

Skylarking



Our Young Reviewers' Club Community Initiative Goes Live A six-month reading scheme to help reluctant readers enjoy books

Last month, we let you know that we had been successful in our bid for a Children's Bookshop Grant from Penguin Random House - one of only 44 bookshops across the UK to be successful. This funding means that we can do something really meaningful for young readers here in Dorchester and the local area and we are thrilled to launch our very first **Young Reviewers' Club**. The scheme is designed to make reading exciting, accessible, and genuinely fun. We want young readers to feel that their opinions matter – whether that's a child discovering their first favourite author, a reluctant reader finding a book that finally clicks, or a young reviewer recommending a story to another child. If we can help children build a lasting relationship with reading, that's something very special.

The project removes financial barriers to reading while building confidence, encouraging creativity, and helping children take ownership of reading.

Members will receive free books to keep and will be invited to create reviews - to be displayed in-store to help guide and inspire other young readers. **We have written to nine local schools** to nominate reluctant readers and have also taken nominations from **our customers** after advertising in the shop and online. The project lasts six months at the end of which we'll be holding a special celebration so watch this space!



Independent Bookshop Week 13-20 June: What we got up to ...

We had a fabulous first ever IBW at Teasel and Skylark with loads of fun and games! Along with joining in with Dorchester's Pop-up Pride all week...:

- Tuesday we hosted the book launch of Faith Eckersall's fabulous second book in her cosy crime series, *Death by Canapé*, set in the fictional - but all too real! - Piddlington Minster.
- Wednesday saw our first ever-so-slightly bookish book quiz in aid of our charity partners, Mid-Dorset Mencap. A lovely crowd had a great time answering our fun and occasionally fiendish questions, **and we managed to raise over £180 for MDM!**
- Also on Wednesday we were honoured to be visited by the Mayor and Mayoress of Dorchester, helping us celebrate our special week with an interview on local radio station Keep 106 FM
- During the week, we were on national radio station, **Magic Classical**, being interviewed about what makes independent bookshops so special. Not only that, but they played the piece David wrote for the shop, a huge accolade! (You can hear this on our website.)
- Plus, we gave away a **hundred free National Book Tokens for £5 to customers** who shopped with us during the week alongside other offers and giveaways!

Altogether a fantastic week and here's to next year's IBW!

Coming soon



TEASEL & SKYLARK



The Tattooed Hills

An illustrated talk with Jon Woolcott

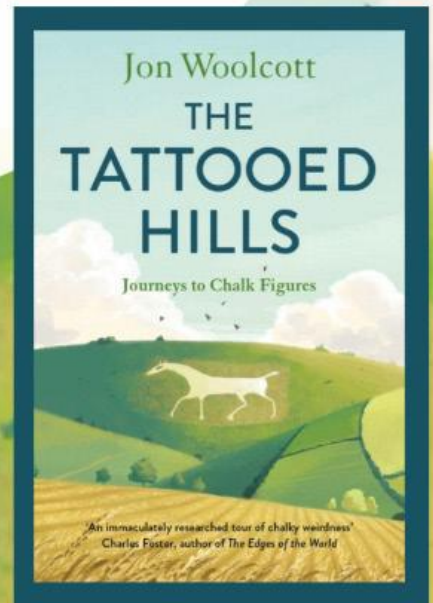
Tuesday 15 September 2026 • 7pm

The King's Arms Hotel
Dorchester

Britain's chalk figures have inspired
myths, legends and debates for
centuries

Join Jon Woolcott as he uncovers the
stories behind white horses, giants,
crosses and forgotten hillside
carvings

Archaeology, folklore, history,
literature and landscape combine in a
fascinating evening exploring
Britain's most mysterious hills



£5 Talk

£18.50 Talk + Book

(*Save 25% on book RRP £17.99)

Reserve your place today

teaselandskylark.com/events

Book Your Place Now!

What have we been up to?

