

Reading in public libraries

Books Connect

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

Rather than being in a regular reading group, some people prefer to drop in occasionally to book cafes or coffee clubs in libraries. These informal sessions bring people together over refreshments, to sit and chat about anything they've read lately - books, magazines, stories, newspapers, radio plays or tv films. Ask at your library if there is a group like that near where you live.

Other readers join a Book Chain organised by the library. This is for people who like to find out what other readers think about books, but perhaps don't have time for regular book group meetings. Each reader in the chain takes a book, reads it, writes a few comments down, and hands it back in at the library. This is passed on to someone else, so each time you get a book you get some comments to go with it. You may agree or disagree with what other people have written, it doesn't matter!

Reading activities also take place outside the library, with library staff or volunteers visiting community groups, health centres, clinics and organisations in the local area to give talks, recommend books or help set up book clubs. If you know of a group of people of any age who'd like to hear more about books and reading, or who may want help setting up their own reading group, just contact your nearest library.

You may be a volunteer who supports a particular group, such as visiting elderly people in sheltered housing or residential care, or disabled/housebound people, or work at a community or day centre ; if you like books and reading and want to share your ideas with those you visit or work with, we can help.

Reading together, listening to stories on tape, meeting authors who visit libraries, sharing ideas about books with others – all of these are great ways to relax socially and enjoy yourself.