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Newsletter No 81
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"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."

- William Shakespeare

The sheer brilliance of our [Book of the Month](#) WOLF HALL by Hilary Mantell should certainly put a spring in your step. See the [competition](#) page to win a copy and read our fantastic [interview](#) with the author.

The [recommended titles](#) this month are NAMING THE BONES, the latest thrilling novel by Louise Welsh and SECRET SON, set in contemporary Morocco, by Laila Lalami.

Percy Bysshe Shelley eulogises William Wordsworth on the [Poetry Page](#)

We have an exciting new feature this month called [What Are You Reading?](#) To kick off we have the journalist and broadcaster, James Naughtie, presenter of Radio 4's 'Bookclub' and the 'Today' programme.

Do you agree with our reviews?
Would you like to have your say?
Leave your comments - we'd love to hear them.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)?
Congratulations to Janette Downs the winner of March's competition. A £10 book token is on its way.

Congratulations to the winners of BURNT SHADOWS by Kamila Shamsie.

Welcome to all the new groups who have recently registered with us. Now is the time to request your **FREE BOOKS!** Just go to the [offers](#) page. This is for **ALL** registered groups (sorry, UK and Ireland groups only) not just new ones. If your group is not

registered then just fill in the [form](#). It's a very simple process.

N.B. You only need to register once.

Read about our [Bookgroup of the Month](#) the friendly Ealing Bookclub, London.

Fill in the [questionnaire](#) if you'd like to be a BGoTM.

Our registered bookgroups should have now received a National Book Tokens Gift Card. Congratulations if yours had some credit already loaded on to it.

2010 marks the 21st anniversary of the Charleston Festival from 21st – 30th May. To celebrate this coming of age the festival will include a series of inspiring and entertaining events with some of our most exciting writers, artists, poets and performers. The guest-list includes Alan Bennett, Bill Bryson, William Dalrymple, Carol Ann Duffy, Geoff Dyer, Anne Enright, Roy Hattersley, Andrew O'Hagan, Zadie Smith, Rose Tremain, Lionel Shriver and Max Hastings. See the Charleston [website](#) for more information.

Les Soeurs Anglaises run three and five day textile, creative writing, and dance workshops led by the very best, and most experienced, internationally renowned artists/teachers in the idyllic countryside of South West France. The 2010 programme includes a 'Poetry in Motion' 5 day workshop led by internationally respected poet Roger McGough, as well as screenwriting, crime, and creative writing courses - all led by masters of their genre. For more information see Les Soeurs Anglaises [website](#).

BRONTË, by Polly Teale, is a gripping theatrical interpretation of the Brontë legend - a fascinating glimpse into the life, mind and works of this extraordinary family. See this powerful

production at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury, Berkshire from Thursday 15th April to Saturday 22nd May. For information telephone the box office on 01635 46044 or book online at www.watermill.org.uk

There's still time to get tickets for the wonderful [Cambridge Wordfest](#) on 9th, 10th and 11th April 2010.

There's also still time to enter the Cambridge Wordfest competition for 2 tickets to see A.L.Kennedy & James Kelman in conversation on Sunday 11th April and 2 tickets to see Jon McGregor and Blake Morrison on Sunday 11th April.

Q. What was the name of Jon McGregor's first novel? Answers to admin@cambridgewordfest.co.uk with 'bookgroup info competition' in the subject line.

There's also still time to join the Literati Book Club at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane, London next meeting is on Tuesday 13th April at 6.30pm when Libby Purves will discuss her novel SHADOW CHILD. For more information, and to book a place on the Literati events email literati@marriotthotels.com

[The Lost Man Booker](#) shortlist is announced. The winner will be decided by the international reading public. Voting, via the Man Booker Prize website closes on 23rd April. The overall winner will be announced on 19th May. We're rooting for TROUBLES by JG Farrell – see our [review](#).

[The Orange Prize longlist](#) is announced - and includes several Bookgroup Info recommendations. The shortlist will be announced on April 20th. Daisy Goodwin the chair of this year's judging panel has launched a stinging criticism of the current "grim" crop of women's fiction. Is this fair? [Read](#) what she has to say.

Poetry is high on the agenda this month. Read about the [The Hippocrates Poetry Prize](#), an unusual new annual competition for a poem on a medical subject.

Helen Dunmore has won this year's National Poetry Competition. Read her poem '[The Malarkey](#)' which was picked from 10,467 anonymous entries - and Alice Oswald wins the inaugural [Ted Hughes Poetry Award](#), sponsored by Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, for her collection WEEDS AND WILD FLOWERS.

British author David Almond has won the [Hans Christian Andersen Award](#) - the world's most prestigious prize in children's literature.

On Sunday 4 April at 4pm and Thursday 8 April [Radio 4 Bookclub](#) is broadcasting Jeanette Winterson who will be discussing ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT on the twenty-fifth anniversary of its first publication. It's also online on the i-player and on podcast that week.

Radio 4 Bookclub is recording an edition with Yann Martel on LIFE OF PI on Wednesday 2nd June in central London. If you would like to attend, tickets are free and available from the [BBC website](#).

Coming up on BBC World Book Club is Richard Ford discussing THE SPORTSWRITER. They would love your questions and if you're in London on the 19th April, you can attend the recording. Email worldbookclub@bbc.co.uk

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