

# LIBRARY NEWS

ISLE OF WIGHT LIBRARIES

April 2026



## World Book Night is nearly here and we're ready to celebrate!

It feels like we've had a very long wet winter but spring is finally here and we're very much looking forward to longer, brighter days giving us more opportunity to get outside and read! With new titles out from fantastic authors like Jane Harper and Douglas Stuart in the next couple of months there's plenty of new books to keep us reading into the summer! Don't forget you can reserve new and forthcoming titles for just 80p to get ahead of the queues! To make this really easy, you can download the free Spydus Library app to your smartphone or tablet which enables you to manage your library account, browse our catalogue and reserve books all in one place. All you need is your library card number and PIN.

Speaking of reservations - if you'd like to come along to one of our World Book Night events taking place at Ryde, Sandown or Lord Louis Libraries then you'll need to reserve a place in advance so you don't miss out! Find out about all of our World Book Night events on page 5. If you join in and really like the part of the evening dedicated to reading quietly in the company of others then make sure you read about the new monthly sessions starting at Ryde Library in May.

For all Borrowbox users out there - we have good news, our subscription now includes unlimited access to all your favourite newspapers and magazines, so if you've been unable to read and enjoy your favourite newspaper on the day of publication due to high demand you will be able to now!

We really hope that you enjoy this edition of Library News and want to remind you that you can get in touch with us to ask about library related subjects or with a reader review to include in a forthcoming issue. Our contact details can be found on the back page so do stay in touch!

We'll be back in June when we'll be sharing how we marked Libraries week 2026 and what events we'll be holding for the Isle of Wight Biosphere festival. Until then we wish you happy reading!

*Your library team x*

### In this newsletter:

Library updates

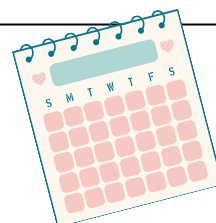
The book bit

Staff spotlight

World Book Night

Quiet nights at Ryde Library

Dates for your diary



# LIBRARY UPDATES...

## NEW CLUB FOR CURIOUS CHILDREN AND A REMINDER ABOUT TEDDY TALES!

Lord Louis Library has got a new club for 8 to 12 year olds with curious minds! It's a hands-on club for children who are interested in shapes and patterns and are keen to learn more about the world of numbers. Every Thursday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

We also want to remind you about Teddy Bear Tales a twice weekly story time for children and their cuddly toys every Tuesday at 10.00am and every Thursday at 2.15pm



**CURIOUS MINDS CLUB**  
For ages 8-12

This hands-on club uses games and materials to explore shapes, symmetry and patterns. For the child with a curious mind who wants to discover the beautiful possibilities of the world of numbers.

Lord Louis children's library, Newport  
Thursdays 3.30 - 4.30pm  
**FREE**

The poster features a yellow background with a cat illustration, a grid pattern, and various geometric shapes and toys.



**Teddy Bear Tales**  
story time for all, bring your cuddlies too!

every Tuesday at 10 am  
(followed by Duplo play)  
and  
Thursday at 2.15 pm  
children's library,  
Newport

Isle of Wight Council

The poster shows a collection of teddy bears sitting on a book in a library setting.

## ALL BOOKED UP AT RYDE LIBRARY



**RYDE LIBRARY**

**ALL BOOKED UP**

**A THEMED TEEN BOOK CLUB**

**JOIN THE BOOK CLUB:  
1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

GET A THEME EACH MONTH,  
PICK A BOOK THAT FITS IT AND  
COME TO SHARE YOUR CHOICE

- 13-15 BETWEEN 5PM-6PM
- 16-18 BETWEEN 6PM-7PM

Ryde Library  
101 George St, PO33 2JE  
1st Wednesday each month  
rydelibrary@iow.gov.uk

The poster has a yellow background with blue and white text and a book icon.

All booked up is a new themed book club for teens at Ryde Library. The first meetings took place earlier this month and will take place on the first Wednesday of every month from now on. Each club meeting will centre around a particular theme and give readers the chance to share their reading tastes and thoughts with other readers.

There are two groups available to join, the first is for 13 to 15 year olds and runs between 5pm and 6pm and the second is for 16 to 18 year olds between 6pm and 7pm.

Help us spread the word and get more young adults chatting about the books they love!

