

# Shelf Life 12

*May 2020 Newsletter of the Wendover  
Community Library Trust*



FRIENDS OF WENDOVER  
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Registered Charity 1157773



Thanks to Carol Williams and Margaret Maurice for the photographs.

## *Closed until further notice*

Monday	Closed	Telephone	01296 382415
Tuesday	Closed	Address	High Street
Wednesday	Closed		Wendover
Thursday	Closed		HP22 6DU
Friday	Closed	E-mail :	
Saturday	Closed		<a href="mailto:lib-wen@buckscc.gov.uk">lib-wen@buckscc.gov.uk</a>
Sunday	Closed		

Web site [www.buckscommunitylibraries.org/wendover](http://www.buckscommunitylibraries.org/wendover)

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Please email your comments, suggestions and articles to: [fowlmembers@hotmail.com](mailto:fowlmembers@hotmail.com)

## *From Our Chair - Phil Mitchell*

Our Community Library is closed to us all at the moment. We live in strange times indeed, but there is a sense in which this makes the production of this edition of Shelf Life more important than ever.

Whilst the everyday business of the Community Library is closed, ('locked down', as we now call it!), work is still going on to improve and develop the services provided. In previous editions of Shelf Life for example we have written about the work the Community Library is doing with the Buckinghamshire County Library Service to win funds to enhance and expand the services provided from the Community Library building. There is still cautious optimism for this project.

For now, however managing without the usual library services being available is something we have to learn to live with. The regular change and/or renewal of the books we have borrowed, the simple facility of being able to go to the Community Library to read and browse through newspapers and magazines, the usual activities for children and other groups are simply not available, but, there are a few compensations available for us at the moment, many with thanks to modern technology. In the last two weeks I, for example, have 'attended' a concert given by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, and I have managed for the first time to experience the thrill of an opera at La Scala Milan. I did not have to book for either of these, and it cost me nothing to get to either the Concert Hall in Berlin or to the theatre in Milan! So there are some positive things around at the moment. I also find that although, for now, I can't borrow books from the library, I have found it interesting to go through the books on our shelves at home, be reminded of what we have, and to be able to re-read some of them. The most recent of these was the book by Robbins Landon, '1791, Mozart's Last Year'. To be reminded of the achievements of this genius in the last year of his life is simply astonishing. No matter how long this so called 'lock down' lasts, there are compensations.

In saying this I am more and more conscious of the fact that many people have been more severely affected than I have by the need to address the issues caused by Covid-19. For some children and their families for example, the closure of schools presents serious difficulties, and for many who are simply not able to see a way through, or an end to the current situation, life is indeed not at all easy. It is good that we have seen examples of communities coming together to support the more vulnerable, and there is a sense in which this may be the most important aspect of all that we are going through at the moment. Let's hope that the current situation will help us all to appreciate more, the importance of community, and also help us all to have an improved sense of perspective as we move forward.

## *Susan's Section*

It's been just over six weeks since lockdown and Carol and I have been busy working from home. I'm slightly bored with the view from the bedroom window where I work but appreciate how lucky I am that I live in a rural part of Bucks so that I have lots of lovely woods and fields to walk in for my daily exercise. We have a fantastic DJ here and every Thursday after our Clap for Carers he puts on music for us all to dance to – keeping our 2metres apart obviously!

In these times I know I am turning more and more to the internet to keep in touch with my parents in Reading and daughter in Duxford, and I love the fact that I can actually see them as well as hear them. Technology is great. I can't wait to be able to see them in person and give them a good long hug to make sure they are real and not holograms.

Carol has taken over the operation of the library Facebook account, and for those of you who check this out will agree she is doing a great job, with book reviews, details of on line resources and lots more, if you don't look at this it's well worth a visit. This is one of the places we will put information once we have news of when the libraries will be able to open again.

I know lots of you will be missing a regular change of books, so please go to the Buckinghamshire Council website and choose libraries and you'll find lots of information of how to download books, newspapers, magazines, spoken word and much more. It's a great resource and as long as you have a computer, smartphone, iPad (or something similar) you will be able to use all these resources. You will need your long number of your library card plus the pin number. If you are unable to find your pin number, please email the address you can find on the library section of the Buckinghamshire Council website and someone will get back to you.

