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## Newsletter No 74 September 2009

"It is a mistake to think that books have come to stay. The human race did without them for thousands of years and may decide to do without them again."

E. M. Forster

Until then, see our [Book of the Month](#) FAMILY ALBUM by Penelope Lively. See the [competition](#) to win a copy and read our [interview](#) with the author.

Our other [recommended titles](#) are: THE CROSSROADS, another great thriller by Niccolo Ammaniti; a compelling first novel, THE HELP, by Kathryn Stockett; the penetrating COCKROACH by Rawi Hage and (we thought it was time) a classic, WASHINGTON SQUARE by Henry James.

The guest review is the haunting SKELETONS AT THE FEAST by Chris Bohjalian.

Do you agree with our reviews? Would you like to have your say? Well you can now leave your comments - we'd love to hear them.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)? Congratulations to James House the winner of last month's competition for spotting The Book and Comic Emporium in Vancouver, Canada. A £10 book token is on its way.

Congratulations to the winners of THE LITTLE STRANGER by Sarah Waters. They are: Margaret Bowers, East Preston; Phil Darling, Stowmarket; Leeanne Rayner, Leeds; Maria Reilly, Glasgow and Jane Voisey, Plymouth. Many thanks to Virago publishers.

Has your group recently joined our directory? If you have then don't miss

out! Claim your [FREE BOOKS](#) and special offers. This is for **ALL** registered groups (sorry, UK and Ireland groups only) not just new ones. 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](#) is the fun-loving Failsworth Library group from Manchester.

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

The first [Hampstead and Highgate Literary Festival](#) runs from 13 - 15 September. Join the organisers for a 3 day celebration of writing for readers of all ages and interests. Don't miss this exciting new event on the London literary calendar!

Come and see Jeremy Page, the acclaimed author of SALT (see our [review](#)) and THE WAKE (see our [review](#)) in conversation with Bookgroup Info at The Sanctuary Café, Brighton at 6pm on Tuesday, 20th October 2009.

For tickets and more information email [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info)  
We'd love to see you there.

[On Reading](#) is a photography exhibition "celebrating the absorptive power and pleasure of reading" by the Hungarian photographer Andre Kertész. On Reading, is at the Photographers' Gallery, 16-18 Ramillies St, London W1 until 4 October.

More than 800 knitting enthusiasts are currently involved in knitting and crocheting individual letters to create the world's first [giant knitted poem](#) as part of the centenary celebrations for the Poetry Society, with the as-yet secret poem set to be unveiled at the beginning of October.

Also to be revealed on 8<sup>th</sup> October, National Poetry Day, is the result of

the BBC's search for the [nation's favourite poet](#).

[The Man Booker](#) shortlist will be announced on 8<sup>th</sup> September with Hilary Mantel's WOLF HALL still favourite to win.

Join [Not the Booker Prize](#) blog and put forward your own nomination.

RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People) is launching Get Reading, to raise awareness and funds to support blind and partially sighted people through reading events such as book clubs, book swaps and sponsored reads. If you and your bookgroup would like to support them or help with a 3 month pilot phase, and to find out more, please contact RNIB on 0845 345 0054 [fundraising@rnib.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@rnib.org.uk) or Claire Arthurs on 0207 936 9748 or [claire@brandelectioneering.com](mailto:claire@brandelectioneering.com)

We're sure that all our library colleagues out there would love to make a contribution to the hilarious [Awful Library Books](#) website.

[Radio 4 Bookclub](#) on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September will feature travel writer Robert Macfarlane discussing THE WILD PLACES about the remaining wild places in Britain and Ireland.

Bookclub is looking for readers to meet John Irving and talk about A PRAYER FOR OWEN MEANY at 4.45pm on Weds 14 October BBC Bush House, London. For more details go to the [Bookclub](#) website.

If you have anything to say about these or any other book-related topics leave a message on our [notice-board](#).

**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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