Mayor and Mayoress of Dorchester, Councillor Les Fry BEM and Mrs Julie Fry BEM, paying us a visit to help us celebrate Independent Bookshop Week



Faith Eckersall, with her quirky and very entertaining *Death by Canapé*. Available to buy now!



Lots of head-scratching and groaning was enjoyed by all at the Book Quiz night!

Our Top 10 Books - June 2026

1. **Death by Canapé** - Faith Eckersall
2. **Stone Lands** - Fiona Robertson
3. **The Correspondent** - Virginia Evans
4. **The Names** - Florence Knapp
5. **Weird Guide Britain** - Dave Hamilton
6. **The Eights** - Joanna Miller
7. **The Tattooed Hills** - Jon Woolcott
8. **Swimming Lessons** - Claire Fuller
9. **Grasslands** - John Wright
10. **The Book of Birds** - Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris



David's Book Review of the Month: Shrink Solves Murder by Philippa Perry

Shrink Solves Murder, by renowned psychotherapist and author Philippa Perry, is a delicious slice of classic cosy crime, set in the bang up to date and beautiful location on the South Downs.

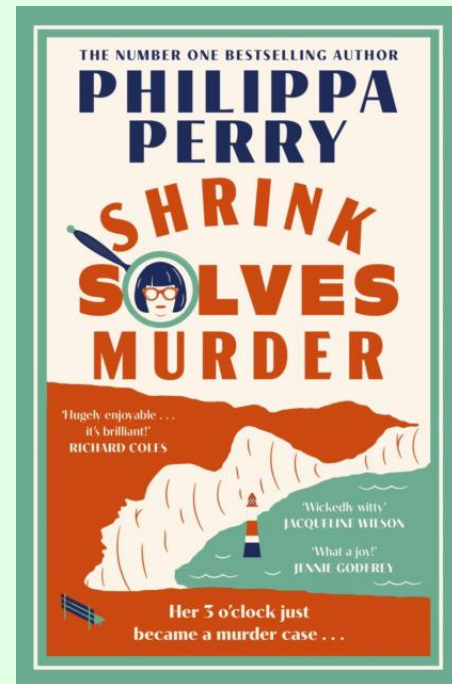
Drawing on her wealth of professional therapy experience, she weaves in a smorgasbord of observations on human behaviour, motivations and relationships, all bound together by a very clever and entertaining murder mystery.

Her characterisation is top notch, creating highly believable and relatable characters, from the sharp-witted

therapist-cum-detective, Pat, to her rather chaotic and meddling best friend, Pritchard, along with myriad delicious suspects and, of course, the local plod.

It makes for a really entertaining, page-turning read, mixing the eccentricities and foibles of small village mentality, with sinister goings on right under everyone's noses.

A fabulous read to accompany your cosy (hopefully crime-free!) summer's day!



T&S Pets' Corner



Somebody had a special day this week - here is Ginny, one of Opal's puppies from her first litter who was 2 years old in June - Happy Birthday Ginny!

Can't find what you want?

We love selecting books for our shelves ... but our 'bijou' space means we can't stock everything we'd like.

However, because we order books in most days, we are able to **order any book for you** - and as many of you know - we get books in **very quickly**.

Simply ask us at the counter or send your order by phone, email or WhatsApp ... we usually get them for **next day** or within **2 working days**. Let us help you find your next great read!

Want to shop online and still support indie bookshops like ours? Well now you can ... thanks to the rather brilliant bookshop.org. Browse our curated lists on there, select us as your chosen bookshop and buy from us online - <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/teaselandskylark>

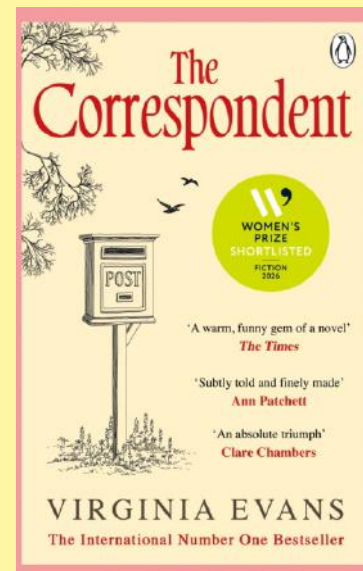
Richard's Book Review for July: The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