Thought I'd finish with a book recommendation and a photo of one of our Teddys with his very own PPE.

The book is 'The Giver of Stars' by JoJo Moyes which I absolutely loved and am going to buy my own copy so I can read it as and when I like:

**Amazon says: LOSE YOURSELF IN THIS SPELLBINDING STORY OF LOVE, COMMUNITY AND THE POWER OF READING: THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER & REESE WITHERSPOON BOOK CLUB PICK FROM THE AUTHOR OF *ME BEFORE YOU***

Here is the picture:





## OnScreen

### A trip to the movies

If like me you are missing your trips to the movies, do not despair – it may still be some time before cinemas open again, but nowadays there are a multitude of ways in which films can come to you both through your television and your Internet-connected devices if you have them.

With a Smart TV, tablet, laptop or desktop computer you have a vast choice of online platforms on offer, all reasonably priced – in fact, some are free to TV licence-holders (BBC iPlayer) and most are substantially cheaper than a cinema ticket! For instance, if your taste runs to older films the BBC has just uploaded a selection of RKO classics onto the BBC iPlayer. Including *King Kong* (1933), *Citizen Kane* (1941), *Bringing Up Baby* (1938), *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949), *Angel Face* (1952) and more: <https://bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p07y2frq>.

If you're feeling more adventurous, the British Film Institute (BFI) have an amazing season running at the moment, Japan 2020 which showcases Japanese filmmakers who have inspired admiration and fascination around the world such as Kurosawa, Ozu and Naruse: <https://player.bfi.org.uk/japan-2020>.

If it's new releases you're after go to Curzon Home Cinema: <https://www.curzonhomecinema.com>. Here you will find the cream of new international film including 2019 festival award-winners *Portrait of a Lady On Fire*, *The Whistlers*, *The Truth*, *And Then We Danced* and many more as well as great documentaries and older classics.

And there's truly something for everyone – check out MUBI for auteur cinema, Netflix and Amazon Prime for blockbusters and Oscar-winners and so much more. So grab some popcorn, a beverage of your choice and settle in on the sofa for some cinematic treats!

Christine Bardsley - of the OnScreen Committee and British Council Film Programme Manager

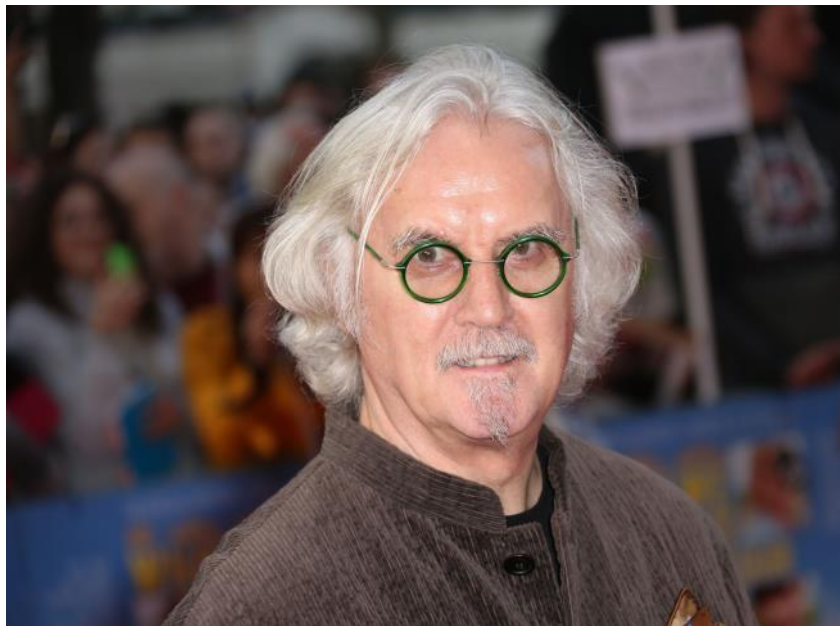
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Here is Paul Lister standing next to the new OnScreen banner (generously donated by Christopher Pallett).

The banner has been taken down during lockdown, but will be repositioned as soon as OnScreen is back in business.

