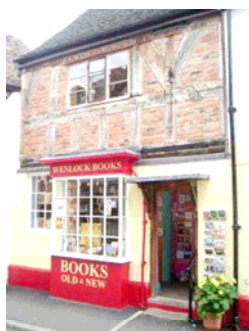


Newsletter – February 2010

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



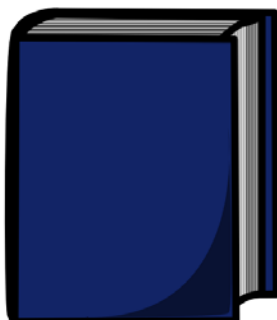
Another Night Before Christmas

*Our Christmas Eve candle-lit reading of Carol Ann Duffy's *Another Night Before Christmas* and the traditional original poem by CC Moore, was enjoyed by thirty children and their parents and grandparents. I still don't know how we squeezed them all in! We collected £70 for the children of Conakry Refugee School - my thanks to all for your generosity.*

Reading For Pleasure

*On Wednesday February 10th we shall meet in the shop at 2pm to discuss *Jane and Prudence* by Barbara Pym.*

*The Classics Reading Group has just finished a very close reading of Henry James' *Portrait of a Lady* - we spent 15 months reading this amazing book and are going on a trip to Rye in April to see the great man's house and follow up some other literary leads! We are now tackling Virginia Woolf's *To The Lighthouse*. Let's hope it doesn't take as long! (This group is full, sorry.)*



On Friday February 12th the junior children's group (9 - 11 years) will meet at 4.30 (this group will usually meet on the 1st Friday of the month.) The older children's reading group (12 upwards) will meet on February 19th from 5 - 6pm, and on the 3rd Friday of each month. Both these groups would welcome new members; it's an informal meeting where we discuss books the children have read, as well as having a 'book of the month'. We also play book/or word related games like Bookchase and Snatch.

The children's Poetry Club meets every term time Tuesday at 4.30pm; for children aged seven and up, we now have one or two free places.



Poetry Festival

We are working flat out to prepare for the first annual Wenlock Poetry Festival to be held in Wenlock from 9 - 11 April. Our patron, the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, will be here for the duration of the festival. The Festival will be a feast of readings, workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations. There will be street poetry and entertainment from John Gorman and the Wirral Poets - you may remember him as one of The Scaffold, and he and Roger McGough, also an ex-Scaffold will get together to reprise some of their Scaffold material.

There will be classical and folk music concerts celebrating Housman's life and poetry; children will have plenty of opportunity to be involved too, as both Carol Ann Duffy and Roger McGough are putting on events at the primary school on the Saturday, and there will be a Sunday Morning Poetry Club for children of all ages, hosted by Andrew Fusek Peters, Polly Peters and Wes Magee. The Birmingham Children's Poet Laureate India Miller will be joining in too. Our own local poets, chaired by Paul Francis, will kick off the festival on the Friday night before Roger McGough officially opens the festival with his latest show *That Awkward Age* and Paul Evans is offering a performance with children from Church Preen primary school called *Working on Stone*, and a *Walk on Wenlock Edge*. Plus of course, readings and workshops from many nationally acclaimed poets, and much, much more.



Call For Knitters!

With a great deal of help from Ippikin we are going to KNIT A POEM for the festival - we shall use a poem specially written for us by Carol Ann Duffy, and we need knitters to knit a letter each of this poem. Please contact Lesley at Ippikin's or me at the bookshop. We shall also have John Neilson using the same poem on a stone carving which he will be working on at the festival. The stone carving will be given to the town of Much Wenlock; the knitted poem will belong to the Poetry Festival but will be loaned out to various shops and galleries on request. To complete our work on this very special poem (how many poetry festivals get a poem written for them by the Poet Laureate?!) Catherine Hills, silversmith, who will be exhibiting at twenty twenty during the festival, will create a piece of jewellery inspired by the poem - and this will be presented to Carol Ann at the festival.

<http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk/content/knit/>

We already have a large mailing list of people from outside the area who are keen to attend the festival - do please register your interest at the bookshop so that you don't miss out. If you would like to become a Friend of the Festival for a £50 annual subscription (£75 for a couple) you will benefit from * priority booking; * a free ticket (2 for a couple) for Roger McGough and * an invitation to the Festival Launch Party which will follow.

For more details - either see Anna at the shop or go to www.wenlockpoetryfestival.org Be a part of this exciting and ground-breaking festival - do join us! (Volunteers also welcomed!)

Is there anything else happening apart from the Poetry Festival?? Well, it's business as usual at the bookshop now that the snow has gone and my daughter Beth, who many of you know, is expecting her first baby at the end of Feb: great excitement all round!

Best wishes,

Anna