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library



Bookclub
Collection

Clare County Library Bookclub Collection

Book clubs are a popular way for book lovers to discuss books in an informal friendly setting. Some book clubs meet in libraries or each other's homes, some in pubs or restaurants. They are a great way to get together as a group and talk about your shared passion for books and reading whether it's for lively discussion, serious debate or just a glass of wine with your friends or neighbours. Bookclubs run in many libraries throughout County Clare – contact your local library or see www.clarelibrary.ie if you are interested in participating in one of the library-based book clubs.

The Clare County Library Bookclub collection was set up to make multiple copies of books easily available for bookclubs.

10 copies of each book are available for loan to members of bookclubs who are registered with the library. Library staff can place holds on titles for bookclubs.

Books from the bookclub collection may be borrowed for 4 weeks. Each member must use their own library card to borrow a copy.

To ensure a good supply of the listed titles, bookclub members are asked to return their copies within the 28 days and to place holds on only one title at the time.



Donal Ryan *All We Shall Know*

Melody Shee is alone and in trouble. Her husband doesn't take her news too well. She doesn't want to tell her father yet because he's a good man and this could break him. Mary is a young Traveller woman, and she knows more about Melody than she lets on. She might just save Melody's life.

Ryan's *The Spinning Heart* won the Book of the Year at the 2012 Irish Book Awards and was shortlisted for the IMPAC International Literary Award and long-listed for the Man Booker Prize.

Rose Tremain *The Gustav Sonata*

The Gustav Sonata begins in the 1930s, under the shadow of the Second World War, and follows two boys into maturity and middle age, where their friendship is tested as never before.

Shortlisted for the 2016 Costa Book Award. Rose Tremain will be interviewed by Sean Rocks at the Ennis Bookclub Festival 2017.

Akhil Sharma *Family Life*

Family Life is a story about the loneliness and despair of an Indian family whose American dream turns sour. By turns blackly funny, touching, raw and devastating, the book is a vivid and wrenching portrait of sibling relationships and the impact of tragedy on one family from a boy's eye view.

Impac Award winner 2016.

Anthony Doerr *All The Light We Cannot See*

This book weaves together the stories of a French girl named Marie-Laure who has lost her eyesight and a German orphan named Werner. As Hitler's occupied territory grows, Marie-Laure and Werner's lives and families are torn apart by the war, yet this novel is the story of people who, against the odds, find good in one another.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2015.

Sebastian Barry [Days Without End](#)

Thomas McNulty and John Cole have fled 1850s Sligo to rebuild their lives in America. Fighting in the Indian wars and the Civil War, they find these days to be vivid and alive, despite the horrors they both see and are complicit in. Their lives are further enriched and endangered when a young Indian girl crosses their path and the possibility of lasting happiness emerges, if only they can survive.

Shortlisted for the 2016 Costa Book Award.

Madeleine Thien [Do Not Say We Have Nothing](#)

This book follows a 10-year-old girl and her mother who invite a Chinese refugee into their home. Slowly the refugee tells the story of her family in revolutionary China, from the crowded teahouses in the first days of Chairman Mao's ascent to the events leading to the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989.

Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2016.

Viet Thanh Nguyen [The Sympathizer](#)

The narrator of this novel, a Vietnamese army captain, is a man of divided loyalties, a half-French, half-Vietnamese communist sleeper agent in America after the end of the Vietnam war. This gripping spy novel takes us inside the mind of this double agent, a man whose lofty ideals necessitate his betrayal of the people closest to him.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2016.

Lisa McInerney [the Glorious Heresies](#)

When grandmother Maureen Phelan is surprised in her home in Cork by a stranger, she clubs the intruder with a Holy Stone. The consequences of this unplanned murder connect four misfits struggling against their meagre circumstances. *The Glorious Heresies* presents an unforgettable vision of a city plagued by poverty and exploitation, where salvation still awaits in the most unexpected places.

Winner of the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction 2016.

Emma Donoghue [The Wonder](#)

A village in 1850s Ireland is baffled by Anna O'Donnell's fast. The little girl appears to be thriving after months without food, and the story of this 'wonder' has reached fever pitch. An English nurse, Lib Wright, sent to investigate whether she is a fraud, meets a journalist hungry for a story. Is it a miracle or is something more sinister unfolding right before Lib's eyes, a tragedy in which she herself is playing a part?

Emma Donoghue's *Room* was shortlisted for both the Man Booker and Orange Prizes.

Eimear McBride [The Lesser Bohemians](#)

An eighteen-year-old Irish girl, recently arrived in London to attend drama school, meets an older man – a well-regarded actor in his own right. While she is naive and thrilled by life in the big city, he is haunted by more than a few demons, and the tumultuous relationship that ensues risks undoing them both.

McBride's *A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing* won the 2014 Bailey's Women's Prize for Prize.

Ian McEwan [Nutshell](#)

Trudy has betrayed her husband, John. She's still in the marital home but not with John. Instead, she's with his brother, the profoundly banal Claude, and the two of them have a plan. But there is a witness to their plot: the inquisitive, nine-month-old resident of Trudy's womb. This unborn child tells the story of how his mother and her lover plan to murder his father.

