

Skylarking



We Are One Year Old!

Well ... we did it ... we survived our first year and officially turned one on 4th August 2026! What started off as a long-held dream and almost a joke between friends, we thought 'what if ...' back in the spring of 2025 and started looking at commercial properties in Dorchester. And we are so glad that we did.



Whilst in some ways it feels like the year has gone in a flash, in other ways it feels like we have been Teasel & Skylark forever ... and it's very hard to imagine life without it now. We hope to continue doing what we love for as long as we can and we have the wonderful people of Dorchester to thank for supporting us during our first year. We have met so many amazing people and we want to thank all of our brilliant customers for their support and encouragement - you are the best! And, as a way of saying thank you, we are having our 'official birthday' on **Saturday 8th August in the shop** - where there will be **10% off books all day**, sweets, surprise giveaways and - if you're around at 11am - cake too!

Looking Back

- 15 events including author talks, book launches, readings, and a quiz night
- Over 30 local writers and poets in stock
- 12 local artists and makers in stock
- 3 book clubs (fiction, nature, folk horror)
- Community partnerships (inc. Plaza, Mencap)
- Young Reviewer Club providing free books to 50 local children
- Christmas Poetry competition
- 3 Dorchester Business Awards - including 'Overall Business of the Year'
- Independent Bookshop Champion status
- Loads of amazing customers!

Looking Forward

- Many more events planned including Catherine Clarke, Peter Tait and Jon Woolcott in the Autumn.
- Interactive events including creative writing course, foraging, guided nature walks, and many other ideas
 - Christmas Quiz for Mencap
 - Halloween and Christmas readings
- Young Reviewer Club Celebration Party
- More reviews of current and forthcoming books through the Bookseller Circle
- Continue to listen to our customers and be your independent bookshop!



TEASEL & SKYLARK



It's our first birthday!

Saturday 8 August

Help us celebrate ...



**Call in any time on Saturday 8 August for
sweets, treats, giveaways**

10% off all books all day

Cake-cutting and drinks at 11.00 am

Everybody welcome!

What have we been up to?



Our **Young Reviewers' Club** is now in full swing and our readers have been coming in to choose their free books. One of our first reviews was from Eli, 8, who reviewed *Investigators*, and said: *"I liked this book because it's really funny, and there are hilarious character names like Crackerdile and Gustavo Mustachio. If Brash wasn't always angry, I would've given it five stars, but it's still very good! I recommend it."* ★★★★★ " Brilliant, thanks Eli!

Tuesday 28th saw the launch of Tracy Hayes' and Syd Braham's new book, **Great Things - Hardy's Hostelries**. The book is a fantastic guide to the inns, taverns and pubs that feature in Hardy's novels and poetry, many of which are still in existence. Available right now in T&S, why not create your very own Hardy's pub crawl!



The Booksellers' Circle

is the independent bookshops' bible for book reviews and comes out every month, and we are



delighted to be able to announce that we just become their latest contributors! It does mean we have to read a million books every month but on the upside we'll be giving you the scoop on lots of new titles before they are released - see our new page for some new books!

Our Top 10 Books - July 2026

1. **The Correspondent** - Virginia Evans
2. **Heart the Lover** - Lily King
3. **Stone Lands** - Fiona Robertson
4. **What We Can Know** - Ian McEwan
5. **The Death of Us** - Abigail Dean

6. **The Eights** - Joanna Miller

7. **The Impossible Thing** - Belinda Bauer

8. **An Almost Impossible Thing** - Fiona Davison

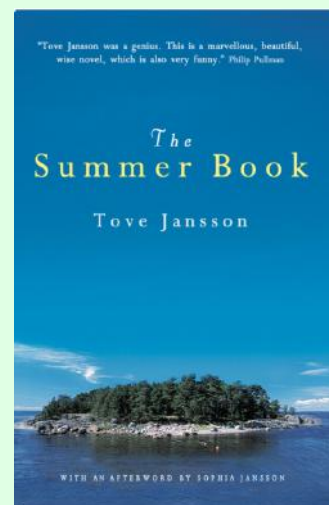
9. **RSPB Pocket Book of Hedgehogs** - Hugh Warwick

10. **The Book of Birds** - Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris



David's Book Review of the Month: *The Summer Book*, by Tove Jansson

Better known, of course, for her ever-popular children's creation, the Moomins, Tove Jansson also wrote a number of novels and short stories for adults, this being probably her most well-known and well-loved - and was indeed her own personal favourite. The main characters, a young girl and her grandmother, are based on Tove's own mother and niece and provide the reader with a brilliantly quirky inter-generational double act, sometimes warm and friendly and sometimes just delightfully spiky and brusque! They live on a tiny island - almost a character in its own right - in the Gulf of Finland, but instead of claustrophobia you get a sense that it's at least ten times the size, given the adventures that they get up to. I really enjoyed the way that the book meanders beautifully, and indeed philosophically, through each chapter, whilst quietly navigating through their relational issues, against a backdrop of bereavement. Soon to be released as a film starring Glenn Close, I recommend this book if you want a beautiful, thought-provoking, summer read.



