

# Skylarking



## Teasel & Skylark: Independent Bookshop Champion for 2026!

We are incredibly excited to say that Teasel & Skylark has been chosen to be **one of only 20 Bookshop Champions** for this year's Independent Bookshop Week.

Independent Bookshop Week runs between **13 and 20 June** and is a campaign led by the Booksellers Association, of which we are a member. The campaign brings together booksellers, writers, artists, publishers, and readers across the UK and Ireland to champion the vital role independent bookshops play in bringing communities together locally, supporting the creative industries nationally and inspiring reading for pleasure for everyone.

We are especially proud to represent independent bookshops in what is the **20th year of this campaign** and particularly as we are still within our own first year.

Details of what we have planned for the week will follow very soon ... the first of which we can exclusively announce below!

## Teasel & Skylark's Great Big (ever-so-slightly) Bookish Charity Quiz Night (for Mencap)

Date - Wednesday 17 June

Time - From 7pm

Place - The King's Arms Hotel, Dorchester

What - A light-hearted, sociable, and ever-so-slightly bookish quiz night to raise money for Mencap ... watch out on our social media/posters in shop for more details. Hope to see a lot of you there.



# Coming up in May



TEASEL & SKYLARK



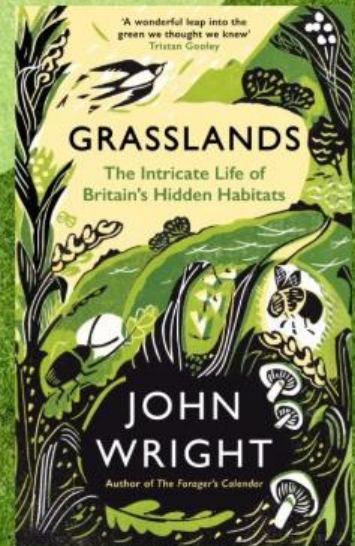
hosts

## Grasslands

**Not just grass. A hidden world**  
**An evening with naturalist, John Wright**

**Tuesday 19 May 2026 • 7pm**

**The King's Arms Hotel,  
Dorchester**



Join John Wright, one of our best-known naturalists, as he uncovers the beauty and rich diversity of Britain's grasslands.

- The story of Britain's overlooked habitats
- Wildflowers, fungi, insects & hidden ecosystems
- What we risk losing—and how to protect it



John shows why we should care. Because grasslands are never just patches of grass.

**Don't miss out and book your ticket today.**

**TICKETS £5 \***

**TICKET+BOOK £20**

(\*Save 30% on book RRP £22)

Book now: Teasel & Skylark Books, Trinity Street  
or visit: [www.teaselskylark.com/events](http://www.teaselskylark.com/events)

## Book Your Place Now!

## What have we been up to?

We held our first ever event for children during the Easter holidays, with huge thanks to the brilliant Eileen Browne and the amazing team at The Prince of Wales School.

The children loved the session and Eileen's enthusiasm as she got them moving to music and captured their imaginations through readings of her wonderful Handa books.

Everyone who attended - including the grown-ups - had a great time joining in!



Later in the month, we were lucky enough to have authors Jeni Bell and Karen Heaney join us in The King's Arms Hotel for a hugely enjoyable peek behind the scenes of their best-selling book - **111 Places in Dorset That You Shouldn't Miss**. From fake shops to taking a donkey for a walk, their talk offered a fascinating glimpse at some of Dorset's lesser-known treats and hidden gems.

Details of events coming up in 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 - April 2026

1. **111 Places in Dorset That You Shouldn't Miss** by Jeni Bell & Karen Heaney
2. **The Names** by Florence Knapp
3. **Lost Souls Meet Under A Full Moon** by Mizuki Tsujimura
4. **The Boy From The Sea** by Garrett Carr

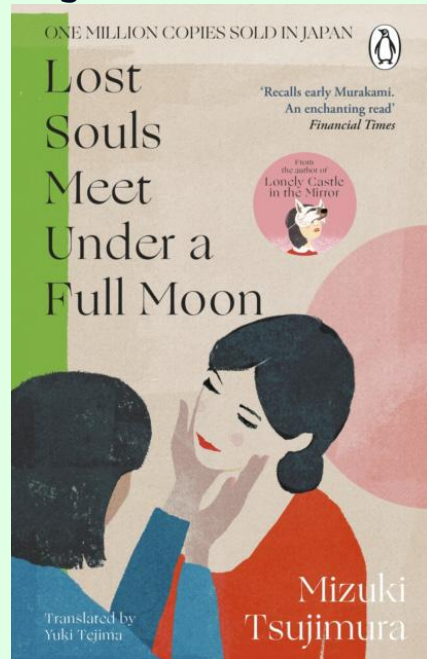
5. **The World Within** by Guy Stagg
6. **The Other Bennet Sister** by Janice Hadlow
7. **Of Thorn & Briar** by Paul Lamb
8. **Is A River Alive?** by Robert Macfarlane
9. **Bird School** by Adam Nicolson
10. **Lolly Willows** by Sylvia Townsend Warner



## David's Book Review of the Month

### Lost Souls Meet Under a Full Moon by Mizuki Tsujimura

A beautiful, heart-warming but saccharine-free study of grief and loss and what it might mean to be able to see someone who has died for one last time.



