

# Skylarking



## Triple Award Win at Dorchester Business Awards 2026

In case you haven't already heard, at the Dorchester Business Awards 2026 recently we won Best New Business Award and Best Retail Award. We were shocked and delighted ... but then found out that we had also won the overall Business of the Year Award for 2026!! It's fair to say we were totally blown away and indeed were somewhat lost for words - quite the rarity!



We are so hugely grateful to everybody that has supported us in the six months we have been open - it might be we who have put in the hard work, but it is our wonderful customers who have helped us be winners, so many many thanks to you all!



## Live Audiobook Readings

We continue to be enthralled with Alastair Braidwood's wonderful reading of Thomas Hardy's *Far From the Madding Crowd* which is proving to be a real crowd pleaser at the weekly Tuesday evening readings in the Casterbridge Room in the King's Arms Hotel.

Alastair's beautifully sonorous voice and wonderful characterisation really bring the text to life, whether it's descriptions of the landscapes and characters or the surprising amount of humour in the dialogue.

Alastair also intersperses the reading with carefully chosen props and music, adding to the brilliant sense of atmosphere and place that he manages to evoke.

There are still several evenings left for you to enjoy and pick up from, recaps are given each night.

Head over to [teaselandskylark.com/events](https://teaselandskylark.com/events) for further information!

# Our Next Literary Event

TEASEL & SKYLARK

## Historical Mystery & Food History

Discovering 17th century recipes through novel-writing with author Georgia Piggott

Saturday 7 March 2026  
11am to 1pm

Casterbridge Room, The King's Arms Hotel,  
Dorchester



In this fascinating talk, hear how Georgia Piggott came to write historical novels, became interested in 17th century food, and tracked down recipes of the period.

Find out why the Alice Chronicles contain so many food references, discover more about what people of all classes in the 17th century really ate and drank, and learn how 16th and 17th century recipes can easily be re-created at home.

Georgia Piggott lives in West Dorset and is the author of the Alice Chronicles, a series of novels set in the early 17th century featuring a young Dorset protagonist, Alice. The fifth book in the series is due to be published in late summer 2026.



**Tickets: £8**

**Includes tea and coffee**

(Buy tickets from Teasel & Skylark Books, Trinity Street)

[www.teaselskylark.com/events](http://www.teaselskylark.com/events)

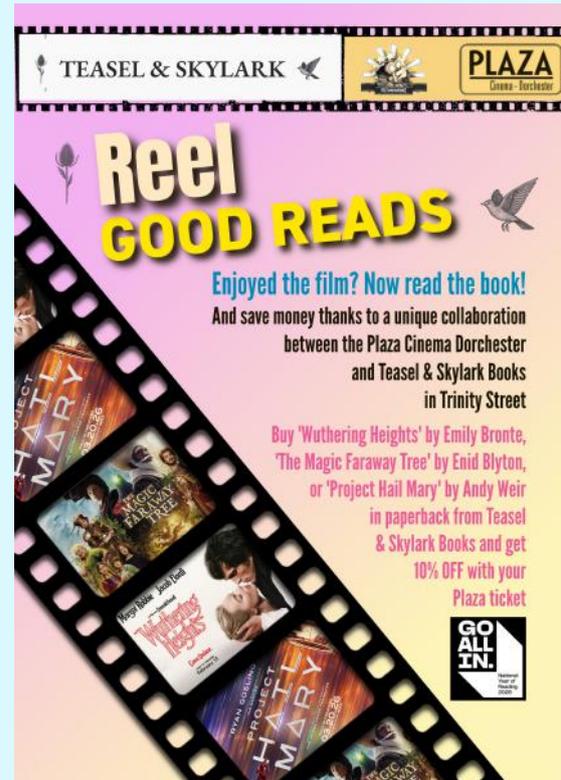
**Book Your Place Now!**

## Reel Good Reads

Our unique and innovative partnership with **The Plaza Cinema** in Trinity Street, Dorchester, continues. If you enjoyed the film (or even if you didn't) then check out the book it was based upon and get 10% off the paperback when you present your cinema ticket at Teasel & Skylark. This month's books are:

- Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
- The Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton
- Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir

2026 is the National Year of Reading and the government has launched the Go All In campaign to encourage reading for pleasure. We are doing our bit through the Reel Good Reads initiative, our year-long programme of events, and some other projects that we'll reveal in coming months.