T&S Pets' Corner

Here's Nutmeg, finding the heat all a bit too much, especially after a hard day's work doing the end of month reconciliations. Bless her little paws.



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!

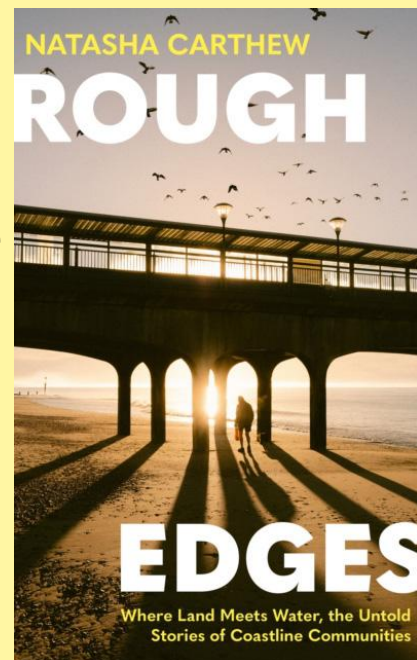
Want to shop online and still support indie bookshops like ours? Well now you can ... thanks to the rather brilliant bookshop.org. Browse our curated lists on there, select us as your chosen bookshop and buy from us online - <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/teaselandskylark>

Richard's Book Review for August: Rough Edges by Natasha Carthew

Natasha Carthew takes us beyond the picture-postcard image of Britain's coastline to reveal the lives of the people who call it home. Blending memoir, travel writing and social commentary, *Rough Edges* explores the realities of working-class coastal communities facing poverty, pollution, rising house prices and the erosion of local identity. Drawing on her own upbringing in Cornwall, Carthew creates a deeply personal and compassionate portrait of life 'on the edge', asking what home, belonging and opportunity really mean.

As someone who also grew up in a seaside town, I found the book profoundly affecting. Much of what Carthew writes about felt immediately familiar; the contrast between bustling summers and quiet winters, the sense of being overlooked, and the complicated relationship between loving the place that shaped you while yearning to leave it. What resonated most strongly was her exploration of ambition - the tension between leaving to build a future and remaining fiercely proud of your roots. That theme runs through every chapter, giving the book both emotional honesty and real depth.

Rather than romanticising coastal towns, the book gives voice to communities dealing with insecure employment, widening inequality and increasing social problems. Yet this is not a book of despair. Carthew writes with warmth, honesty and a great deal of empathy, celebrating the humour and solidarity that continue to define such places. Beautifully written, fiercely compassionate and powerful, this book will make you look again at places you thought you knew. It is sure to resonate with anyone who has ever loved where they come from while wondering what else the world might hold.



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

Unscramble these anagrams to find a famous author:

1. HI REDNECK CLASS
2. LEARN LIKE THUNDER
3. HA, ATHEIST RAG
4. ELABORATE MR FRANC
5. GET PINK HENS
6. CORNISH DRAMA
7. UNRIPE DRUM AHEAD
8. ICED HELL

Every month, how many books are published in the UK alone?

Is it:

- a) between 2,000 and 5,000?
- b) between 8,000 and 10,000?
- c) between 12,000 and 15,000?
- d) between 18,000 and 21,000?

