

What's On at Wenlock Books: April 2007

Readers Retreat

Our retreat at Broniwan, Rhyd Lewis in Cardiganshire was absolutely lovely. We stayed on an organic working farm, where we had use of a charming sitting room for our quiet afternoons, and evening discussions, and a beautiful converted barn for silent reading time. Our meals were all taken in the big family kitchen, with afternoon tea served in the dining room. Each morning we walked on the nearby coastal paths or beaches, in the afternoons we read or did crafts (or slept!) and in the evenings we discussed short stories that we had read earlier in the day. The highlight of the retreat was a visit on Sunday evening from well-known poet, Gillian Clarke, who joined us for supper and then talked to us about her writing life and her passion for poetry. It was a fabulous evening that finished just before midnight! Gillian has promised to come to Much Wenlock before too long, so watch this space.

Reading for Pleasure

Our next read is Gilead by Marilynne Robinson on April 25th, 2pm and 7pm. We do now have some spare places in our evening group so please contact the bookshop if you are interested.

The children's reading groups are reading Sabrina Fludde by Pauline Fisk, and Bookworms at Much Wenlock Primary School are reading Black Beauty by Anna Sewell. Remember too that May 3rd – 7th is Shrewsbury Bookfest! As always, they have a fabulous programme of events celebrating children's books. Check out <http://www.shrewsburybookfest.co.uk> for more details.

There will be a Reading Day at Brook Cottage on Sunday April 15th from 10.30 – 4.30pm. We will be reading the Color Purple by Alice Walker alongside The Edible Woman by Margaret Atwood. £15 for the day, and please bring shared food. Booking essential.

The William Brookes 6th Form Reading Group will meet at the bookshop on Wednesday lunchtime April 18th to discuss The Testament of Gideon Mack by James Robertson.

The Persephone Reading Group will also meet on April 18th to discuss Tell it to a Stranger by Elizabeth Berridge. 2pm and 7pm. There are places available in the evening group.

Literary Evenings at Marsh Barn Gallery

Our next literary evening will be "Poetry and Conversation" with poet Steve Griffiths joining us at our new venue, Beverley Fry's lovely studio just outside Much Wenlock on the Broseley road.

This will be closely followed on Friday May 4th

by a visit from Anne Fine, former Children's Laureate, who has written widely for both adults and children.

Tickets are £7.50 and available from the bookshop; all are welcome to join us for what will be two fascinating evenings.

World Book Day 2007

Once again our writing competition for local school children generated lots of interest and some great writing! Winners this year were Nicola Moore and Esther Clemmey from Much Wenlock Primary; Eleanor Ewe from Brockton Primary and two pupils each from Shrewsbury Junior High and Claverley Primary. All the winners enjoyed an old-fashioned party tea (complete with jelly) courtesy of The Copper Kettle, and popular children's author Barbra Mitchelhill once again led a Writing Masterclass for our young bards.

Harry Potter!

Approximately two hundred places have already been allocated for our special midnight steam train ride. If you would like to be certain of a place please register your interest as soon as possible. Details next month I hope! Please email harrypotter@wenlockbooks.co.uk for any news.

Independent Bookseller of the Year Award

This time last year I was very excited about entering this award (which we subsequently won!). This year I am one of the judges! It's very interesting being on the other side of the fence, but it does mean that I'll be able to enjoy the Gala Night at the Bookseller's Annual Conference, whereas last year it was all an anxious blur! What a year it's been since then; HUGE thank you's to everyone who supports the shop and keeps us going so wonderfully.

Anna.