One of those rare novels that hooks you from the first page and never lets go. Told entirely through letters, emails and unsent notes, Virginia Evans' wonderful debut introduces us to Sybil Van Antwerp: intelligent, funny, stubborn, occasionally infuriating, and utterly unforgettable. Through her correspondence, we are given an intimate glimpse into her entire life – full of grief, friendship, family tensions, missed opportunities and unexpected connections.

Each letter reveals another layer of Sybil and the people in her life, creating a cast of characters who feel incredibly real. There are moments of great sadness and loss along the way, but these are balanced alongside instances of genuine warmth, wit and hope. The people who enter into correspondence with Sybil find their lives enriched by knowing her, and the same is true for the reader. Spending time with Sybil will leave you wishing you had more.

At Teasel & Skylark, we were especially drawn to the novel's celebration of the written word. In a world of hurried texts and fleeting online exchanges, *The Correspondent* reminds us of the thoughtfulness, intimacy and permanence of a letter carefully composed and lovingly received. It is a book about communication, but also about connection — and how the right words can bridge years of distance.

The Correspondent is a beautifully written, absorbing page-turner with characters who shine off the page and is highly recommended.



Quiz Corner - Here we go with this month's quiz!

Who is whom - which one of us is Richard and which is David ...??!!

The question we get asked the most!

Answers to June Quiz: Cities

How did you get on?!

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Cairo | 6. Rome |
| 2. New York | 7. London |
| 3. Paris | 8. Berlin |
| 4. Prague | 9. Dublin |
| 5. London | 10. Los Angeles |



New Books on the Shelves for July

Check out these new titles (as well as many others) the next time you visit

New Non-Fiction



New Fiction



New Children's Books



Featured Artist for July: Sanchia Bradford

Each month we'd like to take a closer look at one of the growing number of local artists, writers, or makers that we work with to keep the shop fully stocked with quality (and locally sourced where possible) books, arts, and gifts.

As a Forest School Leader, and after 32 years of primary teaching, Sanchia feels privileged to have had the opportunity to view the natural world as children see it, in great detail and with the time to become fully immersed. Despite having always been fascinated by the intricacies of nature, it was only recently that washed up seaweed caught her eye; she was struck by the amazing variety in form, colour and structure; no two pieces are the same and each can change in appearance whilst drying out.

Pressing seaweed to preserve this beauty, was her natural next step, a process which is very simple, organic and environmentally friendly:

- rinse and soak the seaweed in tap water
- arrange specimens on watercolour paper, whilst in shallow water
- wrap in an absorbent material
- sandwich between layers of salvaged cardboard
- press with a selection of heavy books

She describes mounting and framing specimens as an absorbing and mindful process. Initially created as gifts for friends and family, once she had started she found she simply couldn't stop! Identifying and labelling specimens has also become an absorbing stage in the production of each unique piece of hand pressed seaweed. Sanchia says "Hopefully recipients will get as much pleasure from their pictures, as I do from the whole process – from foraging on beautiful beaches, to the excitement of unwrapping each specimen, to the joy of enhancing each one through thoughtful mounting and framing."