## Our Top 10 Books

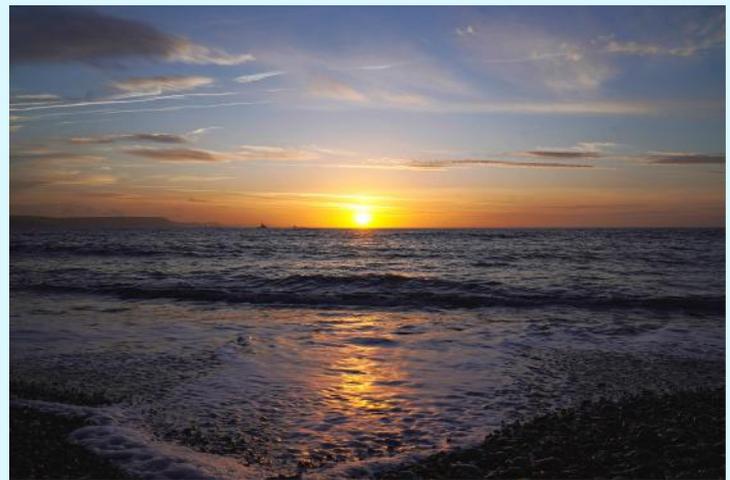
February 2026

1. *Walk The Blue Fields* by Claire Keegan
2. *Kingmaker* by Sonia Purnell
3. *What You Are Looking For is in The Library* by Michiko Aoyama
4. *Humble Pi* by Matt Parker
5. *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
6. *An Almost Impossible Thing* by Fiona Davison
7. *The Company of Owls* by Polly Atkin
8. *Raising Hare* by Chloe Dalton
9. *Neurodivergent, by Nature* by Joe Harkness
10. *111 Places in Dorset that you Shouldn't Miss* by Jeni Bell and Karen Heaney

## What have we been up to?

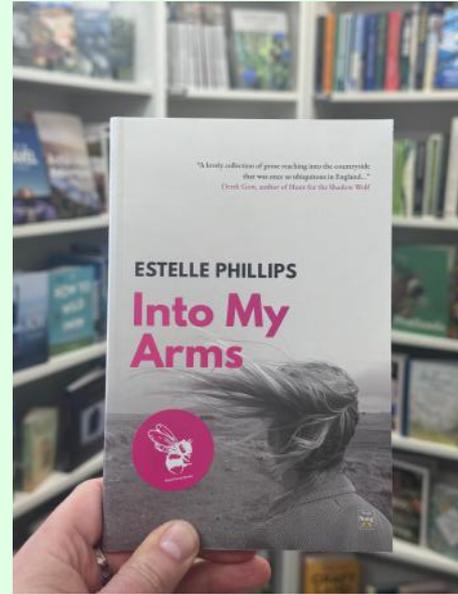
# Firstly - the Lie Detective answer ... the fact was treading on a sea urchin - super painful! I did cycle *around* Snowdonia but did not cycle up Snowdon (that would be madness!) and La Voix stopping doing fjord cruises just before we had ours!

# With all the dreadful weather this winter we celebrated (meteorological) Spring by getting up early Monday 2nd March to grab some pics of the beautiful sunrise at Weymouth - great to be out and about again!



## David's Book Review of the Month

*Into My Arms* by Estelle Phillips was quite a departure for me, being a short form novella but ... oh my goodness ... I was genuinely blown away by Estelle's deeply moving and lyrically beautiful tale which manages to convey a deeper consciousness of the natural world than I had come across before. From a wandering bee meandering its way among the silently competing apple trees, to the profound loss felt by a graveside, to the highly emotional incident of a gliding accident, *Into My Arms* is an incredible work of art whose own arms I know I will fall back into again and again. And as I have been once before, I was sufficiently moved to write a short piece of music which I have called *Gliding* which I will be publishing soon. In store now.



## T&S Book Club - Do You Want to Run Our Book Club?

We have listened to our customers and we are in the process of setting up The Teasel & Skylark Book Club. We have a lovely venue (The King's Arms Hotel) and loads of books ... but we now are looking for somebody to help us get it up and running and, ideally, run the club. If you're interested, then get in touch as we'd love to chat.