## Celebrity Book Lover—Billy Connolly



### My Favourite Author

I am the first person to say that going to the library changed my life. It was my salvation as a kid. People say that football is a way out of being “working class”, if you’re looking to escape, but I think it’s books. They are your ticket to the whole world, and the library is where the escape tunnel is.

I have many favourite authors and books because of this, but it has to be Charles Dickens: a classic writer who created so many wonderful fictional characters.

### The Book I’m Reading

Ernest Hemingway’s ‘To have and have not’, about a fishing boat captain, Harry Morgan, from Key West. He’s an ordinary man forced into black market activity as a result of the Depression. I live in Florida and love fishing, so it’s a nice piece of familiar escapism.

"A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed yesterday losing its entire load. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralysed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, nonplussed, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless, and perplexed."



## Photo Competition 2020

A reminder that our annual Wendover Library photography competition is still open despite the lockdown. The beautiful weather, lack of aeroplanes and cars and also our long country walks make taking photographs so much more pleasurable this year! We are still accepting submissions, which must be in landscape format, and will do until the competition closes at the end of June 2020.

There is of course a winner, but the main purpose is for the public to decide on the favourite 13 photos which will be used in the 2021 Wendover Community Library calendar. All profits from the sales go towards improving and enhancing our Library.

All entries can be forwarded to [fowlmembers@hotmail.com](mailto:fowlmembers@hotmail.com) or [ron.melville@btinternet.com](mailto:ron.melville@btinternet.com).

Happy snapping!!



“Wendover Woods” by Trustee Val Brown



## New Photos for Housing Trusts in Wendover

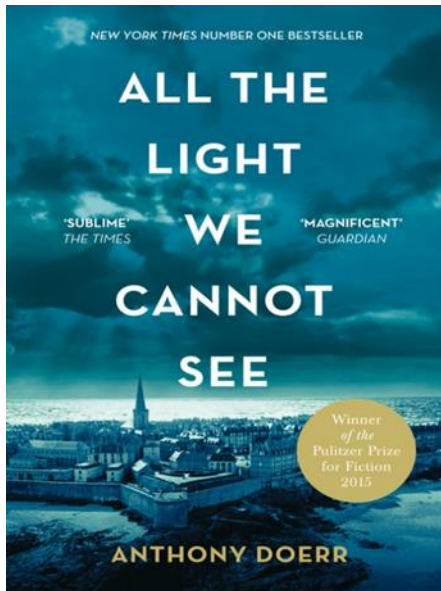
Thanks to FOWL a selection of photos from the 2019 competition have been chosen by the local Independent Living Schemes—Bankside, the Beeches and the Poplars. The Schemes are undergoing refurbishment, and so have taken the opportunity to have copies reproduced on canvas.

The residents of the three schemes were also invited to see a display of the photographs on Tuesday 10th March.

This is a classic example of the way in which Wendover Community Library is becoming a real hub in the community.

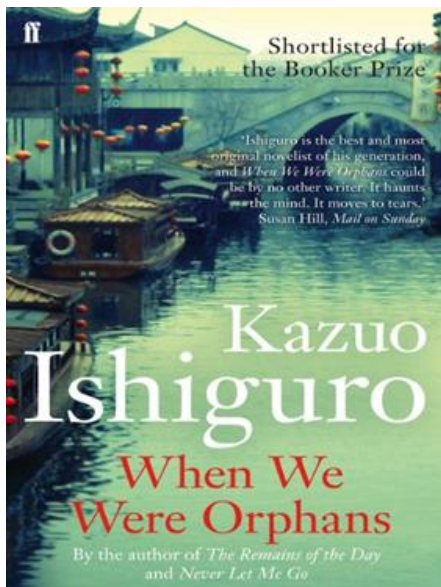


## Book Recommendations



A beautiful, stunningly ambitious novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France. Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six. Her father builds a perfect miniature of their Paris neighbourhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When the Nazis invade, father and daughter flee with a dangerous secret. Werner is a German orphan, destined to labour in the same mine that claimed his father's life, until he discovers a knack for engineering. His talent wins him a place at a brutal military academy, but his way out of obscurity is built on suffering. At the same time, far away in a walled city by the sea, an old man discovers new worlds without ever setting foot outside his home. But all around him, impending danger closes in.

