



**Connections through Fiction**

**The Founding of a  
Library Book Club**





# Why it all started

'Reading is an exercise in empathy'

-Malorie Blackman

'There is no friend more loyal than a book'

-Ernest Hemingway

'I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading'

-Jane Austen

'If you know how to read, then the whole world opens up to you'

-Barack Obama



# How it all started

We have encouraged the reading of fiction through:

- A book swap
- Promotion of the library's existing fiction collection

## Share your Shelf

Take a book home to read



Donate a book for others to enjoy

Donations gratefully accepted at the Library Reception desk

## Love reading?

Borrow a book from our fiction collection

3rd floor rows  
65A/B





# How the idea developed

During Welcome Week, students had asked whether the library ran a book club.

We decided our book club would:

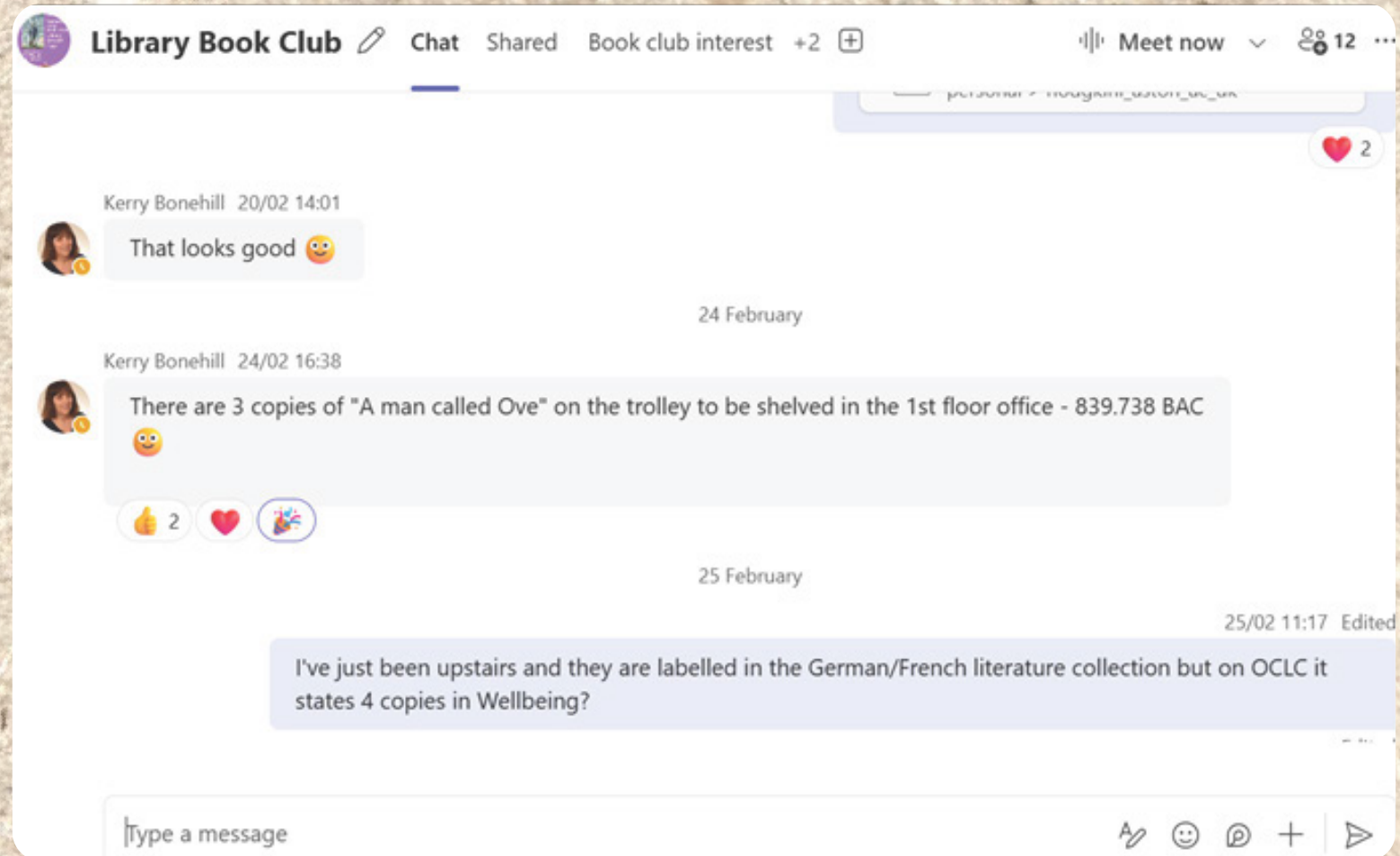
- Meet quarterly in person
- Be for students and staff
- Contribute to the library's wellbeing efforts
- Foster a community of readers





# Organising Promotion and Planning

- We created a Library Book Club channel on Teams
- Teams Channel – grew to 12 library staff participants
- Easy to collaborate and discuss ideas