Sanchia's beautiful work is on sale now, at Teasel and Skylark



Book Clubs - Our book club offering is expanding

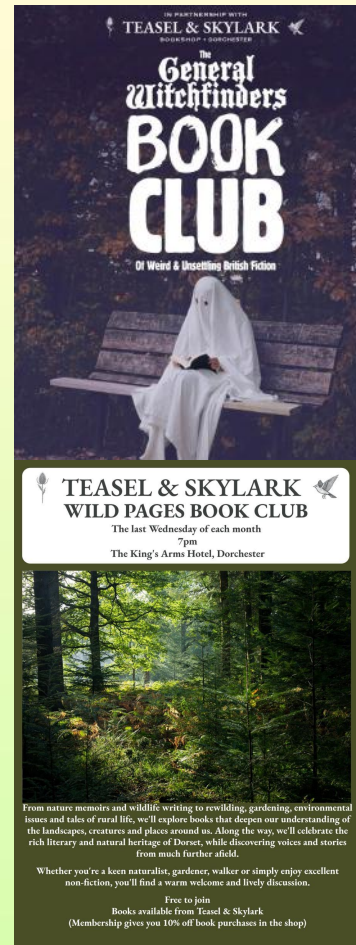
Whilst our general fiction book club is currently fully subscribed, we do have spaces left on our specialist groups - the folk-horror themed **General Witchfinders Book Club** and the nature-focused non-fiction **Wild Pages Book Club**.

The GWBC is set to meet for the first time on Wednesday 8 July at 7pm (meeting every two months on the second Wednesday) and the WPBC is set to meet on Wednesday 29 July at 7pm (meeting every month on the last Wednesday).

Please get in touch if you'd like to join or would like further information. Also, please let us know if you wish to join the fiction club as we'll let you know when any places become available.

Buying for Book Clubs?

If you're buying books for any other book club and you want more than 5 copies for the group members, you can save 10% when bought together- just ask us in the shop (or email us) and we'll be happy to arrange book orders.



David's Non-Fiction Book of the Month

Normally Weird and Weirdly Normal by Robin Ince

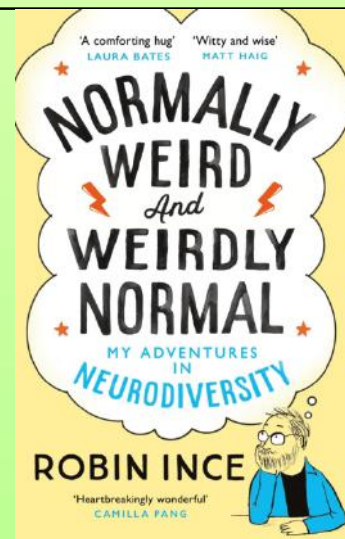
Normally Weird and Weirdly Normal is a deeply fascinating account of what it is like to live, love, and think when you see the world through the lens of a neurodivergent brain

Frequently moving and often hilarious, Robin's accounts of his own challenges with everyday life, as well as a whole cast of friends and audience members, really bring home how it feels to have an inner saboteur whose sole mission is to devalue and criticise everything you do. This, on top of a tragic childhood experience which went on to colour his whole life.

But, this is ultimately an uplifting story, as, with the aid of a lot of talking and a late diagnosis of ADHD, Robin explains how he has turned the tables on his inner voice and is now in control of his thoughts and happier than ever before. And anyway, what is normal and what is weird?

However your minds works or how you see the world, I guarantee you'll embrace your own weird and be able to relate to more of this fabulous book than you might have expected, and indeed learn a little bit more about yourself too in the process ...

David



Opportunity to join our new nature-writing book club



TEASEL & SKYLARK WILD PAGES BOOK CLUB



The last Wednesday of each month

7pm

The King's Arms Hotel, Dorchester



From nature memoirs and wildlife writing to rewilding, gardening, environmental issues and tales of rural life, we'll explore books that deepen our understanding of the landscapes, creatures and places around us. Along the way, we'll celebrate the rich literary and natural heritage of Dorset, while discovering voices and stories from much further afield.

Whether you're a keen naturalist, gardener, walker or simply enjoy excellent non-fiction, you'll find a warm welcome and lively discussion.