For more information call Ryde Library on 823825



# THE BOOK BIT

## Books hitting the shelves in April and May

Libraries take delivery of new books most weeks and if you want to be first in line for the latest from your favourite authors then you can reserve books in advance for just 80p each. You can do this in the library with a member of staff or via our online catalogue at [www.iow.gov.uk/thelibrary](http://www.iow.gov.uk/thelibrary). Look out for the monthly publication posters in libraries which show you more of the most popular titles coming out each month. Here are a few of the titles being published in April and May



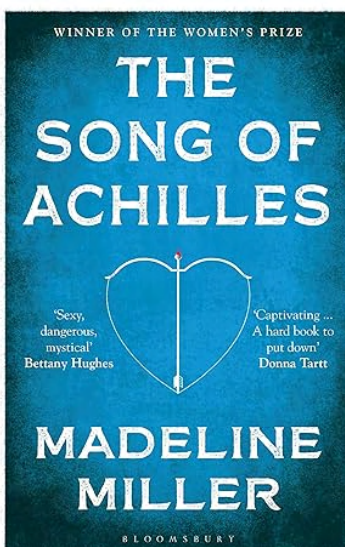
# Review

## The song of Achilles by Madeline Miller

I recently read a book that is quite different from usual, the beautifully developed character relationships stuck with me for weeks! The Song of Achilles is a beautiful and impactful retelling of Homer's Greek tragedy, 'The Iliad', it is Madeline Miller's debut novel and went on to win the Women's Prize for Fiction. While this book stays true to 'The Iliad', with legendary Greek gods, warriors and the Trojan War, its twist is that Miller has written this tale as a romance between Achilles and Patroclus, leaning into their relationship rather than shying away from it like many other retellings often do.

It's told from the perspective of a young prince called Patroclus who is exiled after a violent incident and sent away from his home for military training, this is where he meets Achilles. This book beautifully explores the unlikely friendship between the two princes, as Patroclus is taken under Achilles' wing to escape from the training he dreads, becoming his chosen companion. Their relationship slowly and naturally blossoms into more as they grow together, and we see Achilles go from a half god young prince to a leader of an army, Patroclus by his side, they grow completely inseparable and dependent on each other.

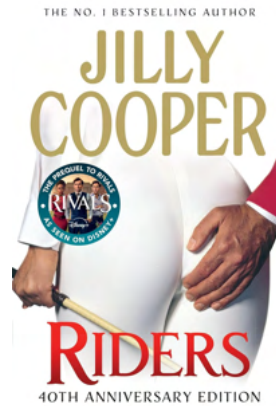
The romance plot in this book is written beautifully and all felt completely captivating and very believable, but I enjoyed that this book wasn't defined by it. I enjoyed that the Gods lived amongst humans, the world and characters felt well fleshed out and entertaining; Madeline Miller's interpretation brings a freshness to the well-known tale. With such tangible characters it was almost a bittersweet struggle to finish the book as you have an idea how it will end -and I really didn't want it to end! This book was written with such strong, raw emotion; it was a burning, devastating, classic Greek tragedy. **AL**





# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

... meet Dawn



## Dawn is the Library Supervisor at Freshwater Library

### When did you start working for the Library Service?

May 2021. I started as a relief assistant, and used to whizz all over the island wherever I was needed. I then gained a position as Senior assistant at Lord Louis library in Newport. In 2024 I applied for the Supervisor position at Freshwater library and got the job! I did some of my training at Freshwater on a Wednesday with Charlotte, so I feel I've come full circle!

### What is your current role in the library service?

Freshwater Library Supervisor for most of the week, then on a Thursday I work at Lord Louis library.

### What is your favourite part of the job?

Processing new books, seeing regular library visitors, and being able to request books that people really want. I work with a really lovely team at Lord Louis library.

### Strangest/funniest customer enquiry?

Do you have any wordsearches?!!!

### What are you proudest of at Freshwater Library?

I am proud at how busy the library is, and how many different groups we hold here. (The Mahjong group is featured on the front page of this newsletter!)

### What is one aspect of the library service that you think not enough people know about?

Borrowbox! I think it's amazing to be able to access so much reading material for free. And as a life-long magazine addict, I find the variety of magazines that are available amazing- and saves me so much money!

### 2026 is the National Year of Reading – can you recommend a book that would be good for people who want to get back into reading?

Yes- I've recently managed to finally try PG Wodehouse, which is regularly mentioned as good comfort reading for the winter months. I really enjoyed it-it's very easy to read, very clever use of English language, and very funny!

