

www.bookgroup.info

Newsletter No 10

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Dear readers,

Huge apologies to everyone, as due to technical problems, the site was down for a while in October...sorry if you had problems logging on.

New reviews on the site are all of books by **Russell Hoban**, a great favourite of our group. We particularly enjoyed *Turtle Diary*, *Riddley Walker* and *The Mouse and His Child*. Read our interview with him, and see our recommendations for the above novels plus *Black Tattoo* and *Her Name is Lola*.

To tie in, our **competition this month** is also set on Russell Hoban. The prize is a handsome set of his books from Bloomsbury. Information on Hoban can be found at www.ocelotfactory.com/hoban and please don't be shy, have a go at winning the prize!

Congratulations to our Evelyn Waugh Competition winners last month - Claire Wright of Birmingham and Anna Chorlton of Uckfield scooped (ouch) the prizes.

Our **bookgroup of the month** is an all-male group. We are always interested in hearing from bookgroups – please fill out the questions as completed by our BOTMs and submit them to us at info@bookgroup.info and you could be our prize-winning BOTM.

Read all about us and how the website came to be, in **NewBOOKSmag** issue 17, this magazine is entirely for readers and reading groups, and is a great source of information.

Also a great source of information, events and the world of books is **The Bookseller** magazine, which has an excellent website www.thebookseller.com

The Reading Group Forum takes place at Norden farm centre for the Arts in Maidenhead on Saturday 22nd November. Book your place on 01628 788997

Upcoming R4 Bookclub programme – December- Peter Ackroyd discusses *Hawksmoor*, recording Monday 24th November, St. George's Church, Bloomsbury 4.30 pm, for transmission

4 pm, Sunday 7 December.
January – John Mortimer discusses *Clinging to the Wreckage* and *Rumpole and the Younger Generation*, recording Tuesday 9th December, Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, 1.30 pm, for transmission 4 pm Sunday 3rd January 2004.

The Big Read is gathering pace like a monstrous snowball...log on to www.bbc.co.uk/arts/bigread for the top 100. Clive Anderson continues the search for the nation's favourite read. You can vote each week, BBC2 Saturday, 9.00 pm.

Prizes galore – DBC Pierre won the £50,000 **Man Booker Prize** with *Vernon God Little*, published by Faber & Faber. Prof John Carey, chair of judges described it as "A coruscating black comedy reflecting our alarm but also our fascination with modern America." Read all about it at www.bookerprize.co.uk

Vernon God Little is one of five short-listed books for the **Guardian First Book Award**. The others are *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali, *Into The Silent Land* by Paul Brooks, *Stasiland* by Anna Funder and *Mountains of The Mind* by Robert Macfarlane. The winner will receive £10,000, to be announced on 4th December.

The Ellis Peters Dagger Prize for crime writing went to Andrew Taylor for *The American Boy*.

The Nobel Prize for Literature, the world's largest literary prize (£780,000) was won by J M Coetzee.

Lastly we are developing the site please let us know what you would like to see on the site and what we could improve. Also readers 12 – 18 years old, please let us know your top 10 best reads (and star rating) Hope you have a great month of reading and enjoying your bookgroup. Our email is, as ever, info@bookgroup.info and we would love to hear from you. Please keep in touch.

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