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Newsletter No 27  
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Dear readers,

June's **new reviews** are *Old Filth* by Jane Gardam, *Ingenious Pain* by Andrew Miller and the classic *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

Our **author this month** is the prolific but surprisingly unsung Jane Gardam. Go to the [interview](#) page to read her profile.

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** is the Bollington Drop In Reading Group, who boast 3 octogenarians amongst their number. Read all about them on our [news](#) page and if you'd like to be our next BOTM just answer the questions and send them to us at [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info).

May's **competition** winners are Jane Pask (Chiswick); Anthony Collins (Chigwell); Elspeth Cooper (Leeds); Marion Kinns (Clynder, Scotland); Sally Hobson (Christchurch); Jo Crick (London N1). Each will receive a copy of *The School of Night* by Anne Rouse.

A study into **sex differences in reading habits** has been carried out to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the [Orange Prize](#) for Fiction. Four out of five men said that the last novel they read was by a man, whereas women were almost as likely to have read a book by a male author. When asked to name the 'most important' book by a woman in the last two years the most frequent replies were *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali and *Unless* by Carol Shields – but many men admitted they had no idea. Some also found it difficult to "admire" or "like" a novel by a woman. Small wonder, the authors of the report say, that the Orange Prize still attracts controversy for its choices.

This year's shortlist is *Billie Morgan* by Joolz Denby, *The Mammoth Cheese* by Sheri Holman, *A Short History of Tractors in the Ukraine* by Marina Lewycka, *Liars and Saints* by Maile Meloy, *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lionel Shriver and *Old Filth* by Jane Gardam. ([review](#))

Short-listed for the new **Orange Prize for New Writers** are *26a* by Diana Evans, *Lucky Girls* by Nell Freudenberger and *How I Live Now* by Meg Rossoff ([review](#)). Don't forget to enter our [competition](#) (below the monthly competition) to win these three books.

We'd also love to hear your views on gender difference in reading habits.

The gender imbalance was sorely reflected in Channel 4's *Three Authors in Search of The Novel* (30 May) where Julian Barnes, Jonathan Coe and Kazuo Ishiguro discussed the state of the modern novel – need we say more? All the female authors must have been washing their hair that day.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Wilson on becoming the new Children's Laureate.  
<http://www.childrenslaureate.org/>

Yet another "best" list has been created – The 100 Best Scottish Books of All Time. To view this, frankly, bizarre selection visit [www.list.co.uk](http://www.list.co.uk) and tell us what you think.

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