

## Newsletter – October 2008

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



### **Catching up.**

*Our charity fund-raising supper at the Bilash was great fun and has raised a marvellous £1000 towards the work of the Deaf Africa Fund. We are hugely grateful to Ram for all his hard work and unstinting generosity in organizing this event for us, and to Tor for matching the money made on the night.*

[See some of the pictures from the evening on the blog.](#)



*Jackie Kay gave us a brilliant evening of poetry at the Guildhall a couple of weeks ago. I was so enraptured I quite forgot to take any photos until the end, and a few the next day when Jackie visited the shop, but do take a look at*

[Paul's write up on the blog.](#)



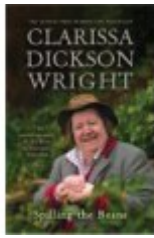
*National Poet of Wales, Gillian Clarke, was at the Edge Arts Centre in Much Wenlock at an event hosted by the bookshop. Again, it was a fabulous night full of poetry and life: poetry is definitely alive and kicking in Much Wenlock!*

[See the blog for a write up of the evening.](#)



### **Phil Rickman: To Dream of the Dead**

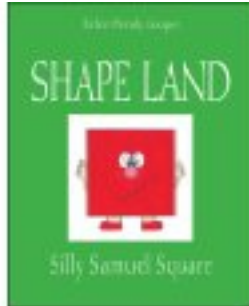
*Phil Rickman was in the bookshop for coffee, cake and conversation on Sunday October 12th - what a civilised way to spend a Sunday morning! Fans gathered around the table to hear Phil talk about his latest book and answer questions about his writing life. A good time was had by all.*



*Still to come...*

### **Clarissa Dickson Wright – Spilling the Beans**

*Clarissa is appearing at The Allington Hall, Shrewsbury School on Wednesday 15th October at 7.30pm. Organised by Pengwern Promotions. Tickets available at Wenlock Books.*



### **Helen Wendy Cooper, Silly Samuel Square**

*Children's writer Helen Wendy Cooper will be in the bookshop on Saturday 18th October from 10 - 2pm. Helen is the author and illustrator of SHAPE LAND, a children's fun fictional series, guaranteed to help children learn about shapes.*

*As an ex- nursery nurse, she loves telling stories to children and has had many articles published in various magazines. Helen is now a freelance writer. This event is suitable for toddlers and children up to four or five. Do join us!*



### **Reading For Pleasure**

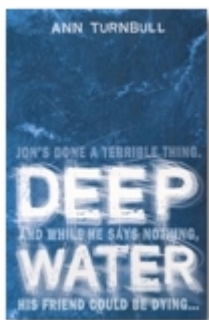
*Our children's reading group will meet on Friday October 10th at 4.30pm to discuss a selection of books by Michael Morpurgo. The children are choosing from - Alone on a Wide, Wide Sea; Waiting for Anya and Adolphus Tips.*

*November's meeting will be with author Ann Turnbull and we shall be revisiting her very fine book, Deep Water: a thriller for children!*

### **Reviews of Deep Water:**

*Jon's done a terrible thing and he's afraid to tell anyone. Can he save his friend's life or is it too late?  
Age: 10+*

*"This story kept me on the edge of my seat."  
Books for Keeps.*



*"A compelling and realistic moral tangle...Fast and easy, slim but not slight, you couldn't go wrong with this."*

*The Irish Times*

*"A riveting short novel."  
Best Books 1998.*

- The monthly Reading for Pleasure group will discuss *Spies* by Michael Frayn on 8th October at 2pm, and on 15th October at 7pm. There are vacancies in both these groups at the moment, so if you fancy joining us here at the bookshop, just let me know. We have tea and cake (courtesy of the Copper Kettle!) in the afternoon group and a glass of wine and Copper Kettle cake in the evening; it's a treat for body and mind!
- The Persephone Reading Group, which meets every three months, is meeting to discuss *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day* on October 8th at 7pm, and on October 15th at 2pm. There are places in either of these groups so please do come if you'd like to join in. In the Persephone reading groups our preferred tippie is sherry, and the cake - as ever - is from the Copper Kettle. These groups are ideal for anyone who would like to belong to a reading group but hasn't the time for a monthly commitment. The books are excellent and the conversation always stimulating and fun. Do join us!

NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMME OF READING GROUPS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT  
[www.wenlockbooks.co.uk/](http://www.wenlockbooks.co.uk/)  
 ON 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.



### How Fiction Works

Our weekly seminars run by Betty James started again on October 7th and is now full, but do let me know if you are interested in future courses. Participants are studying James Wood's *How Fiction Works* and will apply it to *The Good Soldier* by Ford Maddox Ford.

### Birmingham Book Festival

This year's Birmingham Book Festival has lots to offer; do take a look at their website:  
<http://www.birminghambookfestival.org>

I shall be going to see Carol Ann Duffy on 21st October; Louis de Berniere on 22nd; AC Grayling on 23rd and Kate Adie on 24th. The AC Grayling lecture may be of particular interest: he will look at reading as a critical, challenging and subversive process. The lecture will be followed by a discussion. Do join me for any of these events if you'd like to!

### Venice

Our next trip to Venice is June 2nd - June 6th 2009. Bookings need to be in by the end of the year. Please ask at the shop for more details and visit this link to read about our first trip there: <http://wenlockbooks.blogspot.com/2006/11/readers-trip-to-venice.html>

Recommended reading for the trip:

- Salley Vickers, *Miss Garnet's Angel*
- Donna Leon, *Death at La Fenice*
- Daphne du Maurier, *Don't Look Now*, (also the film starring Donald Sutherland & Julie Christie)
- *Death in Venice* (either Thomas Mann's novella or the film starring Dirk Bogarde)

*The Merchant of Venice* (the film starring Al Pacino was shot in Venice)

## Reader's Retreat

Our next Readers' Retreat in west Wales will be held from February 25th - March 1st 2009. Both these holidays are likely to book up very quickly.



## Christmas

As my daughter Beth is getting married in Canada straight after Christmas I shall not be in the shop on Christmas Eve. Instead we shall celebrate the traditional book-shop Christmas Eve on **Tuesday 23rd December**: please put this date in your diary!

We shall be serving (non-alcoholic) mulled wine throughout the day, and at four o'clock we shall have our candle-lit reading of *The Night Before Christmas* at which we give out hand-made red felt stockings - stuffed with Christmas goodies - to all the children and have a wonderful, magical reading of the traditional *Night Before Christmas* story followed by Carol Ann Duffy's beautiful re-telling of that poem - which is amazingly gorgeous and completely makes my Christmas every year!

After the reading there will be soft drinks and chocs for the children and sparkling wine and mince pies for the adults. (Adults are allowed to come without children, but must be prepared to stand if necessary.)

There will be a collection for the Deaf Africa Fund at this event.

The numbers of children are limited to twenty and booking is essential so that we make and fill the right number of stockings. This very special event is always over-subscribed, so please be aware that we are taking bookings now!

## 5 Years

Its five years now since I took over Wenlock Books - and what a fabulous five years they have been. To celebrate, please join me in the shop for a glass of bubbly at any time on Saturday November 1st I'll be very happy to see you!

Best wishes,

*Paula*