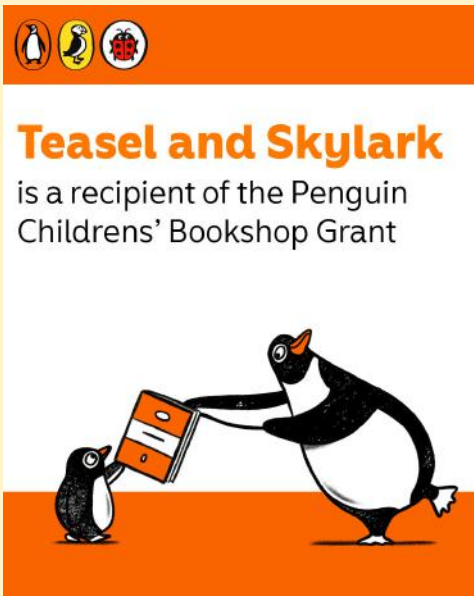


Skylarking



We've Been Awarded a Penguin Children's Bookshop Grant! One of only 44 shops across the whole country

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a prestigious grant from Penguin Random House to run a project designed to encourage reluctant younger readers to develop a lifelong love of books - the only bookshop in Dorset to get such funding and one of only 44 shops across the country.



Earlier in the year, Penguin launched this grant as part of its commitment to the National Year of Reading and to encourage children and young people to read for pleasure and make reading joyful, fun, and part of their everyday life. As these values couldn't be more aligned to our own, we applied with a pitch for **The Teasel & Skylark Young Reviewers' Club**. We are grateful to Penguin for this award and for recognising what we aim to achieve in this project.

The Young Reviewers' Club will launch this summer and will be a six-month long project removing financial barriers to reading while building confidence, encouraging creativity and helping children feel a sense of ownership of their reading.

50 children from our local community, aged between 4 and 14, will be selected for the project through schools and parents and will receive books to keep and invited to create reviews which will be used to guide and inspire other readers. Full details will be on our website.

Independent Bookshop Week: What we are doing

You will know that we have been chosen as one of only 20 bookshops in the UK to act as a **Bookshop Champion** for Independent Bookshop Week (**13 to 20 June 2026**). What we have planned demonstrates just some of the vital roles that independent bookshops play in their communities across the UK. Please support if you can and do call in the shop for surprise offers, promotions and the odd giveaway or two!

Tuesday 16 June - 7pm: Author **Faith Eckersall** launches her new Dorset-set cosy crime novel, *Death by Canapé*, at The King's Arms Hotel.

Wednesday 17 June - 7pm: T&S **Great Big (Ever-so-slightly) Book Quiz** for **Mid-Dorset Mencap**. Quizzical fun, cash prizes, raffle and fun with friends to raise money for great cause.

All week - We are a collection point for the **Pop-up Pride Family Trail** event across Dorchester.

Coming up in June



TEASEL & SKYLARK

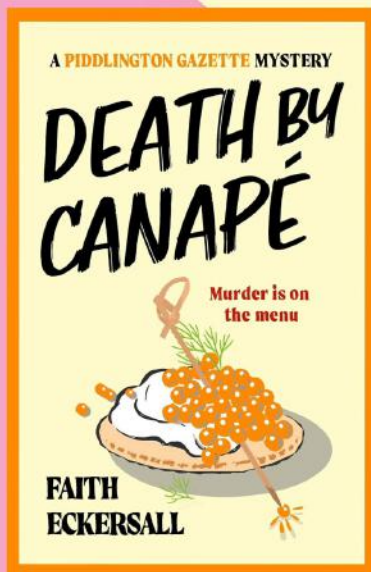


PRESENTS

DEATH BY CANAPÉ

Author Faith Eckersall launches her
brand new novel

The second book in the hilarious
Piddlington Gazette Mysteries
series set in Dorset



*Join Faith as she launches her new
book in an evening of Dorset-set cosy
crime, canapes, and chat*

- Meet the author
- Signed copies
- 25% off the book
- Cosy, fun, and totally local



Tuesday 16th June



7.00pm

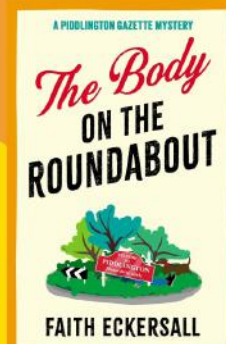


The King's Arms, Hotel



Ticket £5

Includes entry to the event and £5
voucher off the book!
Plus, bring a friend for free.



