

Halton Libraries *Newsletter*



Issue 6 March 2010

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Quote of the Month

'A good novel tells us the truth about its hero; but a bad novel tells us the truth about its author'.
G K Chesterton

This quote was supplied by Gill Allen—if you would like to share your favourite quote about books or reading then get in touch!

sally.shaw@halton.gov.uk

Library News

Young Volunteers in Halton Libraries - Summer Reading Challenge



The Summer Reading Challenge 2010, will invite children to take a giant leap to the final frontier - space.

Halton Libraries are looking for young volunteers to share in this great scheme where you will be helping and encouraging the children to complete the challenge.

Are you between 14 and 25? Make a difference in your local community this Summer and share the joy of reading. You can volunteer to help throughout Halton as every library is looking for young volunteers.

For more information contact: Jennie Archer on 01928 565973 or jennie.archer@halton.gov.uk

Halton Libraries *Events*

**Its back...
Dr Who Day**

Saturday 20th March

Halton Lea Library

If you are planning a trip to Halton Lea Library don't be startled if you bump into a Dalek!

Halton Lea library will be invaded by Daleks and Dr Who will be arriving in the Tardis to rescue us!

Come dressed as an alien and you could win a prize!

Booking Mad

Teenage Reading Group at Halton Lea Library

If you are interested contact Jennie Archer for more details:

01928 565 973

Jennie.archer@halton.gov.uk

Casino Royale Night

Tuesday 30th March

Widnes Library

To celebrate the end of the CSV Young Voices project at Halton Libraries there will be a Casino Royale night for young people aged over 11 years—please bring along your parents, aunts/uncles, grandparents and even great grandparents!

Lots of fun and games including card games, quizzes and much more!

For ages 11—111!!

Coming up....

VIP Coffee Morning 19th April - Halton Lea Library

Come along to our coffee morning and discover what we and other local services offer to those Visually Impaired or Partially Sighted members of our community.

Chat about Books 26th April - Halton Lea Library,

Are you retired and a lifelong reader? Like to meet new people in a relaxed surrounding? We are having an informal 'Chat about Books' session.

A Good Yarn 24th April - Halton Lea Library

Bring your latest project or find inspiration to start one! Meet other local knitters and make new friends. Knitting and craft books will be available for you to browse and borrow.

See next month's newsletter for more details. Or contact Janette Fleming 01928 565973.

Halton Libraries

Reading Groups

Widnes

General Reading Group 1, Widnes Library

Meet 2nd Tuesday of each month 5.45-7pm
Next Meeting: Tues 13th April
Discussing: A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson
Contact: Sally Shaw
0151 907 8383
sally.shaw@halton.gov.uk

General Reading Group 2, Widnes Library

Meet last Monday of each month 6-7pm
Next Meeting: Mon 29th March
Discussing: March by Geraldine Brooks
Contact: Lyn James
0151 907 8383
lyn.james@halton.gov.uk

Classics Reading Group, Widnes Library

Meet 3rd Wednesday of each month 6-7pm
Next Meeting: Wed 17th March
Discussing: Rabbit, Run by John Updike
Contact: Trudy Jones
0151 907 8383
trudy.jones@halton.gov.uk



Runcorn

General Reading Group, Halton Lea Library

Meet on the 1st Thursday of each month 5.45-7pm
Next Meeting: Thurs 1st April
Discussing: The Angel's Game by Carlos Ruiz Zafon
Contact: Mark Gibbons
01928 704455
mark.gibbons@halton.gov.uk

General Reading Group, Runcorn Egerton Street Library

Meet on the last Tuesday of each month 10.30-10.30am
Next Meeting: Tues 30th March
Discussing: The Girl on the Landing by Paul Torday
Contact: Lorna Hulme
01928 704455
lorna.hulme@halton.gov.uk

Psi-Reads Group

Meet 2nd Thursday of each month 5.45-7pm
Next Meeting: Thurs 8th April
Discussing: Season of the Witch by Natasha Mostert
Contact: Janette Fleming
01928 574495
janette.fleming@halton.gov.uk

Halton Libraries *Reviews*

My Favourite Books

By Merryn Stoyle.

The Day of the Triffids – John Wyndham

The Day of The Triffids tells the story of the events following the sudden blindness of approximately 95% of the world's population, and the struggle to cope in the aftermath. The Triffids, a 3 legged creature, are already blind, but also aim to blind humans with their venomous sting. Not only does the book show the continual fight between humans and nature, and man's greed and selfishness, but also discusses the topical themes of the day such as the changing attitudes towards sex, parenthood, the fact that the Americans were seen as the saviour of the world, but also looks at the need to evolve in order to survive. The book shows John Wyndham's strength as an author in making the not only the implausible, but also the barely contemplated and most scary, suddenly very plausible and a reality.

The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett

Mary Mary Quite Contrary How Does Your Garden Grow?

The classic children's novel is a brilliant masterpiece; it follows the story of Mary, a cantankerous ten year old, unused to fending for herself, who, following the death of her parents in India, travels to England to live with her loner uncle, still grieving for his wife who had died 10 years previously, in a great big house in the middle of Yorkshire. She eventually meets her equally as cantankerous invalid cousin Colin, and together with Martha, the plain speaking but warm hearted maid, and her brother Dickon, they uncover the locked and neglected garden, that had been Colin's mothers, but closed up following her death and secretly restore it back to life. In doing so, both children grow to understand the beauty of nature, life and rebirth, as well as the value of friendship and love. Their actions also enable Mary's uncle to come to terms with the death of his wife and love his son in the way he should. Not only does this book look at life in different cultures, and shows that there is a difference between living and making a life, but it also is very symbolic with interesting comparisons which makes it an interesting read for both children and adults alike.

