

[www.bookgroup.info](http://www.bookgroup.info)

Newsletter No 9  
October 2003

Dear readers,

We are celebrating diversity this month on [www.bookgroup.info](http://www.bookgroup.info). Our choices this month reflect this theme. New reviews are: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time* by Mark Hammond, *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides and *Vile Bodies* by Evelyn Waugh.

**Our Book group of the Month** is the Jane Jones Book Club from Harpenden.

**Our Vintage Crucial Classics competition** drew many correct entries, which then were plucked out of a giant shoe. Well done to everyone who got the answers right (go to the News/Events page to read correct answers)  
The winner is Anna Crago from London.

**As it was so popular we are doing it again** and to celebrate the centenary of Evelyn Waugh's birth (28<sup>th</sup> October) we are launching a competition based on Waugh. The prize is a gorgeous set of five new releases by Penguin, of Waugh's classics. Click on our competition button for all the info. Good luck!  
Have a look at [www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk) for all the info on Penguin's Waugh celebration launch.

**3<sup>rd</sup> October** is the nationwide release of *Bright Young Things* a film adaptation of *Vile Bodies*, written and directed by Stephen Fry...it sounds absolutely, simply fabulous!

**New faces for the Booker Prize shortlist** – there's just one established author among the five contenders for the £50,000 award. Monica Ali, Damon Galgut, Zoe Heller, Clare Morrall and DBC Pierre compete for the big prize. The winner will be announced on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**New faces for the Guardian First Book Prize** – the prize began 37 years ago as the Guardian Fiction Award, now it has changed to recognise all genres and often unfairly neglected books. The public has been heavily involved in voting through the shortlist. The five books going through are by Sandra Newman, Alexander Fuller,

Jonathan Safran Foer, Hari Kunzru and Oliver Morton. The winner will be announced on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Go to [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk) for details.

**Book aid** is an international initiative to improve access to books, and is linked to The Big Read. Go to [www.bookaid.org](http://www.bookaid.org) for details. Bookgroup.info wishes this project great success.

**Book Towns** are now official! The idea began in Hay on Wye, and now The International organisation of Book Towns [www.booktown.net](http://www.booktown.net) has created 8 official book towns across Europe. All are rural villages or towns with historic or scenic significance, where bookshops selling second-hand and antiquarian books are concentrated. The IOB promotes these special places. All in all, gorgeous places for book lovers!

**Book Thursday** is a new idea to promote books and reading in general. Go to [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk) for information.

**Donna Tartt** is embarking on a tour of Britain. For all details of events, ticket prices and booking details visit [www.bloomsbury.com/littlefriend](http://www.bloomsbury.com/littlefriend)

**At The University of Anglia Literary Festival** Richard Dawkins and Martin Amis will be discussing their new works. Phone 01603 508050 for programme of events.

**The Ilkley Literature festival 3-19** October is 30 this year. Donna Tartt will feature. 01943 816714 or [www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk](http://www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk) for programme of events.

J M Coetzee is this year's Nobel prize-winner for literature.

Hope you have a great month of reading and bookgrouping. Please keep in touch with us, email to [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info)

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