## Did you know ...?

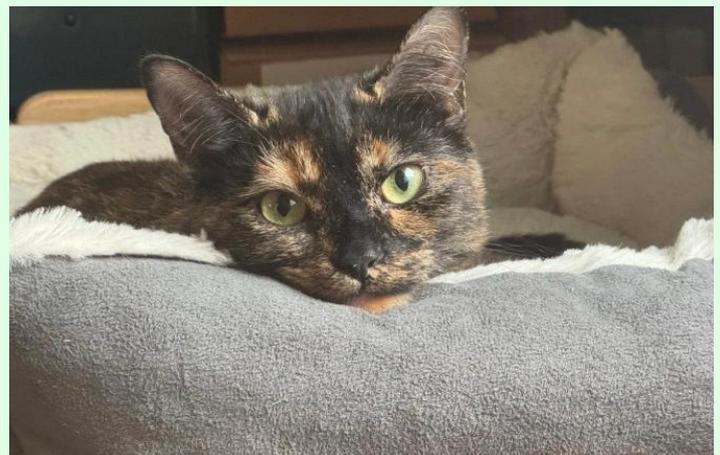
... We have a **community noticeboard** which is free for any local charity, community group, or event - just ask either of us about displaying a flyer to promote your event.

... We stock the wonderfully bookish consumer magazine, *Booktime*, published by the Booksellers Association every two months. Crammed with book reviews, author interviews, and all the season's new releases, **Booktime is free for customers** so remember to pick one up next time you shop.

... We can offer a **10% discount for book clubs** purchasing books for their meetings. If you're buying 5 or more of the same title for your club, and are interested in setting up a discount with us, please just ask either of us. More info on this is on our website.