Free to join

Books available from Teasel & Skylark

(Membership gives you 10% off book purchases in the shop)

Get in touch if you want to join (shop, email, WhatsApp)

The Dancing Mole

The newsletter for our younger readers

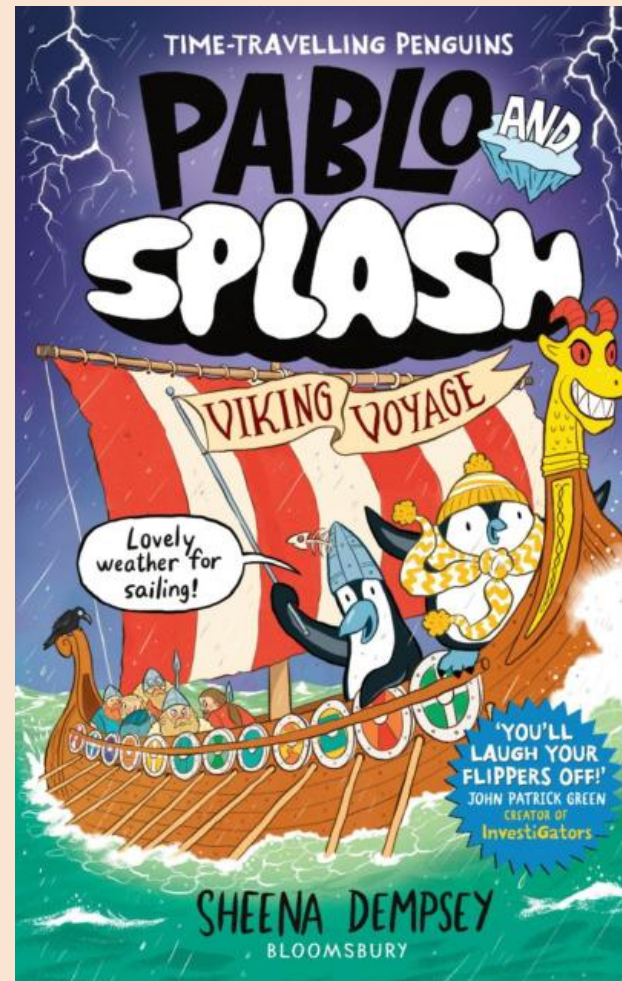
Children's pick for June - Pablo & Splash by Sheena Dempsey

Here we go again with the latest instalment in Sheena Dempsey's fabulous laugh-out-loud series featuring cautious and careful Pablo and his impulsive, adventure-hungry sidekick Splash! Their witty banter provides relentless comedy while Sheena's full-colour illustrations pop with energy, making it highly accessible for both avid readers and visual learners alike.

At the same time, without ever feeling preachy or academic, the book effortlessly weaves in actual history about Viking longships and medieval Ireland, managing to leave young minds laughing while simultaneously absorbing historical contexts.

And in a new and exciting narrative surprise, the penguins even find themselves briefly popping into the future, expanding their time travelling adventures into literally a whole new direction!

Perfect for fans of Jamie Smart's *Bunny vs Monkey*, John Patrick Green's *InvestiGATORS*, or Dav Pilkey's *Dog Man*.



Top 10 Children's Books: June 2026

1. **Pablo and Splash: Viking Voyage** - Sheena Dempsey
2. **Ant Party** - Ross Montgomery & Sarah Warburton
3. **Lightfall: A Place Between** - Tim Probert
4. **Our Pebbles** - Jarvis
5. **Kiki's Delivery Service** - Eiko Kadono
6. **Kamizen** - William Yamaguchi Dobson
7. **The Magic Faraway Tree** by Enid Blyton
8. **The Night of the Hedgehog** - Tanya Rosie and Chuck Groenink
9. **Monsieur Mustard** - Charley Rabbit
10. **Birdlands** - Anthony McGowan



The Big Tease(I)

We have lots planned for the next few months - here are just a few details:



Tues 28 July from 7pm: Hardy's Hostelries: Book Launch



Tues 15 Sep from 7pm: The Tattooed Hills with Jon Woolcott



Sat 19 Sep from 11am: Thomas Hardy's Women with Peter Tait



Sat 3 Oct from 11am: A History of England in 25 Poems with Catherine Clarke



New books we're excited about and think you'll love too ...

