £54 for Deaf Africa at the Christmas Eve reading of The Night Before Christmas.
- Our trip to Venice has been rescheduled for May 2009.
- Winter opening hours in February; Tuesday – Saturday 10 – 5pm.
- I so enjoyed my long Christmas break but it's GREAT to be back!

### **Last But Not Least**

Listen out for a short story read by Helen Cross on Radio 4 on Monday 24th March. This story was commissioned by Wenlock Books Reading Groups, and was recorded at the Birmingham Film Festival in October 2007. The story takes in the summer floods, St Milburga, and a helicopter ride! There will also be a programme broadcast about the making of the short story season (of which this is the first) but I don't have the date for that yet. More details on the web site... [www.wenlockbooks.co.uk/](http://www.wenlockbooks.co.uk/)

*Anna.*