

More House Messenger

The Library Newsletter – January 2011

Library News

The Christmas Quiz, although not really book related, proved to be very popular this year so the prize was awarded by picking one of the correct entries from a hat – Mr Carlyle was *VERY* surprised to discover that he was the winner. The answers were:

1. The lyrics ‘the stars in the bright sky’ appear in *Away in a Manger*.
2. *Franz Gruber* wrote the music to Silent Night.
3. *Christina Rossetti* wrote the words to ‘In the Bleak Mid Winter’.
4. In ‘We Wish you a Merry Christmas’ the singers demand *some figgy pudding*.
5. *O come O come Emmanuel* includes the words ‘free thine own from Satan’s tyranny’.
6. Part of the Brazilian way of celebrating Christmas is *baking cakes made of corn flour*.
7. *The Winter Festival Spirit* is the name given by the Chinese to Father Christmas
8. St Francis of Assisi displayed the first nativity scene in *Italy*.
9. *January 7th* is the date upon which followers of the Julian Calendar celebrate Christmas.
10. It took Charles Dickens *six weeks* to write ‘A Christmas Carol’.
11. Over 20 film adaptations of ‘A Christmas Carol’ have been made.

Well done to all those who entered – and remember a library is the best place to do research for such quizzes!

A Poem for New Year - The Darkling Thrush

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.
The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.
At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.
So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

by Thomas Hardy

Your librarian chooses to interpret this as poem of hope, but some differ with that view, email your opinions to librarian@morehousemail.org.uk

Interesting book related facts (2)

1 In the summer of 2009 author Alain de Botton was the writer-in-residence at Heathrow Airport after which he became, for a short while, the reader-in-residence.

2 Last year research suggested that nearly half of women are very keen readers, unable to put a book down once they started, and they tend get through a large number of books a year. Men, however, are just not as good – well, well, well!

3 Recently a biography of Kathleen Ferrier (a famous contralto in 1930s and 1940s) was returned to West Bridgford library, Nottinghamshire only **51** years after it had been due for return.

4 In Daisy Ashford (1881-1972), wrote a story called *The Young Visitors(sic): Or, Mister Salteena's Plan*, when she was 9 years old which was published in 1919. This makes her (probably) the world's youngest novelist.

5 South African writer Mary Faulkner (1903-1973), whom the Guinness Book of World Records ranks as history's most prolific novelist, wrote under six pen names. In all she wrote **904** books

Anyone who says they have only one life to live must not know how to read a book. ~ Anon

January's Quiz – *Books and Numbers*

There are countless books that include a number in their titles. Insert the missing number in the places indicated and then hand in (or email) the form, to the School Office, after you have entered your name in the box at the bottom of the page. Good luck!

_____ is set in Oceania, an intercontinental super-state ruled by an enigmatic dictator.

Jules Verne wrote "Around the World in ____ Days"

Joseph Heller wrote _____ a popular anti-war novel, whose title has become the way one refers to a "a no-win situation"

Athos, Porthos and Aramis are Alexandre Dumas' "The ____ Musketeers"

Charles Dickens wrote "A Tale of ____ Cities", with the memorable opening *it was the best of times, it was the worst of times.*

John Buchan wrote a thrilling story (*it's in the library*) called "The _____ Steps"

Name _____

Form _____