

# THE KITTIWAKE TRUST MULTILINGUAL LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 2 JULY 2020



Author and poet, Michael Rosen, Patron of our sister project, Borderline Books, has recently returned home after spending many weeks in hospital battling the coronavirus. He spent 48 days in intensive care and a further three weeks in rehab, learning to walk again. Fortunately, his sense of humour remains intact.

We wish Michael and his family well.

We received his permission to reproduce his poem for the NHS which is celebrating its 72nd birthday this month.

## THESE ARE THE HANDS

These are the hands  
That touch us first  
Feel your head  
Find the pulse  
And make your bed.

These are the hands  
That tap your back  
Test the skin  
Hold your arm  
Wheel the bin  
Change the bulb  
Fix the drip  
Pour the jug  
Replace your hip.

These are the hands  
That fill the bath  
Mop the floor  
Flick the switch  
Soothe the sore  
Burn the swabs  
Give us a jab  
Throw out sharps  
Design the lab.  
And these are the hands  
That stop the leaks  
Empty the pan  
Wipe the pipes  
Carry the can  
Clamp the veins  
Make the cast  
Log the dose  
And touch us last.

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## NEW ACQUISITIONS FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

We may not have been open, but we've still been working. Here are some of the new titles we've acquired over the past few weeks. Many thanks to the authors for their donations.

### **Donated by author John Marrs:**

***The One:*** French, Hungarian, German, Italian, Czech, Bulgarian, Croatian, Turkish, Portuguese, Polish, Dutch

***When You Disappeared:*** German, Polish, Spanish, Slovak

***The Good Samaritan:*** German

***Her Last Move:*** German

### **Donated by author Tracy Chevalier:**

***The Girl with the Pearl Earring:*** German, Italian

***A Single Thread:*** French, Spanish

***Violet:*** German

***Remarkable Creatures:*** Italian

### **Purchased:**

**Afua Hirsch:** Brit(ish): on race, identity and belonging

**Kalwant Bhopal:** White Privilege: the myth of a post-racial society

**Shashi Tharoor:** Inglorious Empire: What the British did to India

**Paul Stephenson OBE & Lilleith Morrison:** Memoirs of a Black Englishman

**Niven Govinden:** Black Bread, White Beer (fiction)

**Chester Himes:** Collected Stories of Chester Himes. Cast the first Stone.

**Gloria Naylor:** The Women of Brewster Place. The Men of Brewster Place. Bailey's Cafe

**Helen Oyeyemi:** What is Not Yours is Not Yours. Gingerbread. The Icarus Girl. The Opposite House.

**Ntozake Shange:** For Coloured Girls Who have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf. Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo

**Alex Wheatle:** Straight Outta Crongton. Island Songs. Liclle Bit

**Inua Ellams:** Candy Coated Unicorns & Converse All Stars. Barber Shop Chronicles. The Half God of Rainfall. Black T-Shirt Collection.

**Paul Beatty:** The White Boy Shuffle

**Octavia E. Butler:** Parable of the Talents

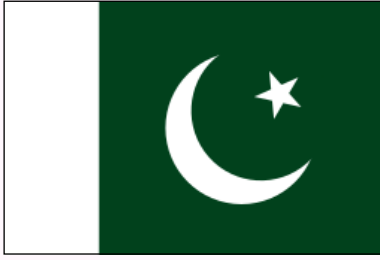
**Rita Dove:** The Darker Face of the Earth

**Chinua Achebe:** Arrow of God. Anthills of the Savannah. An Image of Africa. There was a Country: a personal history of Biafra.

