

## **Report from Book Group 2**

We had a lively meeting! We had decided that each of us would choose a biography we had read and talk about that, so that was what the 4 of us present did.

First up was "Facing the Music" by Torvill and Dean which Karen had thoroughly enjoyed and recommended warmly. This had included their success at the 1984 and 1994 Olympics and provided an intriguing insight into the politics behind each event.

Julie chose "Testament of Youth" by Vera Brittain. This is a real classic describing her life in the early years of the .20th century before, during and after World War 1. She served a nurse in that time - and was also active in politics, all from the perspective of a woman trying to make her way in the political sphere, so a good insightful social history too. She was, of course, the mother of Shirley Williams. I think I must re-read it!

Maggie chose Lucy Worsley's book about Agatha Christie. She was a contemporary of Vera Brittain. Her early life provided much of the material for her later detective stories (66 in all) - and parts of her life were shrouded in mystery too, not least her disappearance in 1926 and her turning up in a hotel in Harrogate.

I chose Gyles Brandreth's recent biography of A.A. Milne: "Somewhere, a Boy and a Bear". This is a delight, painting a picture not only of "the enchanted places", but also A.A.Milne's prolific output for magazines and the theatre - and his time fighting at The Battle of the Somme.

All 4 books sounded fascinating. Is it true that as we grow older, biographies increase their appeal? I think it is for me.

Do come and join our group. You will be very welcome. Maggie Cleminson is our Convenor and her details are in The Forum.

Ruth Stables