New Books on the Shelves for August

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

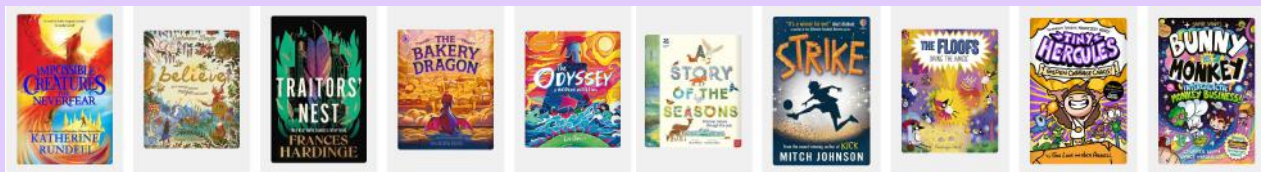
New Non-Fiction



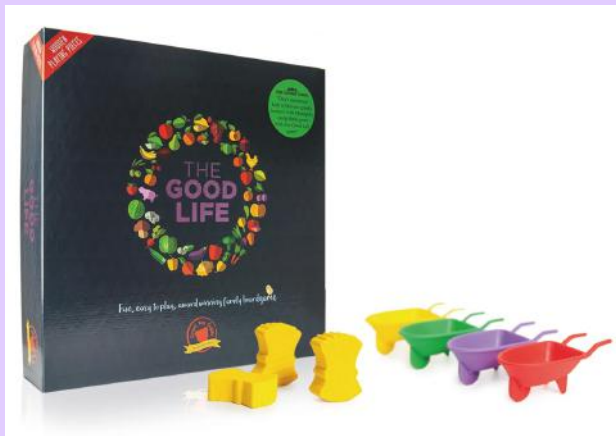
New Fiction



New Children's Books



Featured Product for August: The Good Life board game



The Good Life is a lavish, eco-themed board game for 2-4 players aged 7 and up, designed to simulate self-sufficiency through gardening - think a gardening-style Monopoly. Players navigate a sturdy board with plastic wheelbarrows as tokens, using haybales as currency to manage crops and animals. The game is made to a high standard

with great quality, durable components, and it has great educational value, particularly through "natural selection" trivia cards featuring environmental topics - so very Teasel and Skylark!

The game boasts endorsements from notable figures like Prince (now King!) Charles as well as TV foodie Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. With gameplay lasting over an hour, the engaging, educational, and fun nature of The Good Life all help to make it a highly recommended addition to family game nights! Grab your own set in store now!



Book Clubs

- The Teasel & Skylark Book Club met on 1st July to discuss **'Swimming Lessons'** by Claire Fuller, which was very well-received and generated much discussion. If you fancy reading this for yourself, copies are still available to buy in the shop.
- The General Witchfinders' Book Club (in partnership with T&S) met for the first time on 8th July to discuss **'Starve Acre'** by Andrew Michael Hurley. Chair, Ross Cleaver, also hosts a podcast which featured the book and so, if you missed out in person, you can listen to that via their website - www.generalwitchfinders.com
- Our brand new nature-writing book club, The Wild Pages, is due to meet on 26 August to discuss **'My Family and Other Seedlings: A Year on a Dorset Allotment'** by Lalage Snow. If you would like to join this book club, **email us now** and it's free to join.



Buying for Book Clubs?

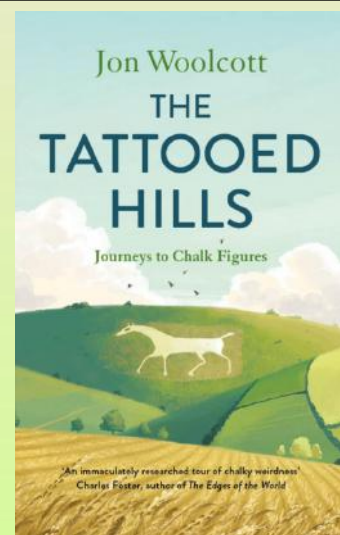
If you're buying books for any other book club and you want more than 5 copies for the group members, you can save 10% when bought together- just ask us in the shop (or email us) and we'll be happy to arrange book orders.

Richard's Non-Fiction Review of Month: **The Tattooed Hills by Jon Woolcott**

A wonderfully told journey into Britain's chalk figures; the giants, horses, mysterious marks and symbols (even the occasional panda) that have been carved into our hillsides – and into our culture – at various points throughout history.

Jon Woolcott seamlessly blends travel writing, folklore, art, history and a deep love of landscape to investigate not just who made these figures, but why they continue to hold such power over us.

For Dorset readers, there are chapters on our very own chalk figures and, even if you think you are familiar with the Cerne Abbas Giant and the Osmington White Horse, this book reminds us how odd, vulnerable and wonderful they are. As with all the figures featured, they have survived because people keep caring for them; clearing, rechalking, arguing over them, retelling their stories and passing on their magic. Woolcott is especially good at placing the figures somewhere between the ordinary and the enchanted; made by human hands, yet somehow belonging to the land itself. Amidst all of the history and the legend, there is also real humanity, as he tells the stories of the people who continue to care for these larger-than-life creations. Written with much wit and warmth, this is a beautifully readable book for anyone who loves landscape, folklore, and history.