Don't Miss This One - book now in the shop or online

PIDDLINGTON GAZETTE MYSTERIES

LOCAL AUTHOR

LOCAL SETTING

KILLER READ

Book Your Place Now!

What have we been up to?

Our collaboration with the **General Witchfinders** with their live podcast and launch of the latest issue of their zine was a sold out success early in the month. The packed evening included readings from the latest issue, live music from The Whitley Lake Band and The Flaming Cactus Band, and an overview of the creepy foundations of British folk horror. Everybody had a great time and we want to say a thank you to the team, the bands, and the King's Arms Hotel ... and everyone who came along. *(See page 7 for more GW news!)*



We were also joined by author and naturalist, John Wright, who spoke about his latest book, *Grasslands*, and in particular, the West Dorset nature reserve he played an instrumental part in saving, Hog Cliff. His passion and enthusiasm for the natural world was a real joy to hear and he inspired us all to slow down a little on our next country walk and truly notice what's around us.

As John put it so beautifully, if we can learn to see the beauty in these often-overlooked species, we can learn to love them — and if we love them, we can inspire others to protect and preserve them too. It's a message that feels especially important at a time when so much of the natural world is under threat.



Details of events coming up in the second half of 2026 can be found on our website - or **sign up to our mailing list** to make sure you don't miss out.

Our Top 10 Books - May 2026

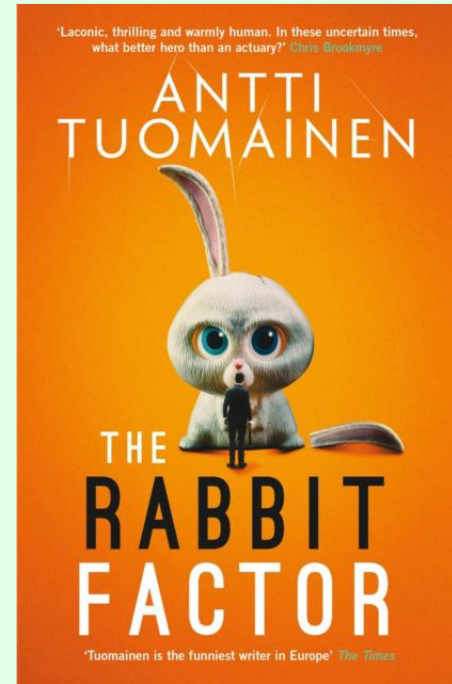
1. **Murder at Gulls Nest** by Jess Kidd
2. **Grasslands** by John Wright
3. **The Book of Birds** by Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris
4. **Weird Guide Britain** by Dave Hamilton
5. **The Tattooed Hills** by Jon Woolcott
6. **Upon a White Horse** by Peter Ross
7. **The Given World** by Melissa Harrison
8. **111 Places in Dorset That You Shouldn't Miss** by Jeni Bell & Karen Heaney
9. **John of John** by Douglas Stuart
10. **Is A River Alive?** by Robert Macfarlane



David's Book Review of the Month: The Rabbit Factor by Antti

Rabbit Factor by Antti Tuomainen is somewhat indefinable as it crosses so many genres which makes it all the more delectable! Essentially a crime novel, it is so much more as we get to know how the mind of maths-obsessed actuary Henri Koskinen works, as his neat and ordered world completely unravels in no uncertain terms - losing his job, losing his brother, gaining an adventure park full of deliciously quirky characters, all whilst dealing with a catastrophically criminally minded gang of, well, gangsters!

Rabbit Factor is such an enjoyable romp in which Antti deftly and expertly manages to combine the murderous, the absurd and the deeply warm and touching with the dexterity of a master juggler. The first in a series of 3 books, highly recommended, and available right now at Teasel and Skylark! Now, where's Book 2....?



T&S Pets' Corner



The recent heatwave didn't deter Opal and Ruby (our hardest workers in Team T&S), but they did opt to work from home to get more done. Here they are preparing for a strategic planning meeting. Great work girls!

