

Hello dear readers,

In sober mood, we decided on a war theme this month. On this theme of war, **the two new reviews** are *Regeneration* by Pat Barker – wonderful book based on a real encounter between Siegfried Sassoon and Dr Rivers, a distinguished neurologist. The horrors and morality of war are brilliantly discussed. *Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks takes the reader on a journey through WW1, through a family's history. Both are memorable and powerful and stimulated much discussion and are thought provoking on the wider issues of war and its consequences. The other reviews on page also reflect the theme.

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** is an entertaining group of slugs...that hopes to become a group of bookworms. Don't forget to register your bookgroup with us, and enter the prize draw.

At the risk of doing ourselves out of a job, **we'd like to recommend** *A Year of reading; A Month-By-Month Guide To Classics And Crowd Pleasers For You Or Your Book Group* by Elizabeth Ellington and Jane Freimiller. Find out how to order a copy go to www.bookgroup.info/advice

The Big read is on! The National Reading Campaign and the National Literacy Trust are working with the BBC on its flagship arts project for 2003. The whole nation will be voting on its favourite novel. Go to www.readon.org.uk/bigread.html to know more about this massive

programme of events. We support this fantastic idea!

Results from We Are What We Read, Guardian Survey – after scouring 40 books from the four corners of Great Britain, 9000 readers voted for the book which best describes the soul of their region. Their choice for England is *Notes From A Small Island* by American Bill Bryson. More Guardian book news is at www.guardian.co.uk/books

Next month is Margaret Atwood month the website is reviewing books by this prestigious, Booker prize-winning and much loved author. Catch Atwood in the Brighton Festival in May, she will be appearing at Charleston on Sunday 25th May. Visit the Festival website www.brighton-festival.org.uk and buy tickets on 01273 709709 for this and many other literary happenings in the Festival.

Also Atwood's *The Handmaids Tale* has been made into an opera to be performed at London's Coliseum 3.04.03 – sorry late notice.

Thanks for continuing to visit our website. Please keep talking to us and to each other via the site. By the way, you can hear us talking about www.bookgroup.info on BBC Southern Counties Radio on Saturday 5th April around 11.00 AM.

Happy Bookgrouping!

If you don't want to receive newsletters please email us at info@bookgroup.info