- **Mr Sidhu's Post Office** by Amman Brar - 02/07
- **Handbook of Forgotten Skills** - Iron Taz 06/08
- **The Neverfear** by Katherine Rundell - 27/08
- **Taipei Story** by Rebecca F Kuang - 08/09
- **Gruffalo Granny** by Julia Donaldson - 10/09
- **Our Noble Selves** by Kate Atkinson - 10/09
- **Down Burrow Lane** by Michael Morpurgo - 17/09
- **Farewell to Eden** by Sebastian Faulks - 17/09
- **A Year in the Garden** by Matthew Rice - 26/09
- **The Nature of Seeing** by Mark Cocker - 08/10
- **Peck & Peck** by Bonnie Garmus - 13/10

Dorchester's Independent Bookshop

Open Tuesday to Saturday, 9.30am to 4.30pm
(5.30pm on Wednesdays)

Teasel & Skylark

2 Georgian House, Trinity Street

Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1UB

teaselandskylark@gmail.com

07424 619496

What 3 Words: equipment//fizzled//supporter

Was it good for you? Please give us a review!

We have a small favour to ask of you, the incredible customers of Teasel & Skylark.

As with everything nowadays, online reviews can make or break a business like ours - and so please could you consider leaving us a review on google if you are happy with what we do and if you have a couple of minutes to tell others.



This QR code takes you straight to our review page.

And next time you're in the shop, these cards near the till allow you to tap your phone to either follow us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram, or leave us a Google review - any and all of which help us out lots. Thank you so much.



Coming Soon



TEASEL & SKYLARK



A HISTORY OF ENGLAND IN 25 POEMS

with author **Catherine Clarke**

Saturday 3 October 2026 - 11am

THE KING'S ARMS HOTEL
DORCHESTER



One Nation's Past, 25 Poems

Join Historian and Author, Catherine Clarke for a fascinating journey through England's past told in a brilliant new way - glimpsed through 25 remarkable poems from between the 8th Century and today

Explore how poetry can illuminate history like never before; revealing not just what happened, but how it felt

Not to be missed!

A *Times* Book of the Year

A *BBC History Extra* History Book of the Year

A *Financial Times* Book of the Year: Poetry

A *BBC Radio 4* Book of the Week

£5 Talk

£15 Talk + Book

(23% off the book's RRP of £12.99)

Reserve your place today

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Book Your Place Now!

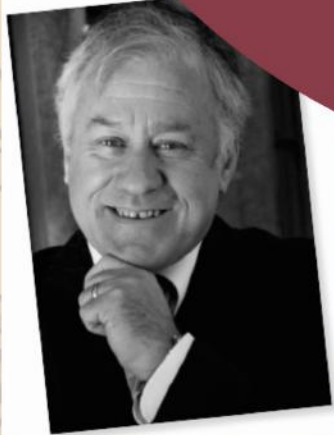
Coming Soon

TEASEL & SKYLARK 

Thomas Hardy's Women In Life and Literature With author Peter Tait

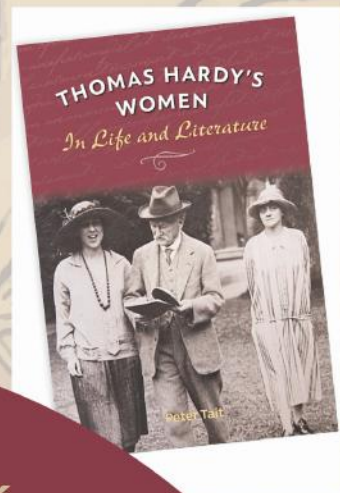
Saturday 19 September 2026 * 11am

The King's Arms Hotel,
Dorchester



Join writer, Peter Tait, for an illustrated talk on the women in the life and literature of Thomas Hardy

Peter will explore the influence of Hardy's closest female friends and family on his life and his work, and how they helped to mould his creative genius.



£5 Talk
£15 Talk + Book

Reserve your place today
teaselandskylark.com/events

Book Your Place Now!