

Earlsdon Literary Magazine 185

The newsletter of the AVID Readers Group, based at Earlsdon Library

Next meeting: Thursday 14 April 8pm

Venue: Earlsdon Library

Book for discussion: *Lighthousekeeping*—Jeanette Winterson

High Hopes

Our March Book

***A Most Wanted Man*—John le Carré**

This novel concerns the tale of a young half-starved Russian man, Issa, smuggled into Hamburg one evening. He is a devout Muslim who carries an improbable amount of cash in a purse around his neck. He soon meets Annabel, the idealistic German human rights lawyer who is determined to save him from potential deportation. For Annabel her client's survival soon becomes more important than her own career. Via trying to assist Issa she meets Tommy Brue – a sixty-year-old Scottish banker. From these meetings a triangle of impossible love is born. At the same time spies from Germany, Russia and the UK converge on the innocents.

A number of the group had been looking forward to reading another le Carré novel having read previous pieces of work and

watched the TV series *The Night Manager*. However, while many recognised that the novel was well-written, had an interesting story line and strong main characters the majority view was one of disappointment. For most the story was sluggish and in places even boring. The introduction of the secret service agents half way through the book was inconsequential and agents from different countries all seemed to blend into one. The ending was described as inconclusive and rushed as the author tried to tie up too many loose ends in a short time.

The general view was that le Carré has written better novels and that this was a bit of a let-down.

Dave Lloyd

Our next book is

The Siege of Krishnapur—J. G. Farrell
and we will discuss it on 12 May 2016

What to Read Next?

Going off-list

This 'column' is being hijacked this month by a note from Lesley Martin at library services about something that I think Dave mentioned last time. I've snipped the email a bit to leave the salient points:

We have been looking at ways in which we can serve the Readers Groups in Coventry better and we wanted to let you know that you are now able to borrow books from the general library stock as well as the Readers Group list! The titles from the general library stock must be over 6 months old.

Please could you let me know if you have been unable to find a particular title or enough copies of a chosen title for your group. We are able to buy extra copies of titles to meet your group's needs.

Please see the link below which takes you to the library page where you can find the readers' group list to download and a reader's pack with tips and advice: <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/readersgroups>

So over to you! **What should we read next?**

AVID Online

Reading Groups for Everyone

As I've mentioned before, we have an entry on the *Reading Groups for Everyone* website – <http://readinggroups.org/> (we currently show as Earlsdon Library, rather than AVID, but I'm working on that). We have now got a log-in code for

members so that you can attach yourself to the group and then add books to our reading list and enter the giveaways for sets of books for us to read. To find out how it works I've added the review above and our next couple of books and, if I ever get time, I'll add other reviews from back copies of ELM so people can see what we've read and what we've thought. Do have a look and register if you have not already. Perhaps we could use the 'Want to Read' section as a way of suggesting books without having to remember to bring the details along to a meeting? **Can someone nudge us in to discussing this possibility at our next meeting, please?** Thanks.

Library service website

We've been asked to register the details of our group, even though we are an 'official' one. The form for doing so lists several things they would like us to do, and I've copied it on the next page.

The logo for 'Reading Groups for Everyone' features the words 'READING', 'GROUPS', and 'FOR EVERYONE' stacked vertically. 'READING' is in orange, 'GROUPS' is in red, and 'FOR EVERYONE' is in green. The text is bold and sans-serif.

Opportunities

(Things we could do, but would need to talk about first!)

Every year Writing West Midlands offers reading groups the opportunity to work with a regional writer to have a new short story commissioned. There are five commissions on offer. You will need to apply by Friday, 29th April 2016 to be considered for this round (funding permitting).

If we fancy this lovely opportunity we need to send them a short profile of the group (up to 100 words) and why we would like to take part in the process. We will know if we have been successful by the beginning of June 2016.

If so, an allocated writer and someone from WWM will visit us to get a sense of the kind of story you want (you will put some narrative ingredients into the pot to set the writer going). Then the writer will go away and write the story and deliver it to you in the autumn of 2016. We would also be invited to a showcase event featuring all the commissioned stories and given an anthology of all the stories.

If you have any other reviews or recommendations, tales of literary events, or anything else you think other AVID readers would find interesting, please send them to:

Catherine Fitzsimons
cathfitz5317@yahoo.com.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO

- Allow a month's notice for the library to meet your book request and where possible provide an alternative
- Return books on time – loan periods are for 3 months
- Make sure up to date contact details are provided so we can share the latest news with you
- Recommend book titles to add to the readers group collection
- Support libraries with the writing of book reviews from the books you have read. To be shared on www.facebook.com/coventryreads and in libraries
- Support libraries with the promotion and attendance at author events
- Seek funding for author visits and/or book collections from other organisations
- Coventry Libraries are happy to promote and work with readers groups that are committed to equal opportunities

What's On

World Book Night is this month

World Book Night is a celebration of reading and books which sees tens of thousands of passionate volunteers gift specially chosen and printed WBN books in their communities to share their love of reading.

As part of the celebrations for World Book Night 2016, Coventry Libraries will be offering a host of events, including book giveaways, book swaps, quizzes and World Book Night book displays – see next page.



Join in the celebration at your local Library
Saturday 23 April 2016

Aldermoor Library
World Book Night display
Allesley Park Library
World Book Night display
Arena Park Library
World Book Night display
Bell Green Library (Friday 22 April) 5 - 6.30pm
Book giveaway
Caludon Library 9.30am – 3.30pm
Book swap and book giveaway
Canley 12 – 4pm
World Book Night display and giveaway
Central Library 9am – 4pm
Book swap, quiz and World Book Night display
Cheylesmore Library
World Book Night display

All events are free, no booking required.



www.coventry.gov.uk/libraries



Join in the celebration at your local Library
Saturday 23 April 2016

Coundon Library
World Book Night display
Earlsdon Library
World Book Night display
Finham Library
World Book Night display
Foleshill Library 2 – 3pm
World Book Night display and book giveaway
Jubilee Crescent Library
World Book Night display
Stoke Library 2 – 4pm
Book giveaway at Fargo Village Marketplace
Tile Hill Library
World Book Night display
Willenhall Library
World Book Night display

All events are free, no booking required.



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