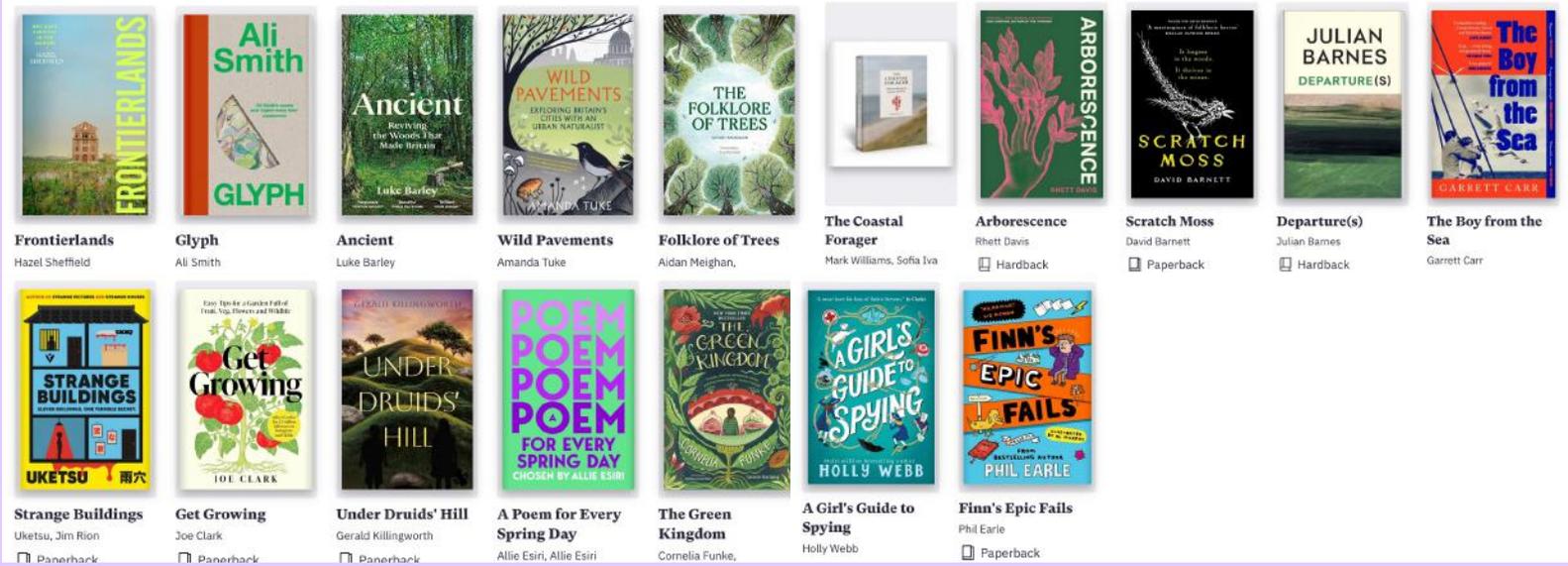
## T&S Pets' Corner

Nutmeg was adopted by Richard from Cats Protection in November 2025 and has been settling in well to her new forever home. She's only 18 months old and is a little introverted but she's settled in really well already ... her favourite thing in the world is her wigwam where she chills out during the day. Thanks to Cats Protection - an excellent charity that does brilliant work.



# New Books on the Shelves for March

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



## Featured Artist for March

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.

This month is the turn of Painted Parasol Studio, run by Ellie Norbert-Munns. No doubt you will have seen Ellie's cute and quirky range of greetings cards in our shop, which we absolutely love and have been really popular. Launched with the intention of spreading a little spark of joy, Painted Parasol Studio is focused on creating fun illustrations with a generous spoonful of colour and a sprinkle of wit. Ellie, a graphic designer and illustrator with a background in magazine and newspaper publishing, started her cheery business after returning to Dorchester following nearly a decade living in Southeast Asia, where she worked as an editor in Cambodia. This is where she fell in love with the hand-painted parasols of Myanmar.



## Quick Quiz: Dickens or Bobbins?

Which of these characters are by Dickens' and which are total bobbins...?

1. Anne Chickenstalker
2. Dick Swiveller
3. Catsmeat Potter-Pirbright
4. Paul Sweedlepipe
5. Gussie Fink-Nottle
6. Slartibartfast
7. M'Choakumchild
8. Mugglewump
9. Prince Turveydrop
10. Pumblechook

# The Dancing Mole

The newsletter for our younger readers

## World Book Day 2026

**Thursday 5 March** is World Book Day 2026.

Use your World Book Day £1 token to get one of these brilliant reads for free at Teasel & Skylark Books between 12 February and 15 March 2026.



### Double-Up Your Voucher

Exclusive World Book Day Offer. Use your £1 token to claim **not one but two** WBD books from the list above. (While stocks last)

What is your favourite book? Would you like to tell others about what you liked about it? If you'd like to review a book and have it featured in this newsletter, ask your parent or guardian to speak to us about getting it printed. If we feature your review, you could even win a prize.

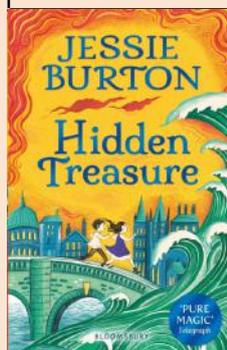
## Book Review of the Month

**Hidden Treasure** by Jessie Burton is a spellbinding journey through war-time London and the foggy banks of the Thames — a world where secrets lie buried in river-mud and magic lurks beneath the surface. When 12-year-old Bo Delafort pulls a mysterious moon-shaped jewel from the mud, her life – and that of orphaned Billy River – is turned upside down. Together they embark on a haunting mystery filled with danger, sorrow, and long-buried secrets.

Burton's writing is both lyrical and suspenseful. Bo and Billy are wonderfully drawn - brave, vulnerable, and full of heart – and their friendship carries the emotional weight of the story. Though the book doesn't shy away from darker themes – grief, poverty, and the harsh realities of war – it balances these with moments of warmth, magic, and hope – and it keeps you turning pages until the very end.

## Top 10 Children's Books February 2026

1. *Tractors in Space* by Ross MacKay & Alex Willmore
2. *Woods* by Anne-Kathrin Behl
3. *River* by Anne-Kathrin Behl
4. *Mouse by the Sea* by Alice Melvin
5. *A Girl's Guide to Spying* by Holly Webb
6. *A Dress With Pockets* by Lily Murray & Jenny Løvlie
7. *The Scarecrow's Wedding* by Julia Donaldson & Alex Scheffler
8. *Snail in Space* by Rachel Bright & Nadia Shireen
9. *Mr Men Little Miss Silly Stories* by Roger Hargreaves
10. *Oi Frog!* by Kes Gray and Jim Field



Far more than a simple children's adventure, this is a beautifully crafted tale of courage, loss, and impossible choices, perfect for readers who love history soaked in fantasy.

