

www.bookgroup.info

Newsletter No 15

April 2004

Dear readers,

April is Nigerian month on www.bookgroup.info Four of our featured authors are Nigerian and the fifth, Diran Adebayo, was born in London to Nigerian parents.

April's Reviews feature *The Joys of Motherhood* by Buchi Emecheta, *The Famished Road* by Ben Okri, *Ake, the Years of Childhood* by Wole Soyinka, *Some Kind of Black* by Diran Adebayo and *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe.

Two excellent websites dedicated to African literature are Heinemann's www.africanwriters.com and www.postcolonialweb.org/misc/africov.html

Note that this year's Reith Lecturer is Nobel –prize winning poet and playwright Wole Soyinka, who was imprisoned in Nigeria for his opposition to dictatorship.

The subject for this year's lecture series is *The Climate of Fear*. What are we afraid of? Could fear itself be the greatest human danger?

Lectures are broadcast on R4 on Wednesdays and Saturdays in April and May. For all the details go to www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/reith2004/

Bookgroup of the Month is from Lagos in Nigeria. It is a 25-30 strong group of women from the international community and was set up 20 years ago, as a means to introduce diplomatic wives to Nigerian authors. Read their great list of recommendations. This fascinating group organises a library, guest speakers and reviews, plus donating their read books to schools. Are there any other international groups out there? Do get in touch- info@bookgroup.info

Interview with an author is coming soon – but in the meantime we have put up a short biography of our author Buchi Emecheta.

March's competition winners are; Clare Lawrence from Godalming, Linda Geddes from Buckie, Fiona McPherson from Wallingford, Janet Swan from Burnley and Kate Farghar from Brighton. They all win copies of *The House of Sand and Fog* by Andre Dubus III. Congratulations to all of you.

We have three sets of books by Buchi Emecheta **for April's competition winners**. Have a go!

R4 Bookclub – visit www.bbc.co.uk/bookclub to get all the upcoming information. It's invitation only, so apply via their website.

Tell us about yourselves!

You can register your group at www.bookgroup.info where you can also exchange ideas and information on the forum. Let's keep the contact going and keep on talking about our bookgroup experiences and great reads recommendations. Bookgroups thrive on word-of-mouth, often avoiding all the hype. **So please use us to pass on those ideas!**

UNESCO World Book Capital this year is Antwerp. Go to www.ifla.org for info.

Slightly Foxed is a new quarterly magazine published this month. It offers an alternative to what the big publishers hype and the newspapers review. Sounds good. See for yourself at www.foxedquarterly.com

Orange, in partnership with libraries and the Reading Agency, is sponsoring **Chatterbooks -children's reading groups**. They have set up 174 groups across England and Scotland. Find out more at www.orange.co.uk/about/sponsorship/culture/orange_prize/educational.html Phew!

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