

DECEMBER 2015

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			
Dostoevsky, Fyodor 816 pgs	The Brothers Karamazov <i>[reading group request]</i> This book is a murder mystery, a courtroom drama, and an exploration of erotic rivalry in a series of triangular love affairs involving Karamazov and his three sons - the impulsive and sensual Dmitri; the coldly rational Ivan; and the healthy young novice Alyosha. Through the gripping events of their story, Dostoevsky portrays the social and spiritual strivings in what was both a golden age and a tragic turning point in Russian culture. <i>"Above all else however, this is an enjoyable whodunnit. An excellent crime novel centring round the three Karamazov brothers; Dmitri, Ivan and Alyosha and their wayward father, Fyodor. All the human emotions are here - love, hatred, jealousy, bitterness, and although Tolstoy may be the master of relationships, no-one can draw out the tension like Dostoevsky."</i>	10	
Eliot, George 218 pgs	Silas Marner This novel was George Eliot's favourite. It concerns a bitter weaver who takes on a young orphan girl and gradually transforms his own life and that of the girl. The novel combines humour, rich symbolism and pointed social criticism to create an unsentimental portrait of rural English life. <i>"Once again, George Eliot (AKA Mary Anne Evans) brings us a gripping tale of country folk at the turn of the 19th century. The historical detail is fascinating in itself, but this is a truly touching story of one man's redemption through the love of a good woman."</i>	10	
Lawrence, D H 448 pgs	The Rainbow <i>[reading group request]</i> Lawrence's classic novel chronicles the lives of three generations of the Brangwen family in Nottinghamshire. Increasingly, the story focuses on Ursula, and follows her development through adolescence and early womanhood. <i>"The Rainbow is a hugely rewarding novel, which despite its relative brevity has the air of the epic about it."</i>	10	

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	COPIES	LP & AUDIO
NON-FICTION			
Michell, Tom 240 pgs	The Penguin Lessons <i>[Radio 2 Book Club]</i> Tom Michell is in his roaring twenties: single, free-spirited and seeking adventure. He has a plane ticket to South America, a teaching position in a prestigious Argentinian boarding school and endless summer holidays. He even has a motorbike! What he doesn't need is a pet. What he really doesn't need is a pet penguin. Set against Argentina's turbulent years, following the collapse of the corrupt Peronist regime, this is the heart-warming story of Juan Salvador the penguin, rescued by Tom from an oil slick in Uruguay just days before a new term. When the bird refuses to leave Tom's side, he has no choice but to smuggle it through customs, across the border and back to school, where it soon transforms the lives of all they meet ...	10	
OTHER FICTION			
Baldacci, David 592 pgs	Memory Man First in his new 'Amos Decker' series. When Amos Decker returned home sixteen months ago to find the bodies of his wife and only daughter, he didn't think he could carry on living. Overwhelmed with grief, he saw his life spiral out of control, losing his job as a detective, his house and his self-respect. But when his former partner in the police, Mary Lancaster, visits to tell him that someone has confessed to the murder of his family, he knows he owes it to his wife and child to seek justice for them. As Decker comes to terms with the news, tragedy strikes at the local school. Teenagers are gunned down, and the killer is at large. Following the serious brain injury Amos suffered as a professional footballer, he gained a remarkable gift - and the police believe that this unusual skill will assist in the hunt for the killer. Amos must endure the memories he would rather forget, and when new evidence links the murders, he is left with only one option. <i>"this is a typically well constructed tale from this author with his trademark writing style that is highly addictive and compelling all the way. There are twists and turns galore, but with a very authentic feel to it and the further in you get the less you will want to put it down."</i>	10	
Chanter, Catherine 400 pgs	The Well <i>[Richard & Judy Book Club]</i> When Ruth Ardingly and her family first drive up from London in their grime-encrusted car and view <i>The Well</i> , they are enchanted by a jewel of a place, a farm that appears to offer everything the family are searching for. An opportunity for Ruth. An escape for Mark. A home for their grandson Lucien. But The Well's unique glory comes at a terrible price. The locals suspect foul play in its verdant fields and drooping fruit trees, and Ruth becomes increasingly isolated as she struggles to explain why her land flourishes whilst her neighbours' produce withers and dies. Fearful of envious locals and suspicious of those who seem to be offering help, Ruth is less and less sure who she can trust. <i>"This is an unusual, challenging, atmospheric and ultimately moving novel."</i>	10	