### Do you have a favourite place to read?

The beach in summer, bath in winter.

### Dawn's Desert Island reads...



**Fear of Flying by Erica Jong** a 'picaresque' novel with a female heroine, groundbreaking for it's time

#### Riders by Jilly Cooper

A classic tale of romance from the modern day Austen

#### A Half Baked Idea by Olivia Potts

This was recently featured in the Big Tasty Read-Olivia Pott's memoir details how she gave up her position as a barrister to complete a Cordon Bleu course after her mother dies. She shortly meets the man who eventually becomes her husband, so there's a lot happening all at once! It's a really engaging bittersweet read in which Olivia learns so much about herself and has to finally face her grief after trying her best to avoid it. Also features recipes!

# Celebrate World Book Night with us!

World Book Night is a national celebration of reading and books that takes place every year on 23 April. World Book Night is for everyone whether you consider yourself a 'reader' or not! Because this year is the National Year of Reading we're especially excited to get together with you and share our love of books.

World  
Book  
Night

We have lots of fun events taking place in our libraries and we'll also be out and about in the community giving out free copies of 'The woman next door' by Louise Jensen, one of six new Quick Read titles being published for World Book Night by The Reading Agency that are designed to encourage emerging or lapsed readers into a regular reading habit.

GO  
ALL  
IN.

National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026

## BEFORE WORLD BOOK NIGHT

Head to **Ventnor Library** with your favourite book on **Wednesday 22 April** and share with other readers why you love it over a cup of tea or coffee. **2.00pm to 3.00pm**



## WORLD BOOK NIGHT



We have events on at **Ryde, Lord Louis and Sandown** libraries this World Book Night from **6.00pm to 8.00pm**. Between 6.00pm and 7.00pm you'll be able to take part in a book swap and chat with other readers and then from 7.00pm to 8.00pm enjoy some silent reading to coincide with the official reading hour. Plus, they'll be drinks and nibbles provided! **Book a place now to avoid disappointment.**

## AFTER WORLD BOOK NIGHT

On **Friday 24 April**, you can join in with a book swap and some bookish chat at **Cowes Library** between **2.00pm and 4.30pm**



## JOIN IN ONLINE

Not able to make it to one of our events? We'd still love to hear from you! We'll be posting on Facebook on WBN so do leave us a comment to let us know how you're celebrating or what you'll be reading for the national #readinghour.



# SUMMER



## evenings reading at Ryde library

Do you ever plan to spend some time reading at home and then find yourself distracted or pulled away by other things? Then you might enjoy the new monthly quiet reading evenings that are starting at Ryde Library in May and running through to September.

Beginning on 19 May, you can come along with your own book or choose one of ours and then settle down for 90 minutes of quiet reading in the company of others doing the same thing. There will be a bit of time at the start to talk with other readers if you'd like to and tea and coffee will be provided.

There's no need to book, just pop the dates in your diary and come along for some quality reading time!



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- **April 12 - Bunny Drive in Brighstone** raising funds for Brighstone Library. 7.00pm at Wilberforce Hall. Telephone 07581230341 for more information and to book a place.
- **April 22 - Pre World Book Night event** at Ventnor Library - bring along your favourite book and share a passage with other readers over a cup of tea 2.00pm to 3.00pm
- **April 23 - Tea and talk about Georgian Architecture** at Ryde Library 2.00pm to 4.00pm £4 per person
- **April 23 - World Book Night book swap and silent reading** at Sandown Library 6.00pm to 8.00pm
- **April 23 - World Book Night bring and buy book exchange and silent reading** at Ryde Library 6.00pm to 8.00pm
- **April 23 - World Book Night book swap, quiz and silent reading** at Lord Louis Library 6.00pm to 8.00pm
- **April 24 - Post World Book Night book swap and chat** at Cowes Library 2.00pm to 4.30pm

For more information on these and any of our other events and activities check out our library web and Facebook pages.

# COMING SOON!



LIBRARIES  
CHANGE  
LIVES

## LIBRARIES WEEK 1 JUNE TO 7 JUNE

*Keep in touch*

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  01983 823824   |  <a href="http://www.iow.gov.uk/thelibrary">www.iow.gov.uk/thelibrary</a> |
|  <a href="mailto:libraries@iow.gov.uk">libraries@iow.gov.uk</a> |  IWlibraries  |