Coming soon



TEASEL & SKYLARK



The Tattooed Hills

An illustrated talk with Jon Woolcott

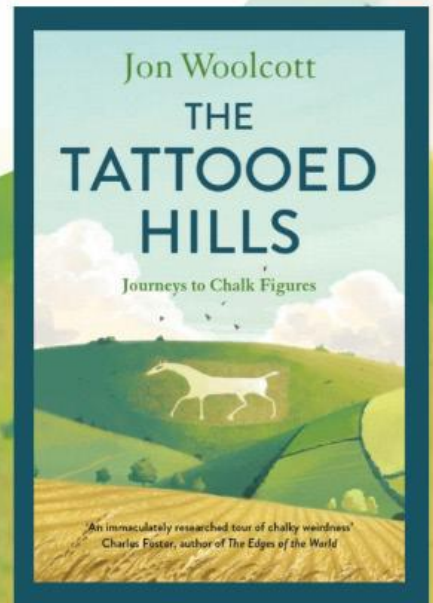
Tuesday 15 September 2026 • 7pm

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!

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

teaselandskylark.com/events



Book Your Place Now!

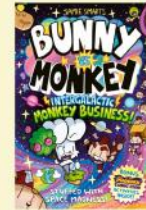
The Dancing Mole

The newsletter for our younger readers

What are our Young Reviewers' Club reading?

With over half of the 50 members signed up at the time of writing, popular choices for the first read have included 'Pablo and Splash', 'Investigators', 'Mirabelle' and 'Grimwood' which are all first in a series. Here is one of our first reviews - thanks Finley, 8, from Damers school for your brilliant review of Bunny vs Monkey: Intergalactic Monkey Business by Jamie Smart.

Bunny Vs Monkey -
Intergalactic Monkey Business by Jamie Smart



I like that the "chapters" are really short, but I did find it a little hard to follow what was happening sometimes.

The comic about frogs was my favourite one as I thought it was very funny - RIBBET!

I love the characters Weenie and Pig as they are really silly together and always make me laugh.

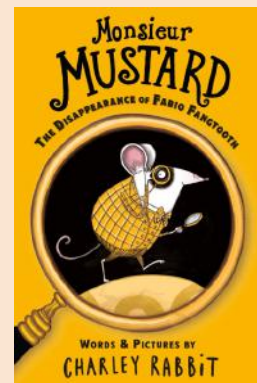


Finley, 8, Damers



David's Children's Book of the Month: Monsieur Mustard: The Disappearance of Fabio Fangtooth, by Charley Rabbit

Welcome to the crazy madcap (and crazy hilarious!) world of Monsieur Mustard, Paris's most famous, fashion-conscious and deliciously detective mouse, hot on the trail of the missing Fabio Fangtooth, Bath's top restaurateur. With the aid - and a considerable amount of hindrance - of a cast of wacky and fabulous characters, will Monsieur M catch the mysterious perpetrator??



Charley Rabbit, an illustrator and designer based near Bath, has managed to create a real gem of a book which takes the graphic novel to a new level, masterfully combining exquisitely drawn comic style graphics with traditional text, all wrapped up in a hugely entertaining and hilarious romp which will captivate and delight children of all ages. A brilliant addition to our children's range, find your copy in store now. Zut Alors!

Top 10 Children's Books: July 2026

1. **Pablo and Splash** - Sheena Dempsey
2. **The Odyssey: A Modern Retelling** by Liv Albert
3. **Mouse by the Sea** by Alice Melvin
4. **Mirabelle and the Enchanted Sea Globe** by Harriet Muncaster
5. **Ant Party** - Ross Montgomery & Sarah Warburton
6. **Investigators** - John Patrick Green
7. **Pog and Pickle's Great Escape** by Ross Montgomery & Sarah Warburton
8. **Monsieur Mustard** - Charley Rabbit
9. **Grimwood** - Nadia Shireen
10. **Woodlore** by Kevin Parr



Books being released soon for pre-order

Here are some of the new books coming out over the next couple of months that we think you will love - and some we have reviewed for the Booksellers' Circle magazine. **If you pre-order any of these titles you'll save 10% off the RRP - just ask us in the shop or email us.**



August

- **The Neverfear** by Katherine Rundell (27/08/26)

The third book in this phenomenally popular middle grade, fantasy series (Impossible Creatures) featuring all manner of incredible and mythical animals.