**Colin Grant:** I & I The Natural Mystics: Marley, Tosh & Wailer

**Catherine Johnson:** Arctic Hero: the incredible life of Matthew Henson

***We also acquired a number of children's books in English, German & Portuguese***



My name is Salma, I'm from Newcastle Upon Tyne and I'm a regular member of the Multilingual Library. I've been a member for just over a year now and I am extremely lucky to have found a place where I can be away from all the busyness in my day-to-day life and enjoy reading. I've loved reading since I was a little girl, my favourite thing would be to get lost in a really good book! Recently, I've been interested in cultural books from my motherland, Pakistan, and various other books relating to my culture. Although my birthplace is the UK, I still continue to keep strong links with my motherland. This is where the library comes into play - I am easily (with the help of the amazing volunteers) able to locate the books that I enjoy. I feel the library is a lot more focused on language and culture which is why it is so useful to me and my book choices. It is so convenient in its location within Eldon Garden as well as the fact that it is away from the busyness of the shopping centre and the emphasis they place on finding the right book for everyone that comes in.

I read the first newsletter the library brought out and instantly knew I wanted to write my own piece for everyone to read and to understand how much of an impact the Multilingual Library has had on me. On days when I'm not feeling my best or I simply wish to have some quiet time, it's a safe-haven for me to go in and get stuck into a book.

I speak both Punjabi and Urdu, I can read and write Urdu too. When I was younger my mum would send us to Urdu classes but as I grew older, I didn't practice as much and in turn I lost the fluency I once had. The fact that the library stocks various books in Urdu meant that I was able to pick up a book and practice the language I was once a fluent reader in and since then I have definitely improved! I started to bring in and introduce the younger members of my family to the library so they can appreciate its beauty and all it has to offer. I hope this encourages others to join and have a look - you never know which books you'll find!

*Salma was born in the UK and speaks three languages*





My name is Shaida and I am from Kurdistan (North of Iraq). I live in Newcastle with my children and my husband who is studying for his PhD at Newcastle University. Before moving to the UK, I worked in the civil engineering industry for 15 years. I am an active and sociable person and I like being useful and helpful - I like to be busy!

I heard about The Kittiwake Trust Multilingual Library from my friends and I was very interested in volunteering at this unique place. My interest in foreign languages and my ability to speak four languages (Kurdish, Arabic, English and little bit Turkish) convinced me that The Kittiwake Trust Multilingual Library is a great place where I could hopefully be helpful. I was very excited when I saw some Kurdish books on shelves in this marvelous library!

I would like to share some information about Kurdistan and Kurdish women. Iraqi Kurdistan or Southern Kurdistan is considered by Kurds as one of four parts of Greater Kurdistan. The modern map of the Middle East has divided the 'Greater Kurdistan' into four parts: Bashur (The Kurdistan Region of Iraq), Bakur (Turkey's Kurdistan), Rojhalat (Iranian Kurdistan) and Rojava (Syrian Kurdistan). Kurdish women have always played an important role defending their country, and they have fought against ISIS alongside men as well as leading armies. Kurdish women have also inspired millions of people around the world to stand up for women's equality. Greater Kurdistan has a lot of strong and brave women called Peshmerga. Many Kurdish women fighters were captured from Saddam Hussein's Iraqi army and were tortured and raped.

Some of the Peshmerga women gave birth to their children in prison. And some of them were killed in the Halabja chemical attack. The attack killed between 3,200 and 5,000 people and injured 7,000 to 10,000 more, most of them civilians. Preliminary results from surveys of the affected region showed an increased rate of cancer and birth defects in the years after the attack. Some of them were buried alive in the Anfal genocide. The Anfal genocide killed between 50,000 and 182,000 Kurds as well as a couple of thousand Assyrians.

Kurdish women have suffered a lot, but they are still strong and defend their principles alongside the Kurdish men. Now the Kurdistan Parliament has 111 members who are elected by popular vote every four years. Thirty four MPs are women.