Four unconnected people each have an issue that can only be potentially resolved by meeting a departed soul - a celebrity, a family member, a best friend, a fiancé - and it's the job of the go-between to make this meeting happen, but only if the deceased is willing.

I thoroughly enjoyed how each of these stories played out, and loved the way that Tsujimura deals with such a sad concept in such a positive and thought-provoking manner. Another sparkling and supremely enchanting Japanese novel that I could not recommend more highly.

Who would you choose to meet ...?

## 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!

## Buy Online

If you select Teasel & Skylark as your shop on **bookshop.org** this really helps us out. Check out our shop at: <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/teaselandskylark>

## T&S Pets' Corner

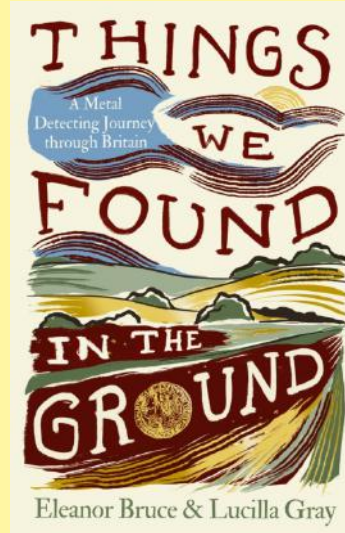


Ok, so definitely not a pet, but say hello to Mrs Fox who is a frequent visitor chez Tomlinson along with at least 3 hedgehog - hooray for nature literally on your doorstep!!

## Richard's Book Review of the Month

### Things We Found in the Ground by Eleanor Bruce and Lucilla Gray

There's something immediately engaging about *Things We Found in the Ground*, at times it reads like being invited along on a windswept walk with two very enthusiastic companions. Rather than a traditional guide to metal detecting, this is a highly personal memoir about reconnecting (with each other, with place, and with the past) which finds joy in the small things — a fragment of pottery, a half-forgotten coin, a good day spent outdoors. This is less about big discoveries and more about the quiet, tangible moments that make history feel close enough to hold.



The authors' shared enthusiasm is infectious, capturing both the patience and the pleasure of time spent searching, talking, and noticing what's underfoot.

The book also gently challenges expectations, portraying metal detecting as accessible, communal, and even quietly profound rather than niche or eccentric.

Overall, this is an engaging, down-to-earth read that celebrates curiosity, companionship, and the stories waiting just beneath the surface.

## Quiz Corner

Who doesn't love anagrammatical brainbenders?! So this month you have to unscramble these silly phrases to uncover the very well known book titles:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. RARE LAND TISSUE   | 6. THEY TARGET BAGS    |
| 2. DAWN, RACE APE!    | 7. SHOWN DREAD         |
| 3. FISH FOOD TELLER   | 8. SORT MOON           |
| 4. TEN FINE RANKS     | 9. MEET TILL NOW       |
| 5. TENTH TIDINGS HERE | 10. THITHER HUGE SWING |

### Answers to April Quiz: Only Connections

1. They are all titles in the crime series by Tim Sullivan
2. The March sisters in Little Women
3. 'Strange - ' titles of the four Uketsu books
4. 'The - Murder' locations / titles in the series of Dorset Crime books by Rachel McLean
5. The pets of Teasel & Skylark!
6. Leading Roald Dahl characters

### 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 May

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

New Non-Fiction



New Fiction



New Children's Books

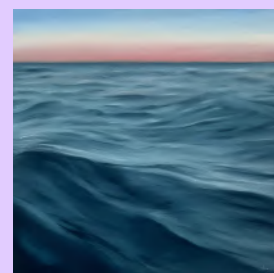
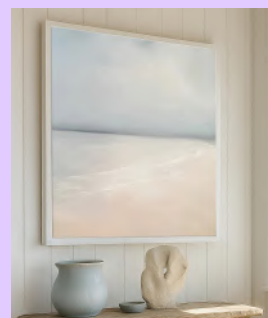


## Featured Artist for May

*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.*

### Magda Malak Fine Art

Magda has a passion for painting seascapes. Living on the Dorset coast, she sees the sea as a place of steadiness rather than spectacle, creating her beautiful work after many long and thoughtful observations of water, light, and horizon. Using a restrained palette and layered, intuitive mark-making, she says she allows each work to unfold slowly, where atmosphere matters more than detail and movement is suggested rather than described. The paintings reflect the sea's quiet constancy, she says, offering a sense of calm and rhythm. Magda sees painting as a form of regulation rather than expression, creating works that hold stillness, continuity, and emotional restraint within an increasingly restless world. We just love them for their timeless and evocative beauty - come in soon and witness them for yourselves.



