

Your Advertiser joins forces with...

Oldham's Favourite Read



Vote for top read

IT'S time to vote for your favourite read! Over the past six weeks our guest critics have reviewed 10 iconic books and now is the time to choose your favourite. Here's a reminder of the books that you can vote for:

- White Teeth by Zadie Smith.
- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J K Rowling.
- Day of the Jackal by Frederick Forsyth.
- Twilight by Stephanie Meyer.
- Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier.
- Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis De Bernieres.
- Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell.
- Scaredy Cat by Mark Billingham.
- Horrid Henry Wakes the Dead by Francesca Simon.
- The Colour of Magic by Terry Pratchett.

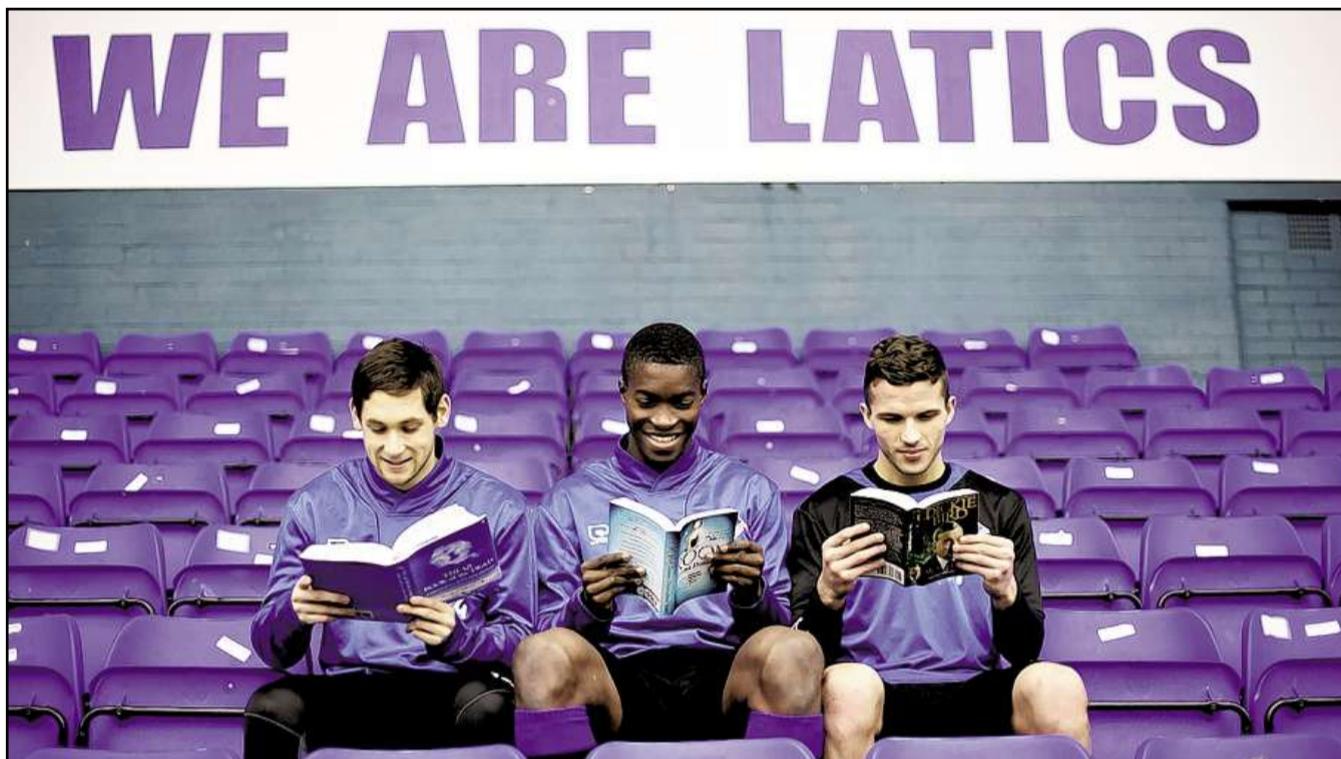
You can also tell us your favourite read, even if it's not on the list.

Everyone who votes will be entered in a prize draw to win a set of the 10 books featured in the campaign.

Vote online now at www.oldham.gov.uk/favourite-read.

The winning book will be announced at 'World Book Night - Between the Covers' on Saturday, March 5, at Oldham Gallery Culture Cafe from 6-8.30pm.