*Shaida Al Dalo was born in Iraqi Kurdistan and speaks 4 languages*

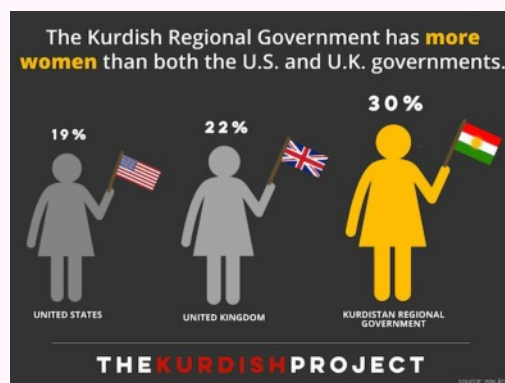


Illustration source gov.krd





The passion of the Hong Kong people has not withered and been left behind in 2019.  
The fight for democracy and freedom from Beijing's grip has not stopped since the extradition bill proposed in February 2019 was called off.  
The streets of Hong Kong do not look the same and China continues to quietly squash Hong Kong's autonomy.

The Extradition Bill was China's way of interfering in the political freedom that the people of Hong Kong, on paper, had the right to exercise. If it had passed it would have allowed for China to bring anyone out of Hong Kong to the mainland to be prosecuted for whatever they believed was criminal. Hong Kong citizens recognised this as an attack on the independence of their judicial system and, in a more subtle way, their right to free speech. This controversial bill brought 8 months of civil unrest which saw a constant abuse of power by the police. An estimated 2 million protested on the streets, the legislative council building was destroyed, an estimated 9,000 arrested, a brutal stand-off with the police with protestors cornered in the campus of the Polytech University and the Chinese University and a complete shutdown of Hong Kong international airport. The police force showed a very evident pattern of violence, arbitrary arrests and beatings. They used excessive amounts of tear gas and pepper spray, often targeting peaceful protestors and passers-by. They went to the extent of using undercover officers dressed as protestors and water trucks with blue dye to identify protestors after dispersing them from the demonstrations. The protestors are recognised globally for their innovative tactics, from throwing Molotov cocktails, using laser beams to interfere with police surveillance and the use of construction site materials for defensive and offensive measures. Their tactics have inspired and been mimicked by other international movements such as the anti-government protests in Ecuador and Chile as well as the Black Lives Matter protests in the US.

In 2020 Hong Kong citizens are facing new bills that continue to push back their democratic rights. In recent years the Chinese national anthem has been publicly booed at football matches or replaced with the Glory of Hong Kong protest song. The National Anthem Bill passed recently carries penalties of hefty fines and up to 3 years imprisonment for anyone showing disrespect to China's national anthem.

Beijing has now introduced another new piece of legislation in Hong Kong that makes undermining the Chinese government's authority a crime. This is yet another calculated move to close in on the democratic rights that the British handover gave to Hong Kong. It would criminalise acts of secession (breaking away from the country), subversion (undermining the power or authority of the central government), terrorism and activities by foreign forces intervening in Hong Kong. The most worrying part is the suggestion that China could set up their own institutions in Hong Kong responsible for security.

31 years ago on the 4th of June, the Tiananmen Square massacre took place and shocked the world. Every year since then, the Hong Kong people have held candlelit vigils to commemorate the victims of this oppressive regime. This year the Hong Kong police banned the vigil, ostensibly due to health issues surrounding coronavirus, but locals fear that this could be the last year that they will be allowed to openly pay tribute to the deceased protestors of Tiananmen in 1989. In the end the people held protests in spite of the ban.



*Maxine Mallon. Maxine was born in Hong Kong and speaks 3 languages*

## BOOK REVIEW : ALEXANDRA MORAITIS



Έγκλημα Στά Φιόρδ (Egklima Sta Fiord) - τού Νορβηγού συγγραφέα Jørn Lier Horst. (Modern Greek) (ISBN – 978-960-605-141-8)

Ένα ανθρώπινο μυθιστόρημα για τό έγκλημα, πού παίρνει διασυννοριακό χαρακτήρα μέ συμπαθητικούς πρωταγωνιστές. Καλόγραμμενό, μέ δράση.

Αυτό πού εντυπωσιάζει περισσότερο στή γραφή τού Horst είναι η βατή πλοκή.