The Firm – John Grisham

This is one of the early books written by John Grisham and is very typical in it's form of challenging the status quo as well showing corruption within both corporate organisations, as well as within the Police, fuelled largely by man's greed. It tells the story of the best law graduate in his year, Mitchell McDeere, who is offered his dream job with a barely known but very successful Tax Law Firm on finishing College. However, all is not as it seems and Mitchell's suspicions as a result of a number of events, including the number of tragic deaths of former employees of the Firm. Mitch's suspicions that all is not as it seems are confirmed and following a further death, Mitch slowly gets involved in

working against the company. However, Mitch is then let down and runs away – who will find him first – the FBI or The Firm? The race is then on!! It is not Grisham's most thought provoking novel, but it does show the value of love between parents and children, and between siblings and also that money cannot buy happiness.

On the Edge of Darkness – Barbara Erskine

Barbara Erskine has written a number of books that deal predominantly with the supernatural, hypnotherapy and regression, past catching up with the present and some also deal with pagan rites and rituals. This book is similar but also very different, in that it looks at time travel and also looks at the differences between Pagan and Christianity and combines the two, and the inherent conflict between the two. The book starts when Adam is 14 years old, who falls in love with a mysterious, but exceptionally intelligent girl Brid. Adam then moves away but Brid, convinced he is the love of her life, incurs the anger of her powerful uncle by ditching her destiny to continue to pursue him as he moves on with his life. It is a marvellous story of love, fate, destiny, as well as tragedy.

The Baader-Meinhof's Complex – Stefan Aust

This book is non-fiction story of the so called Baader-Meinhof group, who were a terrorist organisation that were active around Germany from the late 1960's until the early 1970's, though their successors remained active until the 1980's. This book is very detailed, with excerpts not only from Police statements, but also from prison logs and records. It is also unbiased and non-judgemental, showing areas of weaknesses in the authorities investigations. The book was originally written just over 20 years ago but following the collapse of The Iron Curtain, a lot more information came to light, including details on where former members had gone underground. When you read this book, you get a real insight into the minds of the individual terrorists, the mind of the key members of the different investigating organisations as well as providing details on how life in Germany was prior to the collapse of the Wall. You are also left with very little doubt that the terrorists actions actually caused a number of the procedures that they campaigned against to be implemented.

The Island – Victoria Hislop

The Island is a historic fictional novel describing the life on the Island of Spinalonga, located just off the Crete Coast, which housed lepers until the 1950's when a cure for leprosy was discovered and the Island closed down but also looks at life within a small village on Crete itself. It is a moving story about one family's struggle with the disease, as first the Mother is diagnosed, and then some time later, one of her daughters. It describes in some detail life in Crete, life on Spinalonga and how the two evolve over a period of about 30 years or so, and also looks at the dangers faced by the respective families as a result of the War on both the Men and Woman, and how these differ over the different ages of the citizens of Crete. It is a moving story that also examines not just issues affecting the immediate locality, but also looks at War, Politics, Money, Status and Wealth and how this affects people.

Halton Libraries *Competitions*

Just For Fun!

Can you guess this famous author from the clues below?

- I was born in September 1947
- I am a writer of horror, science fiction, suspense and fantasy fiction
- I have sold over 350 million copies of my novels and short stories
- I sometimes write under the pen name Richard Bachman.

Answers in April.

The answers to last month's 'Just For Fun' was...George Orwell.

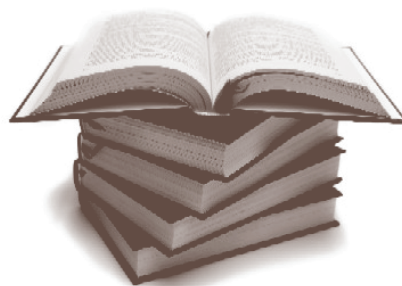
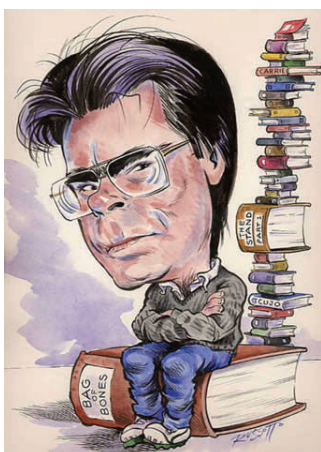
Competition

For the chance to win a goody bag of books let me know what your six favourite books are and why!

Send me an email with your six favourite books to sally.shaw@halton.gov.uk by Friday 9th April for a chance to win. Winners selected at random from all correct entries.

Winner announced in April.

The answer to last month's competition was the Classics reading group meets on 3rd Wednesday of each month 6-7pm and the winner picked at random from all correct entries was Maria Riant - congratulations!



Contact Us

If you would like to contribute to next month's newsletter then please email sally.shaw@halton.gov.uk.

Halton Lea Library: 01928 704455

Runcorn Library: 01928 574495

Widnes Library: 0151 907 8383

Ditton Library: 0151 424 2459

Mobile Library: 07795332231

<http://www.halton.gov.uk/libraries>