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](https://uk.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 of the Month: The Given World by Melissa Harrison

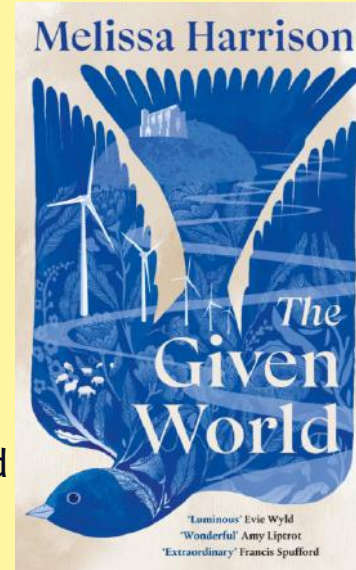
The Given World is a stunning, immersive, and wholly unforgettable novel built around an ensemble of interconnected lives in a village in the fictional Welm Valley. Each chapter introduces us to a new member of the community – farmers, newcomers, widowers, workers, healers, and difficult neighbours all moving around each other as the seasons turn.

If there was a main character, it would be the village itself – or rather the very land on which the village stands. The landscape is written in such vivid detail that it feels alive: every hedgerow, birdsong, or change in weather feels utterly real and the result is that you don't just read about the valley,

you inhabit it. However, running beneath the beauty is an ominous undercurrent that something is not quite right with the land itself. This gives the novel an almost folkloric feeling at times as every small detail seems charged with meaning.

What struck me most is how perfectly the novel captures themes that are so close to our hearts here at Teasel & Skylark – the quiet wonder at what is on our doorstep and appreciating the emotional and psychological benefits of reconnecting with the natural world. This superb novel shows that nature-writing isn't separate from human life, it is human life.

I found it to be a beautifully written, richly observed, and profoundly moving character-led novel that I didn't want to end ... so you won't be surprised that I strongly recommend it.



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

Name the cities where these novels are predominantly set:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Death on the Nile | 6. I, Claudius |
| 2. The Catcher in the Rye | 7. Oliver Twist |
| 3. The Da Vinci Code | 8. Goodbye to Berlin |
| 4. The Unbearable Lightness of Being | 9. Ulysses |
| 5. The Picture of Dorian Gray | 10. The Big Sleep |

Answers to May Quiz: Anagrams

How did you get on?!

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Treasure Island | 2. War and Peace |
| 3. Lord of the Flies | 4. Frankenstein |
| 5. Nostromo | 6. The Great Gatsby |
| 7. Howards End | 8. Tender is the Night |
| 9. Little Women | 10. Wuthering Heights |

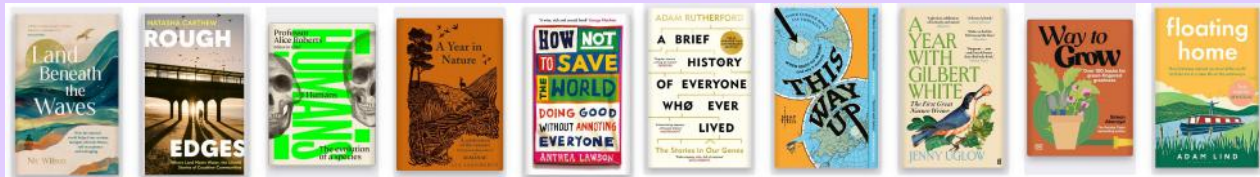
Buying for Book Clubs?

If you're buying books for a 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.

New Books on the Shelves for June

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 June

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.

David Palmer - Crafty Stamps

Stationery and art created with original postage stamps

Inspired by his father's lifelong love of stamps, David founded Crafty Stamps to give new life to a remarkable family collection. Following his father's death in 2007, David inherited the vast collection of stamps and, rather than let it be discarded, transformed it into unique stationery and artwork. Today, Crafty Stamps celebrates both the beauty of vintage stamps and the legacy of a father whose passion continues to inspire every piece David creates.

We love these stamp collections and we are thrilled that David provided us with a range of classic children's literature themed stamps including Beatrix Potter, Winnie the Pooh, and Thomas the Tank Engine for our shop.

Find out more about David and his work, including bespoke pieces, on his website: <https://crafty-stamps.co.uk/>



