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## Newsletter No 70 April 2009

"Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems."

- Rainer Maria Rilke

Our [Book of the Month](#) is THE BOOK THIEF by Marcus Zusak, this year's Brighton City Reads (see more below).

See the [competition](#) to win a copy and read our [interview](#) with the author.

Our other [recommended titles](#) are BRODECK'S REPORT by Phillipe Claudel and THE CLOTHS OF HEAVEN by Sue Eckstein and THE HUNTER by Julia Leigh.

Recommend a book to Bookgroup Info by sending a review (no more than 500 words) to [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) and we will put the best on the site as a guest review. We'll also send you a £10 book token.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)? Congratulations to Lisa Lucas our March winner for spotting the Martello Bookshop in Rye. Lisa wins a £10 book token.

Congratulations to the winners of THE EARTH HUMS IN B FLAT: Janice Summers, Lacaster; Angela Young, Chertsey; Hayley Andrews, Plymouth; Keith Hunt, Pontypridd; Hayley Williams, Cardiff; Laura Jones, Gloucester; Stephen Haigh, Leeds; Julie Picton, Portsmouth; Pamela Browett, Solihull; Ian Brooks, Cupar; Sarah Sharrock, Bolton; Rosemary Trusdale, Glasgow; Christine McCreadie, East Kilbride; Jan Wroblewski, London; Suzanne Bellingham, Oldham; Jean Hand, Studley; Nichola Game, Walton-on-Thames; Jane Blackford, Camberley; Keranjit Kaur, Leicester and Shirley Moulds, Widnes. Many thanks to Canongate publishers.

There are lots of [FREE BOOKS](#) and special offers this month for registered groups (sorry, UK and Ireland groups only). If your group is not registered then just fill in the [form](#). It's a very simple process!

Read about our [Bookgroup of the Month](#) the Trentham National Women's Register, who have been going for just over a quarter of a century.

Fill in the [questionnaire](#) if you'd like to be a BGoTM.

Leave your comments on book (or bookgroup) related topics on our [notice-board](#).

The festival season is upon us! Don't miss:

[Cambridge Wordfest](#) Spring Festival on April 23-26 for another sparkling weekend of literary treats for 2009. Authors appearing include Andrew Motion in the last week of his laureateship.

[Kingston Readers' Festival](#) 23 Apr - 22 May 2009 boasts a wide variety of events covering topics designed to excite, provoke and inform. Events will be held throughout the month in a number of venues around Kingston upon Thames.

[Charleston Festival](#) 15 – 24 May celebrates 20 years of setting the agenda. Charleston, the evocative rural retreat of Bloomsbury painters and writers, was at the epicentre of progressive movements in art, literature and politics between the wars and its annual Festival perpetuates an ethos of creativity, intellectual enquiry and conviviality. See the [offers](#) page for details of a special ticket event for Bookgroup Info visitors.

CrimeFest, 14-17 May at the Marriott Royal Hotel, Bristol, is a convention for people who like to read an occasional crime novel as well as for

die-hard fanatics. The programme includes interviews, panels, a Gala Dinner with award presentations, and one or two surprises. Featured guest authors are Simon Brett, Michael Connelly, Hakan Nesser and Andrew Taylor, and Toastmistress Meg Gardiner. For details see the [Crimefest](#) website. For free tickets to five visitors and a special 25% discount see our [offers](#) page.

Raymond Chandler, the master of crime fiction, died 50 years ago on March 26, 1959. To mark this anniversary Penguin publishers have re-issued the Phillip Marlowe mysteries. To win a set of these great books see our [competition](#) page.

As part of a new programme of events, the National Gallery is inviting leading writers to respond to a painting of their choice in the Gallery's collection. These free evening talks take place in the galleries during Friday Lates and include readings from the authors' work. See their [website](#) for more information.

See our [offers](#) page for half price tickets to [The National Theatre](#) showing of MRS AFFLECK, a passionate and tragic tale of obsessive love set on the Kent coast in 1950s England, by Samuel Adamson (from Ibsen's LITTLE EYOLF) until 29 April.

[Brighton & Hove City Reads](#) 2009 is Markus Zusak's international bestseller THE BOOK THIEF. There are a huge range of special events, workshops, reading groups and film showings including an exclusive City Reads visit to the Brighton Festival by the author. There is also a special opportunity for bookgroups to enter a competition to win afternoon tea at Terre à Terre in Brighton with Markus Zusak!

The outgoing Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, joins [Radio 4 Bookclub](#) on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>

April to discuss PUBLIC PROPERTY a collection of poems from 2002. Remember you can "listen again" if you miss either programme.

Irish poet Seamus Heaney was recognised for the "sheer scale" of his literary achievements with the £40,000 [David Cohen prize](#).

The [Orange Fiction Prize](#) longlist is announced.

Scottish author James Kelman has been shortlisted for the [Man Booker International](#) prize. The £60,000 prize is awarded for contribution to fiction on the world stage.

The world's richest children's literature prize has been awarded to an organisation that has spent 20 years working to promote reading on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Tamer Institute for Community Education has won the [Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award](#). The prize, which is intended to increase interest in children's literature around the world, is given annually to an author, illustrator or an organisation that encourages reading.

The Diagram prize for the [Oddest Book Title of the Year](#) goes to: THE 2009-2014 WORLD OUTLOOK FOR 60-MILLIGRAM CONTAINERS OF FROMAGE FRAIS – superb!

Read what some of our leading authors have to say about [writing for a living](#) – a joy or a chore? Poor things.

**Many thanks to all of you have emailed us to thank us for helping with setting up your group and making your reading choices. Please do remember to forward the newsletter to other members of your group so that they can take advantage of the offers and competitions.**

Please email us at [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) if you wish to unsubscribe to the newsletter.



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