

[www.bookgroup.info](http://www.bookgroup.info)

## Newsletter No 24 March 2005

Dear readers,

Winter is upon us, snow is falling and temperatures are low. There is only one thing to do – tuck up and enjoy a good book.

This month we are celebrating the opening of the magnificent Jubilee Library in the centre of Brighton. Do pay it a visit, and also visit [www.thewordproject.info](http://www.thewordproject.info) to see the great range of events taking place.

This month's **recommended reads** are by writers who live in Brighton. New [reviews](#) this month are: *The Society of Others* by William Nicholson, *Queen of Subtleties* by Suzannah Dunn, *Oxygen* by Andrew Miller, *Newton's Swing* by Chris Paling and *The Edge Chronicles* by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell.

Please let us know what you are reading, and what books work for you. Email us: [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) Please also use our interactive Forum on the website – click on chat to have an online chat with other readers and exchange views.

This month's [interview](#) is with Andrew Miller.

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** is The Pezenas Mediatheque reading group. Located in the S. France and comprising both French and English men and women, the discussions take place in the local library and are in both languages. Impressive! Read all about them on our [news](#) page and if you'd like to be our next BOTM just answer the questions and send them to us at [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) and you will be rewarded with a book voucher for your group.

February's **competition winners**, each receiving *The promise of Happiness*, kindly donated by Bloomsbury, are – Lorraine Konoso (Inverness), Lillian King (Reading), Ann Jones (Caernarfon), Mary Macan (Esher), Hilary McFaul (Waringstown, N Ireland) and Lesley Athey (Morpeth). Well done everyone!

This month click on the [competition](#) button to enter and win copies of *The Optimists* the new novel by Andrew Miller.

The shortlist for the [Arthur C Clarke Award](#) for Science Fiction has just been announced, but sadly it may be the last – unless a sponsor can be found.

Shock! The newly announced chairman of the 2005 **Man Booker prize**, John Sutherland, has admitted that judges are unlikely to read all 130 books. Go to [www.guardian.co.uk/books](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books) for the full story.

**Man Booker International** is a new prize intended to recognise a long-standing contribution to literature. Details are on [www.manbookerinternational.com](http://www.manbookerinternational.com)

**Reading for pleasure on Friday March 11.** *The Guardian* is presenting a one-day seminar on strategies to engage secondary school students in reading for pleasure. It's free, but advance booking is essential – 020 7886 9898 or email [newsroom@guardian.co.uk](mailto:newsroom@guardian.co.uk)

**World Book Day on March 3** is celebrated by many events, see [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com) for comprehensive details.

A Scottish **Healthy Reading Initiative** has been launched by Rhona Brankin MSP, Deputy Health Minister in Glasgow and East Renfrewshire. Working with doctors and health teams, the initiative will point patients to books which could help them to understand their problems.

**Essex Book Festival lasts throughout March** and it takes place across the whole of Essex. Big names this year include Alexander McCall Smith and David Baddiel. See the full [programme](#)

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