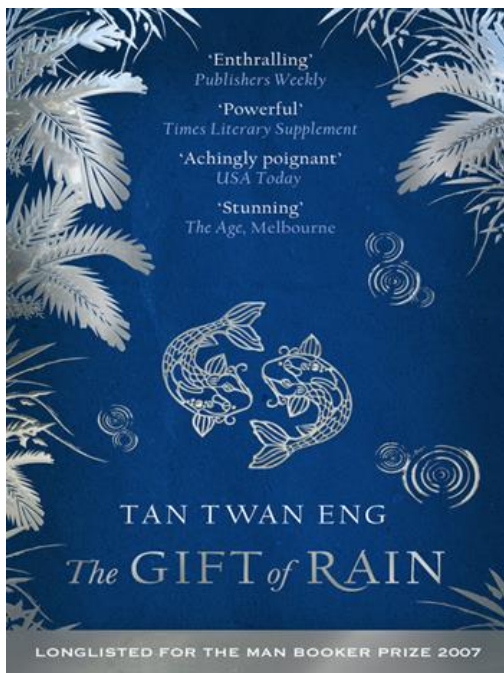
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England, the 1930s. Christopher Banks has become the country's most celebrated detective, his cases the talk of London society. Yet one unsolved crime has always haunted him: the mysterious disappearance of his parents, in old Shanghai, when he was a small boy. Moving between inter-war London and Shanghai, *When We Were Orphans* is a remarkable story of memory, intrigue and the need to return.

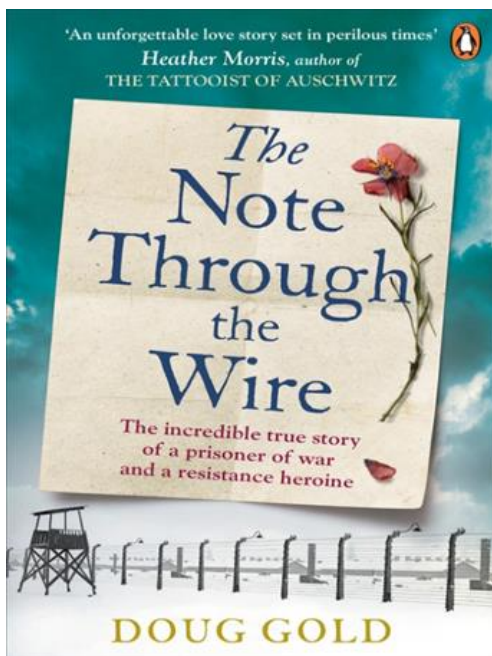


## Book Recommendations



Penang, 1939, sixteen-year-old Philip Hutton is a loner. Half English, half Chinese and feeling neither, he discovers a sense of belonging in an unexpected friendship with Hayato Endo, a Japanese diplomat. Philip shows his new friend around his adored island of Penang, and in return Endo trains him in the art and discipline of aikido. But such knowledge comes at a terrible price. The enigmatic Endo is bound by disciplines of his own and when the Japanese invade Malaya, threatening to destroy Philip's family and everything he loves, he realises that his trusted sensei - to whom he owes absolute loyalty - has been harbouring a devastating secret. Philip must risk everything in an attempt to save those he has placed in mortal danger and discover who and what he really is.

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The greatest love blossoms in the darkest hour.

In the heart of Nazi-occupied Europe, two people meet fleetingly in a chance encounter. One is an underground resistance fighter; the other a prisoner of war. A crumpled note passes between these two strangers and sets them on a course that will change their lives forever.

## Thank you to everyone who donated towards Fiona's Memory

Wendover Community Library would like to thank everyone who donated in honour of Fiona Poole, who unfortunately died at the end of 2019. Fiona was a regular at the library, and was always happy to help us at our FOWL events. Your generosity has been remarkable and speaks volumes of the love and respect that so many people in Wendover felt towards Fiona. Over £1000 has been raised and when the library re-opens this will be used to provide a lasting memory.

Fiona will be sadly missed at the library. Below is a picture of the FOWL desk with Fiona on the right.





## Lockdown - Read the Titles!



*"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."*