- **The World Beneath Our Feet: The Hidden Life of Soil And Why it Matters** by Frank Ashford (27/08/26) An exploration of soil - which makes our very existence possible, allowing us to cultivate crops as well as storing precious carbon and the water we need to survive.

September

- **Boglands** by Merritt R Turetsky (27/08/26) - a brilliantly informative and deeply personal account of the world's bogs, fens and marshes, and the fascinating history surrounding them.
- **Rewild** by Benjamin Zephaniah and Emily Sutton (17/09/2026) - Delightful rhyming picture book with a serious but hopeful message about the environment.
- **Stations** by Louise Kennedy (24/09/2026) - a powerfully emotional novel about love, loss, and regret from the author of Trespasses.
- **The Agatha Christie Cure** by Cathy Rentzenbrink (10/09/26) - a highly personal and hopeful journey through Agatha Christie's writing and her brief real-life disappearance
- **The Raven and the Reindeer** by T Kingfisher (01/09/26) - a modern retelling of The Snow Queen, perfect for fans of dark fantasy romance with classic fairytale ingredients.
- **Can't Get You Out of my Head: In Search of Kylie** by Michael Cragg (24/09/26) - a warm and witty look at the career of a true pop icon, blending memoir, interviews and music journalism.
- **Blood, Guts, and Nasty Cuts** by Dr Alanna Skuse (3/9/26) - perfect for bloodthirsty kids, this entertaining book will delight and disgust in equal measure, whilst being superbly informative
- **The Trouble with Magic** by Amy Wilson (10/09/26) - the first in an exciting new middle grade series set in a magical town and filled with dark mysteries and adventure.
- **The Skull** by Jon Klassen (10/9/26) - a darkly humorous and exquisitely illustrated retelling of a Tyrolean folk tale, featuring a runaway girl and the friendship she finds with a skull!

Also Out

- **Taipei Story** by Rebecca F Kuang (08/09/26), **Gruffalo's Granny** by Julia Donaldson (10/09/26), **Our Noble Selves** by Kate Atkinson (10/09/26), **Down Burrow Lane** by Michael Morpurgo (17/09/26) and **Farewell to Eden** by Sebastian Faulkes (17/09/26)

October

- **In One Brief Moment All Eternity** by Elif Shafak - 15/10/26
- **The Nature of Seeing** by Mark Cocker - 08/10/26
- **Peck & Peck** by Bonnie Garmus - 13/10/26



The Big Tease(I)

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



Sat 8 Aug all day - Our First Birthday (sweets, treats, cake-cutting at 11am) *In the shop.*



Tues 15 Sep from 7pm: The Tattooed Hills with Jon Woolcott
- *King's Arms Hotel*



Sat 19 Sep from 11am: Thomas Hardy's Women with Peter Tait - *King's Arms Hotel*



Sat 3 Oct from 11am: A History of England in 25 Poems with Catherine Clarke - *King's Arms Hotel*

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 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.



Dorchester's Independent Bookshop

August Opening Hours

Monday 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 Soon



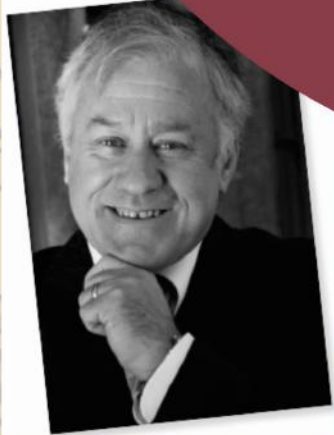
TEASEL & SKYLARK



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

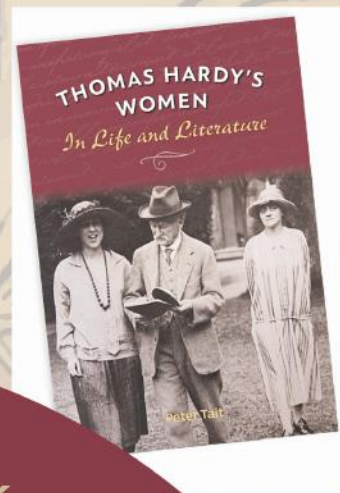
Saturday 19 September 2026 * 11am

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!

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

First meeting -Wednesday 26 August at 7pm



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)