Hosted by Mark Llewelin, the event will revolve around topical literary debate and light entertainment. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the evening. For more information, or to book a place, call Punam Ramchurn on 0161 770 8016.



Your sport stars share their favourite reads

THERE'S a sporty theme to this week's famous faces as we ask Oldham Athletic's star players and local climber Kevin Thaw to tell us what they are reading.

Kevin Thaw, born in Uppermill, is noted as one of the UK's best all round climbers.

This is an excerpt of his review of the Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown. You can read his full review at www.oldham.gov.uk/favourite-read.

"Best sellers can hardly be compared to literary classics but an excellent, well constructed tale can never be overlooked, hence achieving 'best seller' status.

"Religious views aside, the story conjures many convincing conspiracies plus offers the reader a chance to interact by solving puzzles and riddles. Aside from conspiracy there

are all the necessary components for well-rounded action - a sinister bad guy, 'helpful' characters who deliberately mislead and a compelling leading lady who I'll have to leave you to find out about in order to preserve mystery."

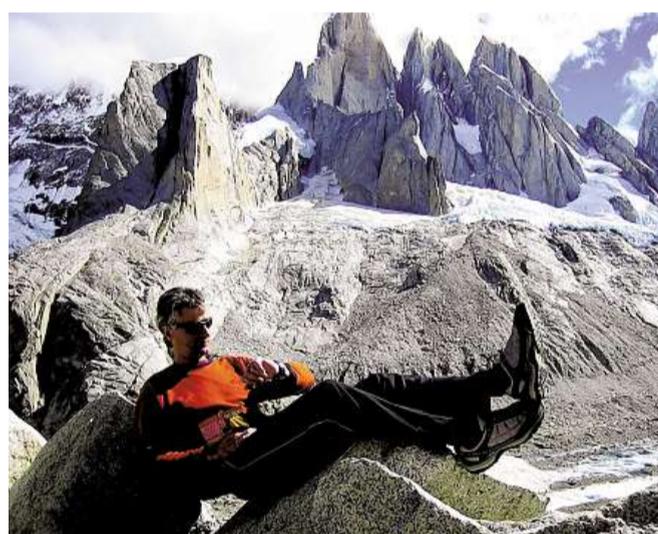
Oldham Athletic players also took time out of their busy schedule to share their favourite reads with us.

Ryan Brooke is a first team striker.

His favourite books are the Harry Potter series, as he finds them fascinating. Dale Stephens is one of the team's midfielders.

His favourite read is Steven Gerrard's autobiography, as it's an inspiring book for young footballers to read and learn from.

Find out next week what musician and DJ Clint Boon is reading.



WELL-EARNED BREAK... Kevin Thaw puts his feet up with a book



Pupils get to grips with the poem 'The Highway Man' and share their views

THIS week the spotlight is on Holy Trinity C of E Primary School in Dobcross.

Pupils at the school, on Delph New Road, recently read The Highwayman, a poem written by Alfred Noyes and illustrated by Charles Keeping.

It tells the thrilling story of the highwayman and his doomed love for Bess, the landlord's black-eyed daughter.

Here are some of the com-

ments made by youngsters in the year five class:

"I like the illustrations in this book because when I read the poem this is just what I imagined."

William Sowden.

"I enjoyed the descriptive language used in the poem, especially the first few lines - 'The wind was a torrent of darkness amongst the gusty trees. The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas.'" Jack Heeley.

"I enjoyed the story line, it was gripping."

Shakeel Ali.

"It was very effective when certain lines were repeated; it made you think of the Highwayman riding."

Dylan Crane.

"I liked the way the poet described the character of the Highwayman."

Tristan Boulton.

LEFT... The class enjoys reading

Dr Read answers your book dilemmas

Q/ My teenager spends all his time on the computer. How can I get him to start reading? - Mrs Shaw from Crompton.

Dr Read says: Graphic novels can be a great introduction to a reluctant reader.

The characters are ones that teenagers hooked on computer games can easily identify with, and the artwork can be brilliant.

Just be aware that some are designed for older readers and some for younger. Pop into your local library to borrow a few.

Q/ My dad will only read westerns. The local library is running out of stuff he hasn't read. What can I do? - JQ from Westwood.

Dr Read says: Your local library can order books from other libraries for just 30p.

Try mixing in a historical novel or two to see if they get any interest.

Alternatively, he might want to try joining a reading group to widen his reading choice.

Or just get your dad to ask a member of library staff for help - I'm sure they'll be able to recommend some perfect reads for him.