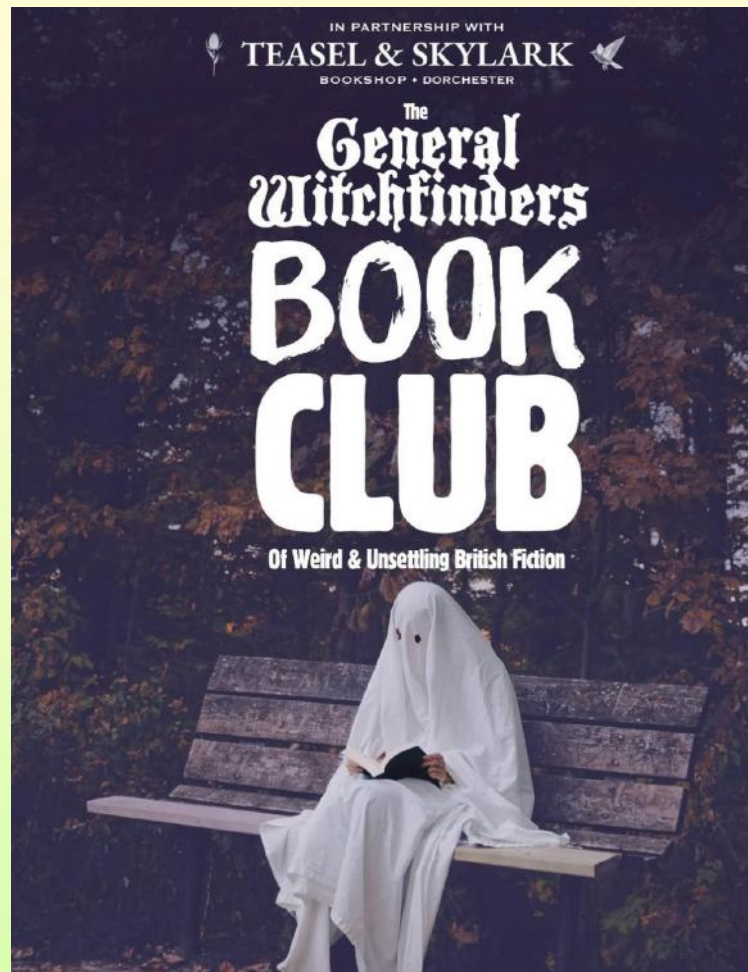
Book Club

Following the huge success of the General Witchfinders event last month, we had numerous requests from customers for a genre-based book club, specifically focusing on British folk horror fiction.

So we are pleased to announce that the team behind the podcast and zine have set up a club in association with Teasel & Skylark. In-person meetings will be every other month, on the second Wednesday of the month. Location is The King's Arms Hotel in Dorchester. It's free to join so get in touch if you want to sign up or want more info. First meeting is 8 July at 7pm.

Our regular book club had its first meeting last month, where it read and discussed *The Boy From The Sea* by Garrett Carr.

We are up to full numbers for this club at the moment (we don't want to make it too large so that members don't get chance to have their say) but if you are interested in joining in the future please let us know and we'll let you know if any places become available.



David's Non-Fiction Book of the Month

Grasslands by John Wright

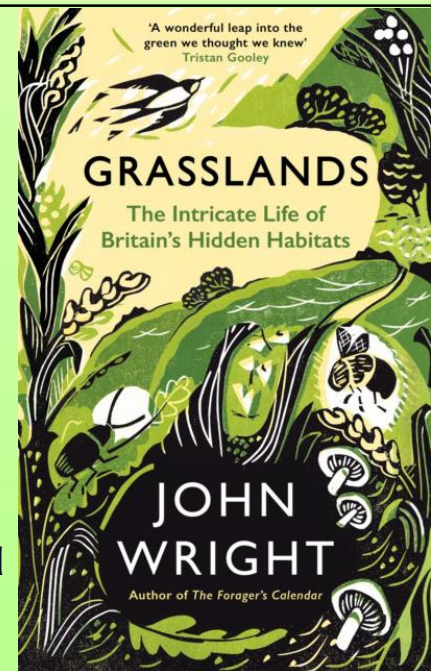
John Wright, one of the UK's most celebrated naturalists and internationally respected authors, has come up with the goods again with his - sometimes portentous - celebration of one of Britain's most underrated and often undervalued habitats, the grassland.

From meadows to wetlands to chalk downlands, John takes the reader through a kaleidoscopic journey of biodiversity of life, whether flora, fauna and of course fungal. Although he doesn't shy away from the damage to these vital habitats from such factors as farming, pollution and neglect, he also has huge hope for the grasslands that still exist and the crucial work that is being done not only to protect them and help them thrive, but also in the creation of new sites for future generations.

Much of the book centres around the beautiful chalk coombe, part of Hog Cliff nature reserve, in my home village and so it particularly resonated with me as I too spend much of my time bathing in its glory, now much more aware of its incredible and amazing species-richness.

A book for all John Wright fans and anyone who cares about our beloved natural landscape.

