



Waterstone's attracts stellar line-up for charity publication

Leading bookseller Waterstone's has announced that it will join forces with Faber&Faber this autumn to publish *Modern Delight*, a charity anthology of funny, intimate and inspiring essays from some of our best loved authors, entertainers and national treasures.

Taking its inspiration from J.B. Priestley's *Delight* (a 1949 collection of essays on the little things in life that caused even him, a self-confessed 'old monster' to stop and smile), the book will be filled with musings on themes universal, personal, eccentric and everyday. With over 80 fantastic contributors, including Tom Stoppard, Stephen Fry, Bill Nighy, Jo Brand, Harry Hill and Nigel Slater, *Modern Delight* will build a unique snapshot of what can – despite the various slings and arrows affecting the world – make us smile in 2009.

Waterstone's Managing Director Gerry Johnson, said:

"When we set out to discover what gives people delight we never dreamed we would get such an overwhelming response. Each essay is in turn funny, inspiring and unique. We are thrilled that so many incredible talents have shared their stories with us, and by doing so will help Waterstone's raise funds for two fantastic causes".

Modern Delight will be available exclusively at Waterstone's branches and at Waterstones.com from 10th September, priced £9.99. All proceeds from the book will go to two charities devoted to encouraging the delight of reading: Dyslexia Action, the UK's leading provider of services and support for people with dyslexia and literacy difficulties; and the London Library, the world's largest independent lending library, which is dedicated to the advancement of education, learning and knowledge.

Bill Emmott, Chairman of the London Library, said:

"I am delighted that the London Library is both a partner and beneficiary of this wonderful initiative. I congratulate Waterstone's for coming up with this brilliant idea and thank them for making the Library an equal partner in this enterprise."

Sophie, Countess of Wessex and Patron of Dyslexia Action, said:

"On behalf of the people who will benefit from the sales of this book, thank you to all those who have made *Modern Delight* possible – the publishers, booksellers and the talented contributors who share with us their own delights"

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Other contributors to *Modern Delight* include: Michael Palin, Joan Bakewell, Jeremy Paxman, Richard Eyre, Vince Cable, William Boyd, Michael Morpurgo, Tim Rice, Tamsin Greig, Sebastian

Faulks, Gyles Brandreth, Philip Pullman, Lynne Truss, Lionel Shriver, John Sergeant, Alain de Botton, India Knight, Antony Beevor, Kate Mosse and Clive James.

2. Great Northern Books will be reissuing Priestley's *Delight* to coincide with the publication of *Modern Delight*.
3. *Modern Delight* follows on from Waterstone's What's Your Story? campaign, which saw thirteen internationally renowned authors - including J.K. Rowling and Margaret Atwood - donating original, highly-collectable stories for a charity auction. In total, the project raised over £80,000 for English PEN and Dyslexia Action.
4. Waterstone's is the UK's leading specialist bookseller with over 300 branches in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as branches in Eire, in Amsterdam and Brussels, on the Isle of Man and Jersey. Its transactional website Waterstones.com was launched in 2006, and there are currently over 2 million holders of the Waterstone's Card. Waterstone's was named Bookselling Company of the Year at the Bookseller Retail Awards 2008.
5. Dyslexia Action is a national charity and the UK's leading provider of services and support for people with dyslexia and literacy difficulties. It specialises in assessment teaching and training. It also develops and distributes teaching materials and undertakes research. Dyslexia Action is dependent on fees from assessments, tuition and training courses, and income from the sale of its products, as well as the generosity of benefactors. Dyslexia Action employs over 250 specialist teachers, as well as our their chartered psychologists and support staff. Some 90 psychologists work with Dyslexia Action on a consultancy basis. Dyslexia Action services are available through its 26 centres and 160 teaching locations around the UK. Over half a million people benefit from its work each year. For more information visit www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk
6. The London Library, St James's Square, Piccadilly, was founded in 1841 and is the world's largest independent lending library. Its broad and eclectic collections cover a vast number of subjects across the humanities, with books dating from the 16th Century to the latest print and digital resources. It has over one million volumes, stored on 15 miles of open-access shelves, and 97% of the Library's books are available for loan.

With over 7000 current members, the Library has provided an invaluable resource to writers, researchers and avid readers for over 160 years. Past and present members include Charles Darwin, George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, Bruce Chatwin, Sebastian Faulks, Jeremy Paxman, Antonia Fraser and current president Tom Stoppard. Membership of the London Library is open to all.

The Library is a registered charity and receives no government or statutory funding and is funded entirely by members' subscriptions, donations and bequests. The London Library is currently carrying out a major phase of its extension and redevelopment, designed by architects Haworth Tompkins. This will provide a greatly enhanced Library with T.S. Eliot House integrated with the St James's Square site on all five levels.