# Cross Library Collaboration

Placement student's connections

Information Specialist's connections and book recommendations

Content and Discovery Team

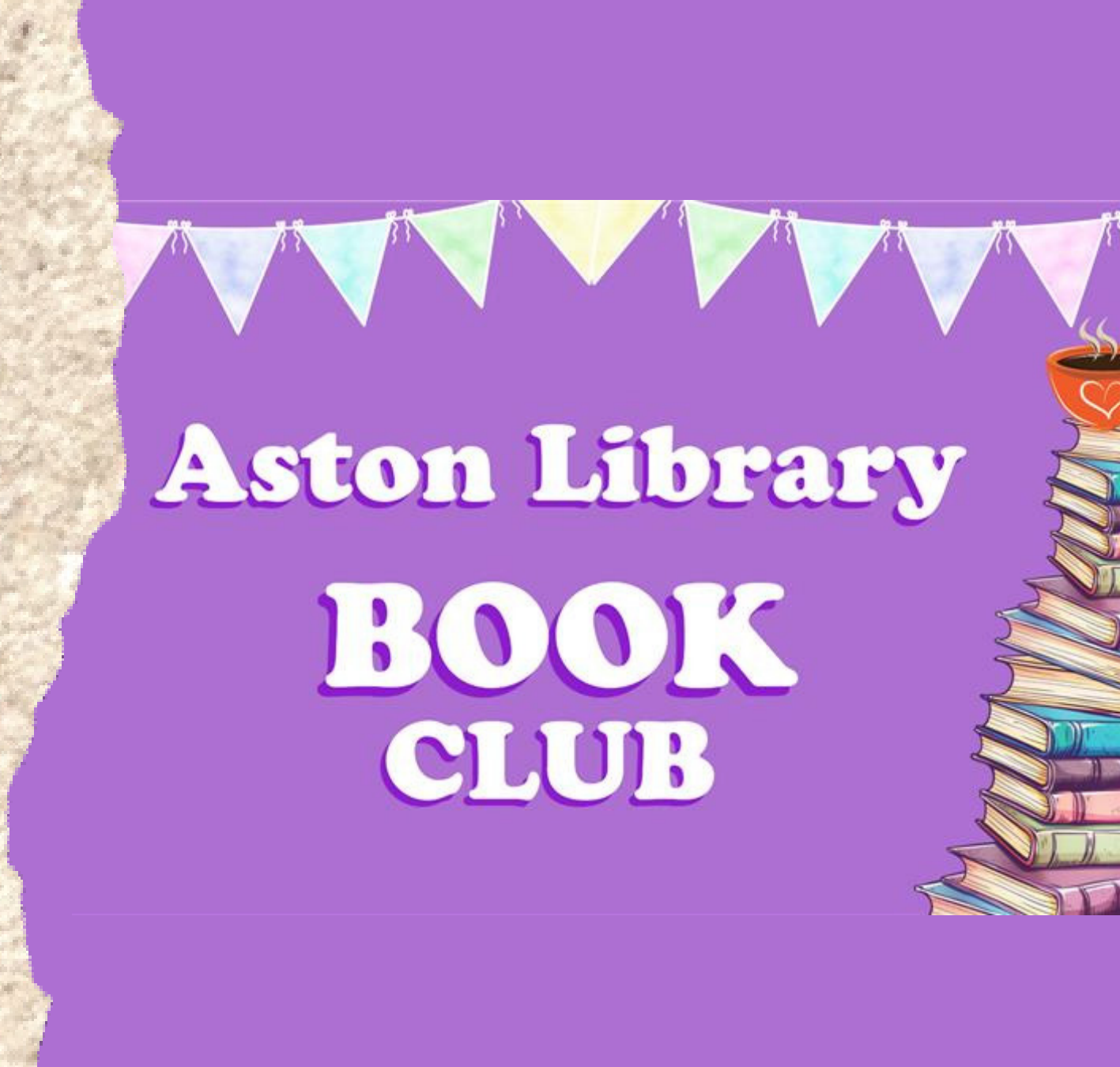
Wellbeing Group fund



# Promotion

**We adopted a consistent style for all our book club publicity**

**The branding was designed by one of our placement students**



**Astring Library**  
**BOOK CLUB**




# Promotion

## University Communications Platform




**Aston Library  
BOOK  
CLUB**



**Aston Library Book Club**

A forum for staff and students from across Aston University to get together over a good read.

Conversations About Files Events

 Share thoughts, ideas, or updates 

**Members** • 78



**Community experts**

Assign members who offer expertise in this community.

[Assign](#)

**Community summary**

Feb 13, 2025 - Mar 13, 2025

**1,108**  
People reached



# Promotion

Bookmarks

Instagram



- The Goose student newsletter
- One Aston
- Posters
- A3 Lollipop signs



# The first book club meeting







# The first meeting

- Icebreaker -bring a book that means something to you
- Free tea/coffee/biscuits
- Held in a large, easily accessible space on the ground floor
- Talked about library's fiction collection and revealed first group read
- Feedback box with option to provide contact details and book recommendations



# Picking a group read

- 6 books selected from our Kortext fiction collection
- Voting polls posted on Instagram and other promotion channels
- Winning book was announced at the first meeting
- Book suggestions from feedback forms were taken into account for the second group read
- Process repeated for the next group read





# Where it's going

**Both meetings so far have been well attended and enjoyed**

**We hope it will become a regular quarterly event and plan to:**

- **Network with the SU**
- **Connect with wellbeing and multi-faith groups**
- **Possibly promote during Clubs and Societies day at Welcome Week**





# What our members say

**"I've not loaned a book from the library before. Can I just use my ID card?"**

**"Before joining, it was ages since I last read. But the books that the book club discuss have drawn me back in. People there are so kind and provide very insightful thoughts."**

**"Thoroughly enjoyable! Everyone should belong to a book club!"**





# Aligning with Aston University values

## Aston values include:

'Collaboration: we believe in the value of **working together for a shared purpose**, by **engaging and collaborating across our teams** and disciplines.

Inclusion: we provide an **inclusive, caring and empowering environment for all** and **respect and support the values that diversity and inclusion bring to our whole community**.

Innovation: we nurture an innovative environment that **values new ideas and seeks diverse perspectives**'







# What have we gained?

- Met students and staff from across the university
- Adobe Express skills  
-demonstrated through this presentation!
- Increased reading for pleasure



# **Any questions and thoughts?**