Ian McEwan won the 1998 Man Booker Prize for *Amsterdam*.

Hanya Yanagihara *A Little Life*

A Little Life follows four college classmates as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. Dark and disturbing, the novel examines friendship, the tyranny of memory and the limits of human endurance.

Shortlisted for the 2015 Man Booker Prize.

Maggie O'Farrell *This Must Be The Place*

Daniel Sullivan is a man with a complicated life. A New Yorker living in the wilds of Ireland, he has children he never sees in California, a father he loathes in Brooklyn and a wife, Claudette, who is a reclusive ex-film star given to shooting at anyone who ventures up their driveway. He is also about to find out something about a woman he lost touch with 20 years ago, and this discovery will send him off-course, far away from wife and home.

Maggie O'Farrell won the 2010 Costa Novel Award for *The Hand That First Held Mine*.

Liz Nugent *Lying in Wait*

The last people who expected to be meeting with a drug-addicted prostitute are a respected judge and his reclusive wife. And they certainly don't plan to kill her and bury her in their exquisite suburban garden. Yet Andrew and Lydia Fitzsimons find themselves in this unfortunate situation. While Lydia does all she can to protect their innocent son Laurence and their social standing, her husband begins to fall apart. But Laurence is not as naïve as Lydia thinks and his obsession with the dead girl's family may be the undoing of his own.

Lying in Wait was the winner of the RTE Ryan Tubridy Listener's Choice award at the 2016 Irish Book awards.

M. L. Stedman *The Light Between Oceans*

This is a story about a lighthouse keeper and his wife, who live on a lonely island with just seagulls, stars and buffeting winds for company. One day a boat holding a dead man and a crying child washes up on the shore. The only 2 islanders are about to make a devastating decision that will shatter many lives including their own. This is a story about right and wrong, and how sometimes they look the same.

A New York Times bestseller and winner of Book of the Year at the Australian Book Industry Awards.

Graham Norton *Holding*

The remote Irish village of Duneen has known little drama; and yet its inhabitants are troubled. So when human remains are discovered on an old farm the village's dark past begins to unravel. As the frustrated Sergeant PJ Collins struggles to solve a genuine case for the first time in his life, he unearths a community's worth of anger, resentment, secrets and regrets.

Holding is Graham Norton's first novel.

Mike McCormack *Solar Bones*

Once a year, on All Souls' Day, it is said in Ireland that the dead may return. *Solar Bones* is the story of one such visit. Marcus Conway, a middle-aged engineer, turns up one afternoon at his kitchen table and considers the events that took him away and then brought him home again. Politics, family, art, marriage, health, civic duty and the environment are just a few of the themes touched on in this single novel-length sentence.

Winner of the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards Novel of the Year 2016.

[Ann Cleeves](#) [The Seagull](#)

The Seagull is a murder mystery in the bestselling Vera Stanhope series, about corruption deep in the heart of a community, and about fragile, and fracturing, family relationships. As DI Vera Stanhope investigates an old case, her past collides dangerously with the present. She has to confront her unwanted memories and face the possibility that her father was involved in a crime. The truth is about to come out but is Vera ready for what it will reveal?

Ann Cleeves was presented with the 2017 Diamond Dagger of the Crime Writers' Association, the highest honour in British crime writing.

[Roddy Doyle](#) [Smile](#)

Victor Forde, a washed-up writer, has returned to the part of Dublin where he was born. A meeting with a man who claims to remember him from school stirs up memories from Victor's past. But it's the memories of school, and of one particular Brother, that he cannot control and which eventually threaten to destroy his sanity.

Roddy Doyle won the Booker Prize in 1993, for *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*.

[Bernard MacLaverty](#) [Midwinter Break](#)

A retired couple fly to Amsterdam for a midwinter break. Amongst the wintry streets and icy canals we see their relationship fracturing beneath the surface. And when memories re-emerge of a troubled time in their native Ireland things begin to fall apart. As their midwinter break comes to an end, we understand how far apart they are - and can only watch as they struggle to save themselves.

Midwinter Break won the Novel of the Year prize at the 2017 Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards.

[Celeste Ng](#) [Little Fires Everywhere](#)

Elena Richardson, whose guiding principal is playing by the rules, lives in a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland. All is well until Mia Warren - an enigmatic artist and single mother - arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter. Mia carries with her a mysterious past, and a disregard for the rules that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

Little Fires Everywhere explores the weight of long-held secrets, the ferocious pull of motherhood and the danger of believing that planning and following the rules can avert disaster, or heartbreak.

[Shamsie Kamila](#) [Home Fire](#)

Isma has spent years raising her twin siblings Aneeka and Parvaiz in the wake of their mother's death. Eamonn is the son of a powerful British Muslim politician. When Parvaiz disappears to prove himself to the dark legacy of the jihadist father he never knew, the lives of the two families become inextricably, devastatingly entwined. *Home Fire* is a compelling story of loyalties torn apart when love and politics collide.

Home Fire was chosen as one of the best books of 2017 by both the New York Times and The Guardian.

