

## Sperrin U3A Book Club Reading list 2023/2024



The Book Club meets on the first Monday of the month apart from Bank Holidays when we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month instead. Meetings start at 2.00pm and are held in the dining room on the ground floor of Moyola Park Golf Club.

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2023** Discussion of books members have read over the summer

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023** Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Elizabeth Zott is a gifted research chemist in 1960s California. Her career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a beloved TV cookery show.

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2023** House of Names by Colm Tobin (inspired by Greek myths)

A story of intense longing and shocking betrayal. It tells Clytemnestra's tale of her life in ancient Mycenae, and how she and her lover plot the murder of her husband Agamemnon on his return after nine years at war.

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2023** The Optician of Lampedusa by Emma Jane Kirby

A moving account of an ordinary man whose late summer boat trip off a Sicilian island unexpectedly turns into a tragic rescue mission when a boat carrying hundreds of refugees capsizes.

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2024** (1<sup>st</sup> Jan is a bank holiday) Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

Olive, a retired schoolteacher, deplores the changes in her little town of Crosby, Maine. But Olive is brought to a deeper understanding of herself and her life – sometimes painfully, but always with ruthless honesty.

**5<sup>th</sup> February 2024** Behind Closed Doors by BA Paris (Psychological thriller)

Jack and Grace seem like the perfect couple. But why does Grace never answer the phone? And why there are bars on one of the bedroom windows?

**4<sup>th</sup> March 2024** Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Ifemelu heads for America while Obinze, plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, but what is their relationship now?

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2024** (1<sup>st</sup> April is a bank holiday) Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

It is 1985 in a small Irish town. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, a coal merchant makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silence of a town controlled by the church.

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2024** (6<sup>th</sup> May is a bank holiday) Restoration by Rose Tremain (Historical fiction)

The ambitious and lustful medical student Robert Merivel transgresses the one law that he is forbidden to break and is brutally cast out from Charles II's court. Thus begins Merivel's journey to self-knowledge, which will take him down into the lowest depths of seventeenth-century society.

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024** My Cousin Rachel by Daphne du Maurier (Modern Classic)

Philip Ashley is drawn to Rachel, his late cousin's widow, like a moth to a flame. But might she have had a hand in his cousin's death?

Plus discussion of possible books for next year's book club reading list.