

Newsletter – February 2009

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



Catching up.

It's really good to be back in the shop - I had an extra week out in January unexpectedly when I hurt my neck, probably due to a not very well placed computer: we've re-organised the desk, and I am being very careful! There is so much to look forward to: Carol Ann Duffy on March 13th (nearly sold out); Ruth Padel (Darwin's great-great-grand-daughter) on October 2nd - and all the events listed below.

I'm also teaching a day of circle dancing at Clunbury Village Hall on Sunday March 15th (11-4pm): we'll be dancing to live music from Zemerchora - ask me if you'd like to know more.

The wedding in Canada was wonderful: Beth and Jesse both looked as happy as could be; the setting (Banff Springs Hotel) was fabulous, and the day itself was full of laughter, tears and joy. It really couldn't have been better. Do take a look at the photos on the blog - when I get them there - sorry I'm so behind! Here's a pre-view (above left)

The holiday surpassed all expectations. The weather ranged from minus 1 to minus 30, and was nearly always sunny and bright. We walked, snow-shoed, cross-country ski-ed (I only lasted 20 minutes on that one!), dog sledged, tobogganed, had a sleigh ride, drank lots of festive cocktails, relaxed by log fires, swam in open-air hot pools, soaked in hot tubs in the moonlight, ate well, and spent lots of time socialising with the other members of the wedding party. It really was the holiday of a life-time (and yes, Hilary is already planning to go back and explore further!)

So, back to work: lots of good things happening, and some new ideas too, so do dip in and see if there's anything you like the look of.

Reading For Pleasure Group (Meetings 2pm and 7pm)	July 8th A Month In The Country by J.L. Carr
January 14th: The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak	August - NO MEETING
February 11th Independent People, Halldór Laxness	September 9th Consequences by Penelope Lively
March 11th Minnie's Room, Mollie Panter-Downes	October 19th Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe
April 8th Notes From An Exhibition, Patrick Gale	November 11th Lullabies For Little Criminals by Heather O'Neill
May 13th Orlando by Virginia Woolf	December 9th Mr. Pip by Lloyd Jones
June 10th The Good Soldier, Ford Madox Ford	



Reading Groups

For details of all the reading groups, suppers, days and holidays please visit the website at www.wenlockbooks.co.uk and click on the reading groups page. This is probably the best way to keep up to date with what's on offer.

In February the Children's Reading Group will meet on Friday 6th at 5pm to discuss the books short-listed for the Blue Peter Book of the Year Award. On Wednesday 11th at 2pm and 7pm there will be discussions of Independent People by Halldór Laxness. On Friday 20th there will be a meeting of the poetry group at Little Wenlock and from Wednesday 25th - 1st March we will be holding our third annual Reader's Retreat at Broniwan, near Llandysul in west Wales.

We held our first "reading Supper" of the year in Little Wenlock on January 30th. The event was hosted by Marilyn and Patrick Pietroni and the book discussed was The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck. It was a wonderful evening; great food, lovely people and really thoughtful discussion. Our next reading supper is May 29th, and I will announce the book in next month's newsletter. The reading suppers cost £10 plus a bottle, first come first served.

To clarify, all events and groups are open to everyone and anyone; events need to be booked in advance to make sure of a place, but the regular reading groups can be more flexible. It is quite possible to attend a particular group because you like the look of the book, without having to commit to the whole programme. It's a good idea to let me know you intend to come in case there are any changes to the programme. (The only exception to this is the weekly classics reading group which is a closed group.)

World Book Day Competition

Thursday March 5th is World Book day.



We will be celebrating this event on Saturday March 7th with author Manda Scott, who will be leading a writing Master-Class for winners of our annual creative writing competition for children in the Key Stage 2 age range. All children are welcome to apply - please pass this information on to any children you think might be interested. (It makes a very good half-term holiday project!) To enter the

competition:

1. Write a story on the theme of "environment". This should be their own original writing.
2. The story should be not less than 100 and not more than 500 words long.
3. Write the child's name, school, and home and school phone number on the back of every page submitted.
4. Entries must be received at the bookshop by Tuesday 24th February with a £2 entrance fee.

Six winners will be selected by the judge, whose decision is final. Winners will be notified via their school by Wednesday 4th March, and the winners will attend the writing master-class at Wenlock Books on Saturday 7th March with Manda Scott. Writing books and pencils, lunch and drinks and biscuits will all be provided.

Poetry Club

This is a new venture for children aged 8 - 11 (or thereabouts!) We will meet in the bookshop from 4 - 5pm and read poetry together. The children can bring in their favourite poems to read aloud and I will also have a selection of poems available. The emphasis will be on sharing great poetry and giving children an opportunity to extend their knowledge of poetry in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. The Poetry Club will start on Tuesday February 24th and meet each Tuesday up to and including March 24th - 5 sessions in all. Drinks and snacks will be provided. £2 per session. (It will be helpful if you let me know if your child is coming).

Reader's Club

This is based on an idea Ruth came back from America with! We are launching a Wenlock Books Reader's Club; annual membership is £10 per person or £15 per couple - payable by cash, cheque or credit card. In return you get:

- ❖ 10% discount off all your books and CDs*
- ❖ A Wenlock Books china mug and silk book-mark on joining
- ❖ Regular newsletters by email or post
- ❖ Early-bird notification on forthcoming events
- ❖ Personalised pre-publication information on your favourite authors
- ❖ A Wenlock Books tote bag each time you

renew your annual membership
❖ Other offers and rewards as time goes by

Special offer: Join by 28th February 2009 and get an extra month free!

**there may be some specialist books on which we are unable to offer this discount.*

Best wishes,

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