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	COPIES	LP & AUDIO
Coleman, Rowan 396 pgs	We Are All Made of Stars Stella Carey has good reason to only work nights at the hospice where she is a nurse. Married to a war veteran who has returned from Afghanistan brutally injured, Stella leaves the house each night as Vincent locks himself away, unable to sleep due to post traumatic stress disorder. During her nights at the hospice, Stella writes letters for her patients, detailing their final wishes, thoughts and feelings - from how to use a washing machine, to advice on how to be a good parent - and posts them after their death. That is until Stella writes one letter that she feels compelled to deliver in time, to give her patient one final chance of redemption. <i>"This is an amazingly beautifully written book that is emotional, touching and funny too."</i>	10	
James, Marlon 704 pgs	A Brief History of Seven Killings [Booker Prize Winner 2015] Set against the backdrop of 1970s reggae culture, disco, sex and excess comes this remarkable re-imagining of the attempted assassination of Bob Marley. <i>"A Brief History of Seven Killings is completely original. It is also gripping, intelligent and perfectly put together. The story, an account of Jamaican politics, gangs, drug dealing (and Bob Marley) from the 1970s to the 1990s, meanders all over the place in time and subject, yet ties everything up brilliantly by the end. Much is written in Jamaican slang, which is tough only at first. You soon get used to it."</i>	10	
Lafaye, Vanessa 368 pgs	Summertime [Richard & Judy Book Club] It is the mid 1930's. In the small town of Heron Key, where the relationships are as tangled as the mangrove roots in the swamp, everyone is preparing for the 4th of July barbecue, unaware that their world is about to change for ever. Missy, maid to the Kincaid family, feels she has wasted her life pining for Henry, who went to fight on the battlefields of France. Now he has returned with a group of other desperate, destitute veterans, unsure of his future, ashamed of his past. When a white woman is found beaten nearly to death, suspicion falls on Henry. As the tensions rise, the barometer starts to plummet. But nothing can prepare them for what is coming. For far out over the Atlantic, the greatest storm ever to strike North America is heading their way... <i>"Whilst 'Summertime' is a work of fiction it is in fact based on real events. Meticulously researched, it describes the catastrophic great storm using well-documented facts. It is a tremendously dramatic read, incorporating a tender romance with social and political issues and also issues of race relations, adultery, alcoholism, heroism and bravery."</i>	10	
MacKintosh, Clare 384 pgs	I Let You Go [Richard & Judy Book Club] In a split second, Jenna Gray's world descends into a nightmare. Her only hope of moving on is to walk away from everything she knows to start afresh. Desperate to escape, Jenna moves to a remote cottage on the Welsh coast, but she is haunted by her fears, her grief and her memories of a cruel November night that changed her life forever. Slowly, Jenna begins to glimpse the potential for happiness in her future. But her past is about to catch up with her, and the consequences will be devastating . . . <i>"such a brilliant book that is totally un-put-downable. There are so many twists and turns in the plot and they are so cleverly executed that it made a really fast paced, thrilling read."</i>	10	
Mitchell, David 240 pgs	Slade House [Radio 2 Book Club] Turn down Slade Alley - narrow, dank and easy to miss, even when you're looking for it. Find the small black iron door set into the right-hand wall. No handle, no keyhole, but at your touch it swings open. Enter the	10	

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	COPIES	LP & AUDIO
	sunlit garden of an old house that doesn't quite make sense; too grand for the shabby neighbourhood, too large for the space it occupies. A stranger greets you by name and invites you inside. At first, you won't want to leave. Later, you'll find that you can't. <i>"Slade House is an enjoyable supernatural chiller that is a quick and easy read. I bought this on a whim thinking the cover was distinctive and beautifully done. The story, short at 233 pages, certainly held my attention and proved pretty creepy as David Mitchell cranked up the story to reach a dramatic conclusion."</i>		
Mosse, Kate 432 pgs	The Taxidermist's Daughter [Richard & Judy Book Club] Sussex, 1912. In a churchyard, villagers gather on the night when the ghosts of those who will die in the coming year are thought to be seen. Here, where the estuary leads out to the sea, superstitions still hold sway. Standing alone is the taxidermist's daughter. At seventeen, Constantia Gifford lives with her father in a decaying house: it is all that is left of Gifford's once world-famous museum of taxidermy. The stuffed animals that used to grace every parlour are out of fashion, leaving Gifford a disgraced and bitter man. The bell begins to toll and all eyes are fixed on the church. No one sees the gloved hand pick up a flint. As the last notes fade into the dark, a woman lies dead. <i>"...beautifully written and wonderfully descriptive and very atmospheric. It's a brilliant Gothic psychological thriller with Connie, a wonderful and strong character, at the heart of the story."</i>	10	
Rice, James 336 pgs	Alice and the Fly Miss Hayes has a new theory. She thinks my condition's caused by some traumatic incident from my past I keep deep-rooted in my mind. As soon as I come clean I'll flood out all these tears and it'll all be ok and I won't be scared of Them anymore. The truth is I can't think of any single traumatic childhood incident to tell her. I mean, there are plenty of bad memories - but none of these are what caused the phobia. I've always had it. It's Them. I'm just scared of Them. It's that simple. <i>"Mental illness in youngsters is a theme frequently returned to be explored in novels as it gives a huge amount of scope. Here an obsessive, sick boy is set in a disjointed family, all with their individual problems. We see everything from Greg's view so the imagination of the reader often has to work to get balanced pictures. The diary has been suggested by Greg's English teacher and it is a useful vehicle to be able to get into his head ... When the main event kicks off, it's electric and I found that I had to read the final third of the book in one sitting."</i>	10	
Swanson, Peter 432 pgs	The Kind Worth Killing [Richard & Judy Book Club] Delayed in London, Ted Severson meets a woman at the airport bar. Over cocktails they tell each other rather more than they should, and a dark plan is hatched - but are either of them being serious, could they actually go through with it and, if they did, what would be their chances of getting away with it? Back in Boston, Ted's wife Miranda is busy site managing the construction of their dream home, a beautiful house out on the Maine coastline. But what secrets is she carrying and to what lengths might she go to protect the vision she has of her deserved future? <i>"Be prepared for a story that has more twists than a theme-park roller ... a study of the human psyche, it is also psychologically challenging and also an excellent thriller. Character development is excellent and the pace of the story is perfect."</i>	10	