

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

Newsletter No 10

October 2003

Dear readers,

Huge apologies to everyone, as due to technical problems, the site was down for a while in October...sorry if you had problems logging on.

New reviews on the site are all of books by **Russell Hoban**, a great favourite of our group. We particularly enjoyed *Turtle Diary*, *Riddley Walker* and *The Mouse and His Child*. Read our interview with him, and see our recommendations for the above novels plus *Black Tattoo* and *Her Name is Lola*.

To tie in, our **competition this month** is also set on Russell Hoban. The prize is a handsome set of his books from Bloomsbury. Information on Hoban can be found at [www.ocelotfactory.com/hoban](http://www.ocelotfactory.com/hoban) and please don't be shy, have a go at winning the prize!

Congratulations to our Evelyn Waugh Competition winners last month - Claire Wright of Birmingham and Anna Chorlton of Uckfield scooped (ouch) the prizes.

Our **bookgroup of the month** is an all-male group. We are always interested in hearing from bookgroups – please fill out the questions as completed by our BOTMs and submit them to us at [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) and you could be our prize-winning BOTM.

Read all about us and how the website came to be, in **NewBOOKSmag** issue 17, this magazine is entirely for readers and reading groups, and is a great source of information.

Also a great source of information, events and the world of books is **The Bookseller** magazine, which has an excellent website [www.thebookseller.com](http://www.thebookseller.com)

**The Reading Group Forum** takes place at Norden farm centre for the Arts in Maidenhead on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Book your place on 01628 788997

**Upcoming R4 Bookclub** programme – December- Peter Ackroyd discusses *Hawksmoor*, recording Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November, St. George's Church, Bloomsbury 4.30 pm, for transmission

4 pm, Sunday 7 December.  
January – John Mortimer discusses *Clinging to the Wreckage* and *Rumpole and the Younger Generation*, recording Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, 1.30 pm, for transmission 4 pm Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2004.

**The Big Read** is gathering pace like a monstrous snowball...log on to [www.bbc.co.uk/arts/bigread](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/bigread) for the top 100. Clive Anderson continues the search for the nation's favourite read. You can vote each week, BBC2 Saturday, 9.00 pm.

**Prizes galore** – DBC Pierre won the £50,000 **Man Booker Prize** with *Vernon God Little*, published by Faber & Faber. Prof John Carey, chair of judges described it as "A coruscating black comedy reflecting our alarm but also our fascination with modern America." Read all about it at [www.bookerprize.co.uk](http://www.bookerprize.co.uk)

*Vernon God Little* is one of five short-listed books for the **Guardian First Book Award**. The others are *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali, *Into The Silent Land* by Paul Brooks, *Stasiland* by Anna Funder and *Mountains of The Mind* by Robert Macfarlane. The winner will receive £10,000, to be announced on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**The Ellis Peters Dagger Prize** for crime writing went to Andrew Taylor for *The American Boy*.

**The Nobel Prize for Literature**, the world's largest literary prize (£780,000) was won by J M Coetzee.

Lastly we are developing the site please let us know what you would like to see on the site and what we could improve. Also readers 12 – 18 years old, please let us know your top 10 best reads (and star rating) Hope you have a great month of reading and enjoying your bookgroup. Our email is, as ever, [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) and we would love to hear from you. Please keep in touch.

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