## The Big Tease(I)

What, you ask, have we got coming up over the next few months? Well, we're glad you asked; here's what we are currently planning.

### Events

From 3rd March - Alastair Braidwood's 'Live Audiobook' of *Far From The Madding Crowd* continues on Tuesday evenings (multiple weeks)

7th March - Georgia Piggott, author of the Alice Chronicles (Sat morning)

14th March - Gerald Killingworth and Paula Harmon, local authors (Sat AM)

18th April - Jeni Bell and Karen Heaney, authors of 111 Places in Dorset That You Shouldn't Miss (Saturday morning)

5th May - An evening of folk horror, spooky tales, and music by the team behind General Witchfinders magazine (Tuesday evening)

9th May - Estelle Philipps, author of Into My Arms (Saturday afternoon)

19th May - John Wright author of Grasslands and many other nature titles (Tuesday evening)

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

The Tattooed Hills by Jon Woolcott - 9 April

The Book of Birds by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris - 7 May

Grasslands by John Wright - 7 May

Land by Maggie O'Farrell - 2 June



**Dorchester's Independent Bookshop**  
**Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm**  
**07424 619496**

Teasel & Skylark  
2 Georgian House  
Trinity Street  
Dorchester  
Dorset DT1 1UB

What 3 Words: equipment//fizzled//supporter

## Teasel & Skylark on Bookshop.org

You can buy online and still support our independent bookshop. Visit our shop on [bookshop.org](https://uk.bookshop.org) and select us at the checkout and we receive a commission on sales - check us out on there now as we have curated some lists of books for all topics and keep adding new content.

<https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/teaselandskylark>

# Literary Event coming up this month

TEASEL & SKYLARK

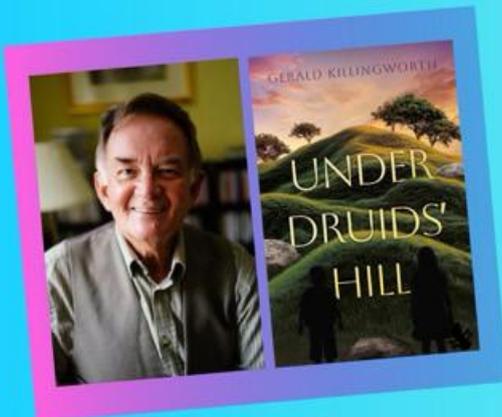
## DECEIVING MEMORIES

Is it safe to revisit our past?  
Two local authors reflect on the powerful but  
unreliable memories which are central to  
their novels

Saturday 14 March 2026

1pm to 3pm

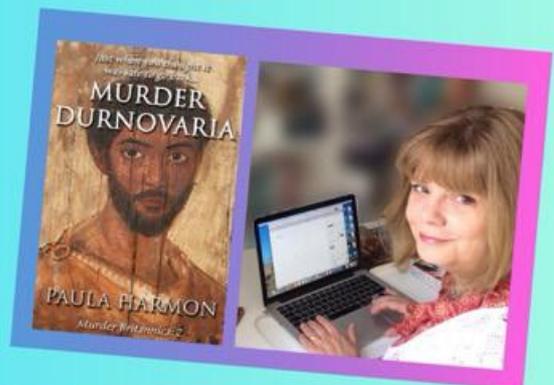
Casterbridge Room  
The King's Arms Hotel  
Dorchester



Dorset novelist, poet and playwright **Gerald Killingworth** launches his latest novel **Under Druids' Hill**.

A return visit to a place of childhood idyll leads to a shattering discovery. The past was not what it seemed and there is now a mystery to solve.

**Paula Harmon**, author of historical mystery fiction, will discuss her novel **Murder Durnovaria** (set in Roman Era Dorchester and part of her Murder Britannica series), in which revisiting the past turns into murder. Paula will also talk about how a buried memory is at the core of the first Margaret Demeray book **The Wrong Sort to Die**.



**Tickets: £8**  
Includes tea and coffee

(Tickets available from Teasel & Skylark Books, Trinity Street)  
[www.teaselskylark.com](http://www.teaselskylark.com)