[Gail Honeyman](#) [Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine](#)

Eleanor Oliphant leads a simple life. She wears the same clothes to work every day, talks to her mother every Wednesday, eats the same meal deal for lunch every day and buys the same two bottles of vodka to drink every weekend. Eleanor Oliphant is happy. Nothing is missing from her carefully timetabled life. Except, sometimes, everything.....

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine was awarded the 2017 Costa First Novel Award.

Éilís Ní Dhuibhne [Twelve Thousand Days](#)

This book is a candid and moving memoir of the author's thirty-year relationship with the internationally renowned folklorist Bo Almqvist. It is a story about love, grief and time, shot through with wry and sharp observations on Irish life, culture and morality.

Anna Burns [Milkman](#)

Milkman is set in an unnamed city in the 1970s where to be interesting is dangerous. When her secret is discovered, the rumours start to spread and our protagonist becomes 'interesting'. The last thing she ever wanted to be. *Milkman* is a tale of gossip and hearsay, silence and deliberate deafness.

Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2018.

Barbara Kingsolver [Unsheltered](#)

Unsheltered is the story of two families, two centuries apart, who live at the corner of Sixth and Plum in Vineland, New Jersey, navigating what seems to be the end of the world as they know it. Kingsolver interweaves past and present to explore the human capacity for resiliency and compassion in times of great upheaval.

Jodi Picoult [Small Great Things](#)

When a newborn baby dies after a routine hospital procedure, there is no doubt about who will be held responsible - the nurse who had been banned from looking after him by his white supremacist parents. Picoult tackles the issue of race and prejudice and forces the reader to take a look at their own biases and preconceptions.

Edna O'Brien [Country Girls Trilogy](#)

This trilogy follows the lives of County Clare girls Kate Brady and her friend Baba Brennan from the confines of a convent school in the Irish countryside to the bright lights of Dublin, and on to the unexpected challenges of married life in London.

These are novels about innocence and youth, love and passion, dreams and reality.

Delia Owens [Where the Crawdads Sing](#)

Kya Clark grows up alone in a shack in the swamplands of North Carolina after being abandoned by her family. An outsider, "Marsh Girl" is immediately suspected when the body of a local man is found. This debut novel is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative and a celebration of nature.

Emily Ruskovich [Idaho](#)

Ann Mitchell and her husband Wade live on a woody mountain in Idaho. In a story told from multiple perspectives we gradually learn of the unthinkable tragedy that befell Wade, his first wife and their family. Idaho is not a thriller, but a book about the power and limits of the individual imagination, memory, loss, and recovery.

Tara Westover [Educated](#)

Tara Westover and her family grew up preparing for the End of Days. With no birth cert and no medical records, she'd never set foot in a classroom. In this memoir she tells how her father became more radical and her brother more violent until Tara knew she had to leave home. In doing so she discovered both the transformative power of education and the price she had to pay for it.

Sally Rooney [Normal People](#)

Connell and Marianne grow up in the same small town in rural Ireland. The similarities end there; they are from very different worlds. When they both earn places at Trinity College in Dublin, a connection that has grown between them lasts long into the following years. This is a story about mutual fascination, friendship and love.

Margaret Atwood **The Testaments**

More than fifteen years after the events of *The Handmaid's Tale*, the theocratic regime of the Republic of Gilead maintains its grip on power, but there are signs it is beginning to rot from within. At this crucial moment, the lives of three radically different women converge, with potentially explosive results.

Michelle Obama **Becoming**

In her memoir, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her - from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her time spent at the world's most famous address. She describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it - in her own words and on her own terms.

Hazel Gaynor **The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter**

1838: Grace Darling, a lighthouse keeper's daughter, becomes famous when she helps rescue survivors from the wreckage of a passenger steamer off the Northumberland Coast.

1938: Matilda Emmerson, a 19-year-old Irish girl, is "in trouble" and is shipped off to a long-lost relative who keeps a lighthouse in Newport Bay.

While in Rhode Island, Matilda researches her family history, uncovering both Grace's tragic, forgotten love story and startling revelations about her own parentage.

Robert Harris **The Second Sleep**

1468. A young priest, Christopher Fairfax, arrives in a remote Exmoor village to conduct the funeral of his predecessor. As Fairfax is drawn more deeply into the isolated community, everything he believes – about himself, his faith and the history of his world – is tested to destruction.

Niall Williams **This is Happiness**

Faha, a quiet village in rural Clare, is awaiting the arrival of electricity. Unsettled young Dublin teenager Noe is staying with his grandparents when they take one of the men working on the electrification scheme into their home as a lodger. As Christy and Noe's stories begin to intertwine, the pair soon become fast friends and support each other as they encounter new experiences - Christy's bruised heart and Noe's brimming one.

This evocation of an Irish village in the 1970s examines grief, faith and first love.

Tayari Jones **An American Marriage**

Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of the American Dream. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. Until one day they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. This book presents a moving portrayal of the effects of a wrongful conviction on a marriage and reveals how quickly dreams can be derailed.

Winner of the 2019 Women's Prize for Fiction.



**Clare County Library is a department of
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