

Reynoldston Reading Group

Our latest book was 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Burrows. The novel set 1946 is in the form of letters, mainly to and from the central character Juliet Ashton who becomes, wholly coincidentally, involved with a group of people on Guernsey, who had lived through the German Occupation. The characters are thoroughly engaging and the author manages to capture the English voice of the time; the prose is a pleasure to read. The times were oppressive for the indigenous population of the island during the war years and many lived in fear. The exchange of letters records the history of the hardships endured. Out of the despondency was born the Literary Society, a book group originally a subterfuge to outwit the German soldiers but became a reality as a love for books and friendships grew among unliterary characters. Despite the story's background there is a great deal of humour too.

Sheila Glover baked a Potato Peel Pie following the recipe in the book and it tasted a lot better than one would imagine. Of the novel the members expressed diverse views on the merit of the book but in the main it was a short light read that the majority enjoyed.