

# Earlsdon Literary Magazine 220

*The newsletter of the AVID Readers Group, based at Earlsdon Library*

**Next meeting:** Thursday 13 February 2020 at 8pm

**Venue:** Earlsdon Library

**Book for discussion:** *The Portrait* — Iain Pears

## Digging up the past

Our January Book:

*Pure* — Andrew Miller



**P**ure is loosely based on historical fact, describing the macabre exhumation of remains from an overfilled and disused Parisian cemetery in the eighteenth century. It is told through the eyes of a young engineer hired to oversee the project.

Please send news, reviews, recommendations, tales of literary events or anything you think AVID readers would find interesting, to:

Catherine Fitzsimons  
[cathfitz5317@yahoo.com](mailto:cathfitz5317@yahoo.com)

Our ratings for the book were:

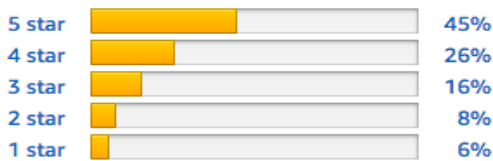
5 star	0%
4 star	63%
3 star	12%
2 star	0%
1 star	25%

Whereas the ratings on Amazon are:

### Customer reviews

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

352 customer ratings



Although the majority enjoyed reading the book, there was a small, vocal minority who did not.

However, we all agreed that it was well-written and most people thought they could identify with the small community in terms of the players and the location. It was thought the characters were authentic. One disappointed reader thought it that it was repetitive and could have been half the

length – or, perhaps, published in the form of a pamphlet.

There was a debate on whether everything in a book has to be relevant or explained. Some were puzzled by the purple eyes of one character or/and the elephant, whereas others were happy to gloss over these unexplained and unused details.

To finish, some noteworthy critical comments:

*I did not like the characters.*

*The first two thirds were miserable but the rest of the book was spoilt by becoming happy.*

*The lack of an underlying message meant it disappointed at the end.*

*It was like eating broccoli.*

Perhaps we can ‘vegabilise’ further readings. We would need, however, to save rhubarb for something universally unpopular.

Steve

*(who also supplied the images)*

## Our next book is

*A Death in Chelsea — Lynn Brittney*

and we will discuss it on Thursday 12 March.