Προφανώς γνωρίζει λεπτομερώς τήν ερευνητική διαδικασία και αστυνομικό επάγγελμα, αλλά και τήν ανθρωπότητα. Ένα καθαρά αστυνομικό και συγχρόνως ανθρώπινο διήγημα. Φαίνεται ότι γνωρίζει επίσης τίς γειτονικές τού χώρες. Λάθος κάνω;

Αυτό τό βιβλίο είναι τόσο ανθρώπινο, τόσο δυνατό, δέν ξέρω πώς νά διατυπώσω τίς εντυπώσεις μου. Διαβάστε τό! Έγκλημα στά φιόρδ.

Νά προσθέσω ότι ή Νορβηγική τηλεοπτική σειρά *Wisting* πού προβάλλεται από τό BBC είναι βασισμένα στα μυθιστορηματά τού.

WINNER The Norwegian Booksellers' Prize  
SHORTLISTED The Petrona Prize



**Closed For Winter by the Norwegian author Jørn Lier Horst.**  
Volume 2 in the William Wisting Mystery series

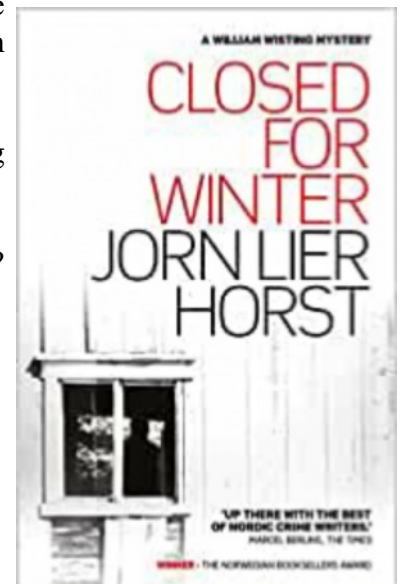
A compassionate crime novel which takes on cross-border dimensions with likeable protagonists. It is well-written with action. The author clearly has knowledge of the investigative procedure and policing as a profession but also of the human condition.

It is both a police procedural and humane novel. What is most striking about Horst's writing is the watertight plot.

The author also has knowledge of his neighbouring countries. Am I wrong?

This book is compassionate, and powerful in its own right. I am not sure how to articulate my impressions. Read It! 'Closed For Winter.'

I might add that the Norwegian TV adaptation *Wisting* shown by the BBC is loosely based on his novels.



## LIBRARY NEWS

Members who registered with us three years ago or earlier may wish to consider renewing their membership. You can sign up for gift aid if you are a UK tax payer. Please get in touch and we can send you the form so that we can claim a percentage of your membership fee from the tax office at no extra cost to you.

We do not yet have definite plans for a re-opening date but are carrying out the necessary risk assessments so that this can be done safely and according to guidelines. We will be introducing contactless payments in order to minimize the handling of cash and will require visitors to use hand-santizer and masks on entry.

More information will be available on the new website and Facebook page in due course.

**All memberships paid for this year will be extended by 12 months**

**All loans are automatically extended until we re-open**

**All classes and events are on hold until we re-open and will probably be re-arranged to take physical distancing into account.**

### CLASSES AND EVENTS (PRE-LOCKDOWN SCHEDULE)

**French** classes    Tuesdays 10:30-12:30pm  
                              Wednesdays 10:30-12:45pm and 6:00-7:30pm

**English** conversation Tuesdays 4:00-6:00pm

**Japanese** conversation group fortnightly on Friday evenings at 6:00pm

**Arabic** activities for children are held on Sundays.

**Migration and Justice Forum** meetings monthly on Saturdays at 3:00

**How these classes will continue depends on safety for all concerned**

**Upper Level, Eldon Garden  
Percy Street  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RA**

**Tel: 077 768 4940  
www.multilinguallibrary.org.uk**







*Our volunteers come from more than 15 countries and speak at least 20 languages. We add to this map as we get new volunteers. If you worked with us in the past and don't see your home marked, please let us know so we can add you.*

**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**