

MARCH 2016

READING GROUP TITLES

(Recent titles available in multiple copies)

This listing includes recently published titles, which Peterborough Libraries have available in multiple copies. We hope this might prove helpful when you're looking for suitable titles with sufficient copies. This list can also be downloaded from the Reading Groups page at www.vivacity-peterborough.com - follow the libraries link.

If you have any comments or queries, please contact Elaine Wilkinson at Central Library (tel 01733 864277, or email elaine.wilkinson@vivacity-peterborough.com)

Key: NF=Non-Fiction; L=Large Print; A=Audio

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	Copies	LP & Audio
CLASSICS			
Shute, Nevil 320 pgs	Pied Piper <i>[reading group request]</i> John Howard is determined to brighten up his old age by taking a fishing trip to France. However, during his stay the Nazis invade and he is forced to try to escape back to England with the two small children of some friends who are forced to stay behind in order to help the Allied war effort. As the conflict grows closer the roads become impassable and Howard also comes across five more children who need his help. He ends up leading this motley group of youngsters through the French countryside, constantly beset by danger yet heroically protecting his charges. <i>"It is very much a Shute book about the lone individual dealing with immense problems, and discovering unsuspecting humanity in many people. It is a sad and warm book at the same time."</i>	10	
NON-FICTION			
Rebanks, James 292 pgs	The Shepherd's Life Some people's lives are entirely their own creations. James Rebanks' isn't. The first son of a shepherd, who was the first son of a shepherd himself, he and his family have lived and worked in and around the Lake District for generations. Their way of life is ordered by the seasons and the work they demand, and has been for hundreds of years. <i>"An insight into a world unfamiliar to most - full of thoughtful observation as well as some brutal honesty. Touching, affecting, wry and profound."</i>	10	

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	COPIES	LP & AUDIO
FICTION			
Atkinson, Kate 560 pgs	A God in Ruins WINNER OF THE 2015 COSTA NOVEL AWARD A God in Ruins relates the life of Teddy Todd – would-be poet, heroic World War II bomber pilot, husband, father, and grandfather – as he navigates the perils and progress of the 20th century. For all Teddy endures in battle, his greatest challenge will be to face living in a future he never expected to have. This book looks at war – that great fall of Man from grace – and the effect it has, not only on those who live through it, but on the lives of the subsequent generations. Those who loved the bestselling <i>Life After Life</i> will recognise Teddy as Ursula Todd’s adored younger brother – but for those who have not read it, <i>A God in Ruins</i> stands fully on its own.	10	
Barnett, Laura 320 pgs	The Versions of Us A man is walking down a country lane. A woman, cycling towards him, swerves to avoid a dog. On that moment, their future hinges. There are three possible outcomes, three small decisions that could determine the rest of their life. Eva and Jim are 19 and students at Cambridge when their paths first cross in 1958. And then there is David, Eva's then-lover, an ambitious actor who loves Eva deeply. 'The Versions of Us' follows the three different courses their lives could take following this first meeting. Lives filled with love, betrayal, ambition but through it all is a deep connection that endures whatever fate might throw at them. <i>“Much deeper than I'd initially given it credit for. The sheer brilliance of it lies with the fact that no matter which version is presented, it's not wholly perfect. As in life, any number of circumstances, or the acts of individuals around us can influence what 'fate' may have in store – for better, or for worse. Such a well thought out and highly memorable read that will play havoc with your emotions. Would definitely recommend.”</i>	10	
Extence, Gavin 304 pgs	The Mirror World of Melody Black [Radio 2 Book Club] It all starts, as these things sometimes do, with a dead man. He was a neighbour, not someone Abby knew well, but still, finding a body when you only came over to borrow a tin of tomatoes, that comes as a bit of a shock. At least, it should. And now she can't shake the feeling that if she hadn't gone into Simon's flat, if she'd had her normal Wednesday night instead, then none of what happened next would have happened. And she would never have met Melody Black. <i>“The Mirror World of Melody Black paints a poignant and aching realistic picture of mental illness, but that is not all this novel is about. Abby is an intelligent and witty character and her fresh voice added a lot of humour to the story. Above all, her journey with its many ups and down was an immensely compelling one and when you are from start to finish glued to the pages of a book you know it's a good one.”</i>	10	
Fuller, Claire	Our Endless Numbered Days [Richard & Judy, Bath City Read] 1976: Peggy Hillcoat is eight. She spends her summer camping with her father, playing her beloved record of The Railway Children and listening to her mother's grand piano, but her pretty life is about to change. Her survivalist father, who has been stockpiling provisions for the end which is surely coming soon, takes her from London to a cabin in a remote European forest. There he tells Peggy the rest of the world has disappeared. Her life is reduced to a piano which makes music but no sound, a forest	10	