David



The Dancing Mole

The newsletter for our younger readers

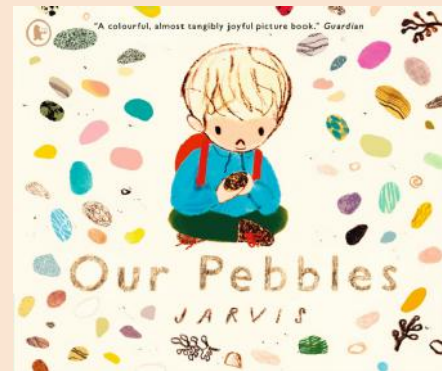
We want you to tell us what books you like reading

If you've had a book from our shop, then we would love to know what you thought of it. Did you enjoy it? If so, what did you like? Would you read another book like that one? Would you recommend to your friends? If you want to write a review of your book, it can be any length and in any format (we don't mind) and ask your parent or guardian to send it in to us (shop or email). If we use your review in the shop or on our website, you may even win a prize!

Our Children's pick for June - Our Pebbles by Jarvis

This gorgeous picture book has very quickly become a favourite here at Teasel & Skylark. Tender and beautifully observed, *Our Pebbles* by Jarvis is a celebration of family, memories, and small, everyday moments that stay with us.

A boy and his grandad regularly go on walks together, travelling through the wonky woods, across the railway track, over the stile and beyond the sand dunes, always arriving at their favourite destination: Pebble Beach. There they pick a pebble, wash it in the sea, paint it, and leave it in their secret place. As time passes and family life changes, the boy looks back on those pebbles and the treasured memories they represent, finding comfort in the strong bond he shared with grandad.



This is a perfect book for shared reading, especially with a grandparent, though it would also make a wonderful first independent read. The story and illustrations make it the kind of picture book that you will want to revisit time and time again, becoming a treasured childhood memory in its own right — just like the pebbles themselves.

Strongly recommended for younger readers ... and probably for our older readers too.

Top 10 Children's Books: May 2026

1. **Ant Party** by Ross Montgomery & Sarah Warburton
2. **Lightfall: A Place Between** by Tim Probert
3. **Wigglesbottom Primary: The Guinea Pig Rescue** by Pamela Butchart
4. **The Sad Ghost Club** by Lize Meddings
5. **Otto The Top Dog** by Catherine Rayner
6. **The Adventures of Portly the Otter** by MG Leonard & Polly Dunbar
7. **The Magic Faraway Tree** by Enid Blyton
8. **The Poisoned King** by Katherine Rundell
9. **Megalomaniacs** by Jamie Smart
10. **Pablo and Splash: Viking Voyage** by Sheena Dempsey



The Big Tease(I)

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



Independent Bookshop Week - 13 to 20 June 2026

(A week to celebrate independent bookshops - check out our social media or visit the shop for promos, offers, and the odd surprise or two!)



16th June - Death by Canapé by Faith Eckersall



17th June - Teasel & Skylark's Great Big Bookish Quiz Night (for Mencap)



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

- **Land** by Maggie O'Farrell - 02/06
- **Whistler** by Ann Patchett - 02/06
- **Rough Edges** by Natasha Carthew - 04/06
- **Togetherness** by Rowan Hooper - 04/06
- **Mr Sidhu's Post Office** by Amman Brar - 02/07
- **The Neverfear** by Katherine Rundell - 27/08
- Taipei Story by Rebecca F Kuang - 08/09
- **Gruffalo Granny** by Julia Donaldson - 10/09
- **Down Burrow Lane** by Michael Morpurgo - 17/09
- **The Nature of Seeing** by Mark Cocker - 08/10

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 up in June



TEASEL & SKYLARK



GREAT BIG

(ever-so-slightly)

BOOKISH QUIZ NIGHT

IN SUPPORT OF

mencap
Mid Dorset

WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE AT 7PM

£5
ENTRY FEE

THE
KING'S ARMS
HOTEL
DORCHESTER

TEAMS
UP TO **4**
PER TEAM

A fun, friendly night of quizzy goodness, prizes, silliness, and (just a touch of) bookish brilliance ... raising money for Mid-Dorset Mencap



PART OF
INDEPENDENT
BOOKSHOP
WEEK 2026

BOOK NOW:
Pop into the shop or book your place online

*Quizzy fun!
Great company!*

*Workplace teams welcome!
Bring your friends*



Have a fun night with friends and make a difference

Slightly Bookish but lots of fun!



Profits go to Mid-Dorset Mencap

Cash prize for winning team

Runner up prizes

Raffle

Games