# The Dancing Mole

The newsletter for our younger readers

## We want your reviews!

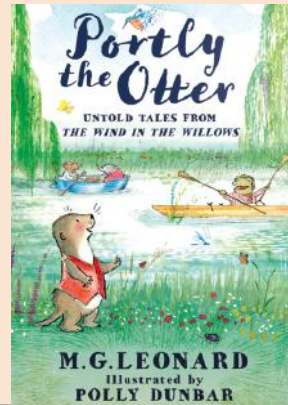
What is your favourite book? Would you like to tell others about what you liked about it? If you'd like to review a book and have it featured in this newsletter, ask your parent or guardian to speak to us about getting it printed. If we feature your review, you could even win a prize.



## Our Children's pick for May

### The Adventures of Portly the Otter by MG Leonard & Polly Dunbar

An absolutely delightful book, overflowing with joy, wonder, and wild adventure. Set in the beloved world of *The Wind in the Willows* the story feels both fresh and familiar. From the first page, Portly splashes into your life with irresistible energy: curious, kind, and instantly lovable as he struggles to find his place in the world. His adventures feature many welcome appearances from old favourites (Mole, Ratty, Mr Toad, and Badger) but this is very much Portly's story, and you find yourself rooting for him from the start. The story flows as beautifully as the river he calls home – balancing humour with themes of friendship, courage, and self-discovery. There are even a few lovely call-backs to Grahame's original works which will surely delight any adults reading this to their children.



## Top 10 Children's Books: April 2026

1. **Handa's Hen** by Eileen Browne
2. **The Magic Faraway Tree** by Enid Blyton
3. **Ant Party** by Ross Montgomery and Sarah Warburton
4. **Oh Dear, Look What I Got** by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury
5. **Handa's Surprise** by Eileen Browne
6. **Portly the Otter** by M.G. Leonard and Polly Dunbar
7. **Kiki's Delivery Service** by Eiko Kadono
8. **Spyglass** by David Solomons
9. **Mouse by the Sea** by Alice Melvin
10. **Howl's Moving Castle** by Diana Wynne Jones

## The Big Tease(I)

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



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

**PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT**



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



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



## 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.



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

- **Grasslands** by John Wright - 07/05
- **The Savage Landscape** by Cal Flynn - 07/05
- **John of John** by Douglas Stuart - 07/05
- **The Things We Never Say** by Elizabeth Strout - 07/05
- **The Given World** by Melissa Harrison - 14/05
- **Land** by Maggie O'Farrell - 02/06
- **Rough Edges** by Natasha Carthew - 04/06
- **The Neverfear** by Katherine Rundell - 27/08

## 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

Coming up in May

TEASEL & SKYLARK



**SOLD OUT**

**FOLK HORROR**

**BRITAIN. AN ANCIENT KINGDOM WITH LEGENDS OF VIOLENCE, CRUELTY, AND TORMENT IN ITS BLOOD.**

Join the hosts of *THE GENERAL WITCHFINDERS PODCAST*, in league with *TEASEL AND SKYLARK*, Dorchester's premier purveyors of fine books, for an evening dedicated to the twisted roots of Folk Horror. Unearth the fiction and film that haunts the British Isles. This includes the gothic heights of *HAMMER HORROR*, the towering shadow of *CHRISTOPHER LEE* in *THE WICKER MAN*, and the unsettling brilliance of *NIGEL KNEALE*. Featuring live music from *THE FLAMING CACTUS BAND* and acoustic reverie from *THE WHITLEY LAKE BAND*. Culminating in the launch of the *LATEST ISSUE OF THE GENERAL WITCHFINDERS ZINE*, a celebratory collection of uncanny *BELTANE - INSPIRED* short stories, articles, and art.

**RECOMMENDED FOR THE OVER 15s**

**THE KINGS  
ARMS  
HOTEL  
DORCHESTER**

**TICKETS  
EIGHT POUNDS  
TEASANDSKYLARK.COM  
/ EVENTS  
AND IN STORE**

**TUESDAY  
7PM/5TH  
MAY**