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Newsletter No 22 January 2005

Dear readers,

Happy New Year to all our readers from all over the world, and we hope you have great reading in your very various book groups. Please let us know what you are reading, and what books work for you. We are always pleased to get your emails – to info@bookgroup.info Please also use our interactive Forum on the website – click on chat to have an online chat with other readers. We had some very lively discussion – across continents – last year, and we hope this will continue.

New reviews this month are *Vernon God Little* by DBC Pierre and *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth. *Any Human Heart* by William Boyd, *Small Island* by Andrea Levy and *Restoration* by Rose Tremain stay on the review page. All are absolutely great reads.

Read the **author's perspective** in the [interview](#) with William Boyd.

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** is a group called The Yorkies. They are good looking twenty and thirty somethings who successfully combine drinking and reading. Read about them on the [news](#) page
If you'd like to be our next BOTM just answer the questions and send them to us at info@bookgroup.info and you will be rewarded with a book voucher for your group.

New daytime BBC 1 book programme coming up – called Page Turners, presented by Jeremy Vine, it will feature a panel of writers selecting 24 page - turning books from a shortlist of 67. The audience will include book groups. Go to www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2004/11_november/03/page_turners.shtml

You can subscribe to the **National Reading Campaign's** new redesigned free magazine Read On, by going to www.readon.org.uk

Listen out for us talking to Mariella Frostrup on **Radio 4's Open Book** At 4 pm, Sunday 16th January, repeated on Thursday 20th January.

Congratulations to Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell! In December 2004 they were announced as winners in TWO categories of the **Smarties Book Prize** for their wonderful *Fergus Crane*.

Whitbread Prize winners have now been announced – many congrats to Andrea Levy for *Small Island* (read our review) and go to www.whitbread-bookawards.co.uk

Did you enjoy *The Da Vinci Code*? Are you planning a *Da Vinci Code* tour of Paris? A true page – turning murder cum detective story, the book has certainly sparked huge global interest in the themes of Catholic conspiracy and quest for the Holy Grail. The Guardian reports that the 'Da Vinci effect' has actually boosted sales on Eurostar, with literary fans tracing Dan Brown's footsteps and maybe doing a little artistic sleuthing of their own...go to www.guardian.co.uk to read the article by Andrew Clark, 6.1.05.

Radio 4's Bookclub in February will feature Bill Bryson on *A Short History of Nearly Everything* to be broadcast 6.2.05 and 10.02.05
March's Bookclub will feature Stephen Fry on *The Hippopotamus*. It's recording on 01.02.05. If you'd like to be in the audience and take part in this fascinating programme – go to www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub for details of how to attend.

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