

DRAFT SCHEDULE - AND SELECTED READING LIST:

SUGGESTED MEETING DATES: To be confirmed as soon as possible, depending on both the availability of the room in *Europa Nantes* - and any further deconfinement distancing guidelines issued by the Government:

Session 1 - Monday 12th October: *The Rainbow* by D.H Lawrence. (First published 1915)

Session 2 - Monday 14th December: *Girl* by Edna O'Brien. (First published 2019)

Session 3 - Monday 25th January: *The Dry* by Jane Harper. (First published 2016)

Session 4 - Monday 15th March: *The Family on Paradise Pier* by Dermot Bolger. (First published 2005)

Session 5 - Monday 10th May: *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton. (First published 2013)

Session 6 - Monday 28th June: *Black Rabbit Hall* by Eve Chase. (First published 2015)

**** Final Reading List selected on Monday 22nd June 2020 by those present in our virtual reading room:**

Brigitte Amand Anne Bartocci Françoise Borsier Elisabeth Boucher	Cate Chambers Sandrine Delafosse Anne de la Tousche Nolven Marrot	Niall McLoughlin Delphine Moreau Mélanie Ponce
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BOOK 1: *The Rainbow* by D.H Lawrence (English author, 1885-1930). Genre: Fiction

Synopsis:

The book follows three generations of the Brangwen family living in Nottinghamshire, particularly focusing on the individual's struggle to growth and fulfilment within the confining strictures of English social life. *The Rainbow* tells the story of three generations of the Brangwen family, a dynasty of farmers and craftsmen who live in the east Midlands of England. The book spans a period of roughly 65 years from the 1840s to 1905, and shows how the love relationships of the Brangwens change against the backdrop of the increasing industrialisation of Britain. The first central character, Tom Brangwen, is a farmer whose experience of the world does not stretch beyond these two counties; while the last, Ursula, his granddaughter, studies at university and becomes a teacher in the progressively urbanised, capitalist and industrial world. Lawrence's frank treatment of sexual desire, and the part it plays within relationships as a natural and even spiritual force of life, caused *The Rainbow* to be prosecuted in an obscenity trial at Bow Street Magistrate's Court London, on 13 November 1915, as a result of which 1,011 copies were seized and burnt. After this ban, the book was unavailable in Britain for 11 years, although editions were available in the USA

BOOK 2: *Girl* by Edna O'Brien (Irish author, 1930-). Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: David Cohen Prize for Literature 2019 (pre-cursor to Nobel Prize nomination) / Irish Fiction Novel of the Year Prize 2020 / Shortlisted for the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction 2020

Synopsis:

"I was a girl once, but not anymore." So begins *Girl*, Edna O'Brien's harrowing portrayal of the young women abducted by Boko Haram. Set in the deep countryside of northeast Nigeria, this is a brutal story of incarceration, horror, and hunger; a hair-raising escape into the manifold terrors of the forest; and a descent into the labyrinthine bureaucracy and hostility awaiting a victim who returns home with a child blighted by enemy blood. From one of the century's greatest living authors, *Girl* is an unforgettable story of one victim's astonishing survival and her unflinching faith in the redemption of the human heart. The oppression of women is the main theme in this novel, it pervades the pages and is inescapable. Just as in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, it examines how, though in some parts of the world, women's rights have come far, in others, they remain little and skewed

BOOK 3: *The Dry* by Jane Harper (Australian author, 1980-). Genre: Mystery Thriller/ Suspense

Awards: 2017 Gold ABIA Book of the Year winner / 2017 Davitt Award winner / 2017 Gold Dagger Award winner for best crime novel of the year

Synopsis:

The Dry, Harper's first novel, is a thriller set in a fictional town five hours west of Melbourne. A Federal Agent, Aaron Falk, returns to his old hometown to attend the funeral of his childhood best friend, Luke. Falk teams up with a local detective and tries to uncover the truth behind Luke's sudden mysterious death, only to find more questions than answers

BOOK 4: *The Family on Paradise Pier* by Dermot Bolger (Irish author, 1959-). Genre: Historical Fiction

Synopsis:

The novel begins in the tranquil idyll of a Donegal village in 1915 and follows the journeys of one Irish family through the War of Independence, the General Strike in Britain, the dangerous streets of 1930's Moscow, the Spanish Civil War and on to Soviet gulags, Irish Internment camps and London during the Blitz. In his work, Bolger is often concerned with the articulation of the experiences of working-class characters who, for various reasons, feel alienated from society

BOOK 5: *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton (New Zealand author, 1985-). Genre: Mystery/ Historical Fiction

Awards: 2013 Man Booker Prize Winner / 2014 Walter Scott Prize Shortlist / 2014 Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction 2014 Longlist

Synopsis:

Catton's second novel, it is set in 1866, in New Zealand's South Island. The novel follows Walter Moody, a prospector who travels to the fledgling West Coast settlement of Hokitika to try to make his fortune on nearby goldfields. Instead, he stumbles into a tense meeting between twelve local men, and is drawn into a complex mystery that is covering up a series of unsolved crimes

BOOK 6: *Black Rabbit Hall* by Eve Chase (English author, 1971-). Genre: Thriller/ Suspense

Awards: Winner of Saint Maur en Poche Best Foreign Fiction Novel 2019 (France)

Synopsis:

The debut novel from journalist Polly Williams, using the pseudonym of Eve Chase. A novel of wrenching family secrets, forbidden love, and heartbreaking loss housed within the grand gothic manor of Black Rabbit Hall. Amber Alton knows that the hours pass differently at Black Rabbit Hall, her London family's country estate - where no two clocks read the same. Summers there are perfect, timeless. Not much ever happens. Until, of course, it does...