

## What's On at Wenlock Books: January 2007

I would like to wish all of our customers and friends a very peaceful, healthy and happy New Year!

We really enjoyed all our Christmas activities; lots and lots of children wrote letters to Father Christmas and then posted them in the wonderful red letter-box made specially for us by Much Wenlock Toddlers' Group. Our traditional, candlelit reading of the Night Before Christmas was very special, and a dozen or more children gathered round the table and enjoyed the hand-made Christmas stockings. On that occasion we also raised £45 for the Deaf Africa Fund.

### Reading for Pleasure

On January 8<sup>th</sup> we started the new year with a Reading Day. Eight of us spent the day talking about Ali Smith's The Whole Story, and Alice Munro's The View from Castle Rock. We were cosy on a rainy and blustery day with fires and cats and shared food! Do go the website and check out the blog if you'd like to read more about it.

Our next reading day is on April 15<sup>th</sup> when we shall be reading The Color Purple and The Edible Woman. This day is nearly booked already; we even have someone flying in from Sweden to take part!

Our children's reading groups got back in to the swing; we chatted about books the children had received for Christmas, and talked about what they had been reading. Then for a change, inspired by The Rights of the Reader by Daniel Pennac, I read to them from I Am David by Anne Holm; a moving and beautifully simple book about a child finding his way home after having spent most of his young life in a concentration camp. As some of the children are "doing WWII" at school, this turned out to be a really good choice.

In February we are reading Sex Wars by Marge Piercy.

Our on-line reading group has now launched! I feel as though I have been launched into an ever-more technical world, but my helper, Dawn, is guiding me through it, and we are able to help other new converts to the virtual world if you'd like to join in. We're hoping that readers both locally and further afield will contribute ideas and suggestions about the books we are reading. Check out our website

or blog at <http://wenlockbooks.blogspot.com> for more information.

### Literary Evening at Eden with Manda Scott

Our next evening at Eden will be on Friday March 9<sup>th</sup> when we are delighted to welcome best-selling author, Manda Scott. Manda is the author of a series of novels on the imagined life of Boudicca, the world's most famous warrior Queen. Set in pre-Roman Britain, Manda has created a fictional universe all her own, which is utterly convincing and compelling; a world of druids, dreamers, warriors and gods. Tickets £7.50 from the bookshop to include refreshments.

And finally, in this Reading for Pleasure section, we are holding a Readers and Writers Retreat, February 24<sup>th</sup> – February 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be held in a country house B&B in west Wales and will be an opportunity for quiet time for reading and/or writing, with some reading group activity thrown in as well. With wood burning stoves, views over the Preseli Hills, and beautiful beaches just ten minutes drive away, this will be a lovely, restful holiday. Do ask for more information if you'd like to join us; open to all, though spaces limited to eight.

### World Book Day

Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup> will be the 10<sup>th</sup> World Book Day. We would like to celebrate this by inviting all Key Stage 2 children in local schools to enter a writing competition. The competition will be judged by author Barbara Mitchellhill, who will then run a Writing Masterclass for the eight lucky winners. Children can take part through their school, or as an individual, and can apply to the shop for entry details.

### Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

At last we have a title for this eagerly anticipated book. No date for publication yet, but you can be sure we will be celebrating in grand style. This will, after all, be the end of an era, so if you would like to join in the midnight celebrations with us, call in to the shop to register your interest if you haven't already done so.

*Anna.*