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	<p>where all that grows is a means of survival. And a tiny wooden hut that is Everything. <i>“A remarkable first novel from a wonderful new writer, I was totally immersed in the imagined world that Claire Fuller creates. The attention to descriptive detail is meticulous and the sense of place is beautifully achieved.”</i></p>		
<p>Gaiman, Neil 736 pgs</p>	<p>American Gods <i>[Reading Group Request]</i> Two days before Shadow is released from prison, his wife, Laura dies in a car crash. On his release he encounters Mr Wednesday, who claims to be a former god and king of America. Together they embark on a strange journey through the heart of the USA. <i>“This is a story about ancient gods and their struggle to survive in a world where their fickle worshippers have abandoned them in favour of advertisements, technology and consumerism ... “American Gods” is a road trip you’ll be glad to have embarked on.”</i></p>	10	
<p>George, Nina 368 pgs</p>	<p>The Little Paris Bookshop On a beautifully restored barge on the Seine, Jean Perdu runs a bookshop; or rather a 'literary apothecary', for this bookseller possesses a rare gift for sensing which books will soothe the troubled souls of his customers. The only person he is unable to cure, it seems, is himself. He has nursed a broken heart ever since the night, 21 years ago, when the love of his life fled Paris, leaving behind a handwritten letter that he has never dared read. His memories and his love have been gathering dust - until now. The arrival of an enigmatic new neighbour in his eccentric apartment building on Rue Montagnard inspires Jean to unlock his heart, unmoor the floating bookshop and set off for Provence, in search of the past and his beloved. <i>“Loved the whole idea behind the story – the magic of books and how books can cure all ills... Jean Perdu is such a wonderful, unusual person. I could picture the entire route by boat and loved the stops and the people Jean meets along the way. I could almost taste the food and hear the conversations. It's a perfect literary holiday read, especially if you love France.”</i></p>	10	
<p>Logan, Kirsty 272 pgs</p>	<p>The Gracekeepers <i>[Radio 2 Book Club]</i> The sea has flooded the earth. North lives on a circus boat, floating between the scattered islands that remain. She dances with her beloved bear, while the rest of the crew trade dazzling and death-defying feats for food from the islanders. However, North has a secret that could capsize her life with the circus. Callanish lives alone in her house in the middle of the ocean, with only the birds and the fish for company. As penance for a terrible mistake, she works as a gracekeeper, tending the graves of those who die at sea. What drove her from home is also what pulls her towards North. When a storm creates a chance meeting between the two girls, their worlds change. <i>“paints an engaging tale set in a possible future, where magic and mystery might be very close by. I found the characters well written and rounded ... She is a great storyteller, and deserves recognition as such.”</i></p>	10	
<p>Riordan, Kate 448 pgs</p>	<p>The Girl in the Photograph For fans of Kate Mosse and Kate Morton comes a haunting novel about two women separated by decades but entwined by fate. When Alice Eveleigh arrives at Fiercombe Manor during the long, languid summer of 1933, she finds a house steeped in mystery and brimming with secrets. Sadness permeates its empty rooms and the isolated valley seems crowded with ghosts, none more alluring than Elizabeth Stanton whose only traces remain in a few tantalisingly blurred photographs. Why will no one speak of her? What happened a generation ago to make her vanish? As the sun beats down relentlessly, Alice becomes ever more</p>	10	

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	determined to unearth the truth about the girl in the photograph - and stop her own life from becoming an eerie echo of Elizabeth's . . . "this just sucks you into the vortex of its narrative and you don't want to leave until you've unravelled the stories of these two women. The atmosphere created is palpable."		
Tremayne, S K 400 pgs	The Ice Twins One of Sarah's daughters died. But can she be sure which one? A year after one of their identical twin daughters, Lydia, dies in an accident, Angus and Sarah Moorcraft move to the tiny Scottish island Angus inherited from his grandmother, hoping to put together the pieces of their shattered lives. But when their surviving daughter, Kirstie, claims they have mistaken her identity - that she, in fact, is Lydia - their world comes crashing down once again. As winter encroaches, Angus is forced to travel away from the island for work, Sarah is feeling isolated, and Kirstie (or is it Lydia?) is growing more disturbed. When a violent storm leaves Sarah and her daughter stranded, Sarah finds herself tortured by the past - what really happened on that fateful day one of her daughters died?	10	