Q/ I'd love to read but just don't have the time. Help! - Rick C from Lees.

Dr Read says: Pop into your local library and pick up a Quick Read.

This is a very short novella by a top author - quality reading for people on the go.

Available at all libraries, you'll be spoilt for choice.

For more information about what your local library offers visit www.oldham.gov.uk/libraries.

No matter where you live in the borough, there's a library on your doorstep



Oldham Council

Visit www.oldham.gov.uk/favourite-read and get involved!

Oldham's Favourite Read: Famous Faces

To add to the fantastic book reviews we've already had, we took a peek at the bookshelves of some of Oldham's famous faces to find out what they're reading...

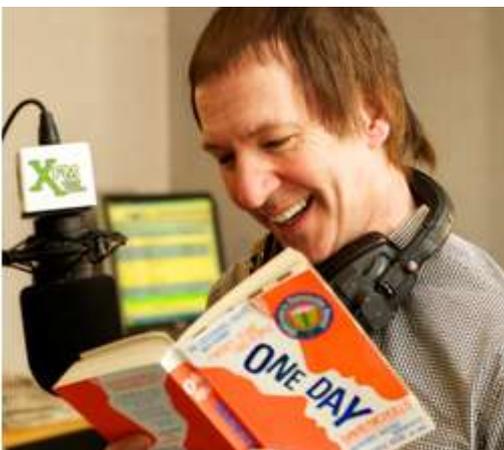
This week we asked Manchester United ace Ryan Giggs and Inspiral Carpets member Clint Boon about their favourite reads.

Ryan Giggs



Ryan is reading *The Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela. He says, "Reading about Mandella is an inspiration to everyone. What he went through was horrendous, yet he is still a man of compassion and his love for his people is heartwarming."

Clint Boon



Clint's not read any of the top ten books we've featured but he's going to give One Day by David Nicholls a go. He says "My wife Charlie was blown away with One Day!".

Kevin Thaw



Kevin Thaw, born in Uppermill, is noted as one of the UK's best all round climbers. He is currently reading the Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown.

Kevin's review

“Best sellers can hardly be compared to literary classics but an excellent, well constructed tale can never be overlooked, hence achieving ‘best seller’ status. Religious views aside, the story conjures many convincing conspiracies plus offers the reader a chance to interact by solving puzzles and riddles. Aside from conspiracy there’s all necessary components for well rounded action, a sinister bad guy, ‘helpful’ characters that deliberately mislead and a compelling leading lady who I’ll have to leave you to find out about in order to preserve mystery.”

Oldham Athletic first team

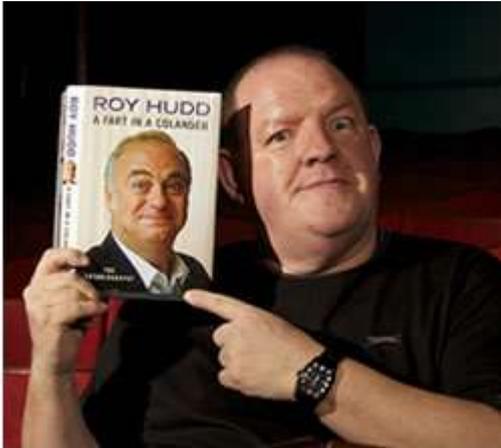


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John Henshaw:



John Henshaw is famed for his roles as Ken the landlord in Early Doors, Wilf Bradshaw in Born and Bred and PC Roy Bramwell in The Cops.

John's review:

“I am presently reading Roy Hudd's autobiography - A Fart in a Colander. I mostly read biographies and autobiographies, usually of sportsmen and entertainers, many of whom have triumphed over adversity both professionally and in their everyday life. We all have peaks and troughs and reading how other people cope, I find fascinating and at times inspirational.”

Livi Michael



Livi Michael is an award winning local author, writing for both adults and children. She's the creator of Frank the Hamster, whose rodent's-eye view of the world is hugely appealing. She's reading Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell by Susanna Clarke:

Livi's review:

“This is a rare thing, a truly original first novel. Among the wonders it contains are rival magicians, talking tombstones, a raven king, and a small casket the colour of heartache. Real characters from 19th century

England and the Napoleonic wars mingle with the fictional ones, the magical world interpenetrates the real, and the author, deft as any illusionist, moves the reader skilfully from one to the other. It is rare that a novel conjures real magic, but this novel is a must-read for anyone who prefers their books to provoke both wonder and delight.”

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