

READING AND BOOK GROUPS IN BARNET

WHAT IS A READING/BOOK GROUP?

Reading and book groups bring people together over a shared love of reading. There are two main types of reading group: one where a piece of literature is read and shared in the group – as in the Reader Organization, and the other where a book is chosen and group members read all or part of the book in advance of the meetings.

Groups may be held in person or online; they may focus on a certain type of literature e.g. poetry or they may reflect the interests of the group. Here are some of the main reading and book groups in Barnet though this is by no means an exhaustive list.

THE READER

Can be found at <https://www.thereader.org.uk/>

For over twenty years, The Reader has been building a community of Shared Reading groups across the UK and around the world. Here, people connect and share experiences using stories and poems. There is no pressure to talk or read aloud. These groups happen in all sorts of places including libraries, care homes, cathedrals, cafes, hospitals, prisons, and at our home in Liverpool's Calderstones Park – the International Centre for Shared Reading and are attended by people from all walks of life.

Shared Reading is for everyone. Many people who come will be experiencing a transition – bereavement, retirement, a change in health, or within their social life. Shared Reading groups provide a warm environment that people want to keep coming back to. The Reader believes that good literature has an unique power to connect individuals, help us feel better and to rebuild lost social bonds.

This list is confined to Barnet but if you live outside the borough do have a look at the Reader Website for other groups, here:

Shared Reading at the Old White Lion – 10.30 am (East Finchley) NEW MEMBERS please email support@thereader.org.uk to check availability
Old White Lion, East Finchley, 121 Great North Road, East Finchley.

Stephens House and Gardens

Stephens House and Gardens, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE
Weekly, Wednesday, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Colindale Shared Reading Group – RAF Museum Colindale

Colindale Library, 7 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 5NE
Weekly, Thursday, 10:30am - 12:00pm

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Salvation Army Hendon Shared Reading Group

Salvation Army Hendon, 5 Brampton Grove, Hendon, NW4 4AE

Weekly, Monday, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Childs Hill Library Shared Reading Group – Hybrid – Thursdays at 11 am.

Childs Hill Library, 320 Cricklewood Ln, Barnet, NW2 2QE

Weekly, Thursday, 11:00am - 12:30pm

John Lewis Brent Cross Shared Reading Group

John Lewis Brent Cross, Brent Cross Shopping Centre, London, NW4 3FL

Weekly, Monday, 10:00am - 11:30am

For other groups outside of Barnet run by **The Reader** please see

<https://www.thereader.org.uk/shared-reading-wwd/find-a-group/>

ONLINE READER GROUPS

The Reader also runs online groups. To book please visit: <https://readingroom.thereader.org.uk/>

MERIDIAN

Shared Reading Group

Meridian is a health and wellbeing charity in Barnet. They run a range of activities to support mental health both in person and online.

Their shared reading group takes place every Monday 10.30am to 12pm at the Meritage Centre, Hendon NW4 4JT

Shared Reading groups bring people together through great literature to talk, laugh and share. Just drop in, grab a cuppa and enjoy listening to a story or poem – no pressure to talk or read.

To register your place for this session please contact Meridian on Tel: 020 7613 1008

Email: info@meridianwellbeing.com

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BARNET LIBRARIES

Most libraries in Barnet run Book Clubs here are a few of them:

Chipping Barnet library book club

1st Wednesday of every month, 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

A monthly book group facilitated by library staff. Every month, we will discuss a specially selected book from a variety of genres. Copies of the books will be available to borrow during staffed hours.

Tel: 020 8359 4040 for more information.

Childs Hill Library Shared Reading group:

Thursday at 11:00am to 12:30pm, term time only.

Our Shared Reading group provides an opportunity for you to relax, make new friends and share stories with others every week. Enjoy listening to a great story or poem read aloud. You can join in if you wish, but there is no pressure to talk or read.

Colindale Library Book Club

Last Tuesday of the month from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

A friendly and relaxed environment to chat with fellow bibliophiles and discuss the book of the month. Each month a different title is chosen across a variety of genres.

East Finchley Library Adult Reading Group

First Monday of every month from 11am to 12pm

Our friendly reading group meets on the first Thursday of every month from 2pm to 3pm.

Each month we choose a new book to discuss and encourage members of the group to suggest our next title.

The Reading Agency also lists adult reading groups running at Osidge Library, North Finchley Library, Mill Hill Library, South Friern Library and East Barnet Library – do check these directly with the library.

BARNET AGE UK

Book Group: Do you enjoy reading and discussing novels or non-fiction books with friends? Why not join our book group at Wilmot Community Centre, Tarling Rd, London N2 8LB from 2.00 – 3.00pm. Every month on a Tuesday. Please email Kato on katolambrechts@yahoo.com for details on how to join.

FREE ONLINE BOOK CLUB for over 55s. From 6.00pm. If you would like to join us, please email:- barnetbookclub@gmail.com for meeting details.

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BARNET UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Runs a variety of reading groups including poetry, plays, and French language reading. You need to be a member of U3A first. For details of groups see: <https://barnet.u3asite.uk/groups/>

THE READING AGENCY

Reading Groups for Everyone celebrates reading groups across the UK and can be found at: <https://readinggroups.org/>

Also lists local groups – you need to put in your postcode. You will see that there are some additional groups not listed here -- <https://readinggroups.org/groups>