

Skylarking

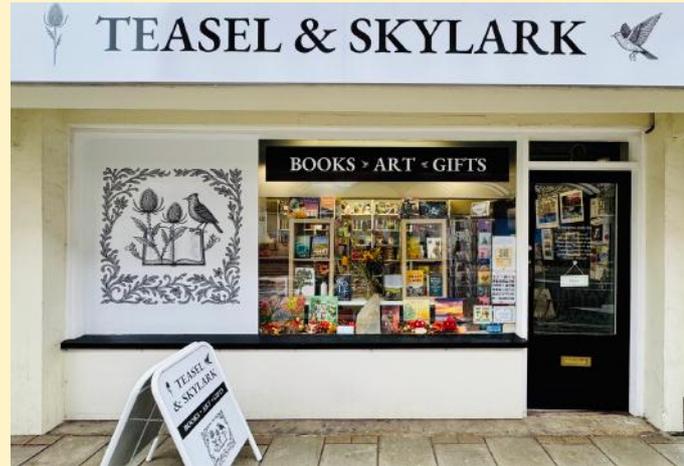


Welcome to Skylarking

Since opening on 4 August 2025, we have met so many amazing people who have given us the best welcome to Dorchester that we could have ever imagined.

So, as a way of staying in touch with everyone, we are launching our monthly newsletter - *Skylarking*. Read about any events we are planning, new books being released, any offers or promotions we are running, book reviews, and occasional glimpses 'behind the scenes' at Teasel & Skylark.

And, as you may be able to tell from the name, there may be the odd joke or an attempt at humour at least! We'd love to know what you think, and we'd like your input into future editions of *Skylarking*, so if you have anything to say, let us know - either in the shop, by email, or WhatsApp.



'Two Writers' author talk

In January, we held our first author talk in the fabulous Casterbridge Room in The King's Arms Hotel in Dorchester. We would like to thank everyone who bought a ticket and we really hope that you enjoyed it. We, of course, also would like to thank the amazing author duo of Elizabeth Cooke and Tess Burnett for making the event such a success, delivering fascinating insights into their writing careers and creativity with supreme professionalism and eloquence.

You can buy copies of the books featured in the talk in Teasel & Skylark and they were - *The Hanging of Hettie Gale* by Tess Burnett, *The Tyger Striped Boy* by Elizabeth Cooke, *The Missing and the Dead* by E. M. Scott, and *The Man Next Door* by E. M. Scott.

Our next event is an exciting 'Live Audiobook' which will be held over seven Tuesday evenings (from 7pm) - local actor and musician, Alastair Braidwood, will be reading Thomas Hardy's *Far From The Madding Crowd*, bringing it to life with some folk music and guided discussion.

Tickets are £7 per evening or £39 for all seven (saving 20%) - full details on next page.

TEASEL & SKYLARK

LIVE AUDIOBOOK

Far From The Madding Crowd

Over seven weeks, actor and musician, Alastair Braidwood reads Thomas Hardy's beloved novel of love, honour, and betrayal, bringing the book to life with music and discussion

Buy a drink from the bar, bring a craft if you like, and relax and just enjoy the story

Every Tuesday starting 17 February 2026
7.00pm- 9.15pm

Casterbridge Room, The King's Arms Hotel,
Dorchester

"I shall do one thing in this life - one thing certain - that is, love you, and long for you, and keep wanting you till I die."

**Tickets: £7 per evening
or buy all seven for £39 to save 20%**

Buy now from Teasel & Skylark Books,
2 Georgian House, Trinity Street

www.teaselandskylark.com/events

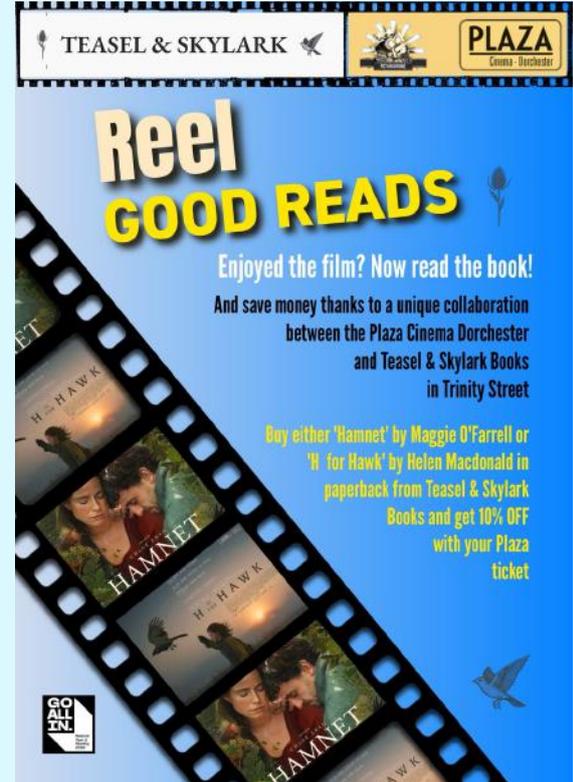
'Reel Good Reads' Campaign

Enjoyed the film? Now read the book.

We have a fantastic partnership with our Trinity Street neighbours, The Plaza Cinema, which we've termed 'Reel Good Reads'.

You can save 10% on selected titles in our shop when you've seen the associated film at the Plaza Dorchester. This month's films/books are *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell and *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald. Simply show us your cinema ticket to get the discount ... and see how the film compared to the original text.

Stay tuned for more book-based film offers soon.



Our Top 10 Books

January 2026

1. *The Hanging of Hettie Gale* by Tess Burnett
2. *The Man Next Door* by E. M. Scott
3. *The Green Ages* by Annette Kehnel
4. *The Missing and the Dead* by E. M. Scott
5. *Winter in the Air* by Sylvia Townsend Warner
6. *This is Your Brain on Music* by Daniel Levitin
7. *Lolly Willowes* by Sylvia Townsend Warner
8. *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell
9. *Death at the White Hart* by Chris Chibnell
10. *An Almost Impossible Thing* by Fiona Davison

What have we been up to?

You may have heard David on BBC Radio Solent doing a feature called Lie Detective on Steve Harris's breakfast show recently (<https://www.instagram.com/p/DTsR9yDCQAZ/>) where he successfully lied his way into tricking Steve into choosing the wrong answer!

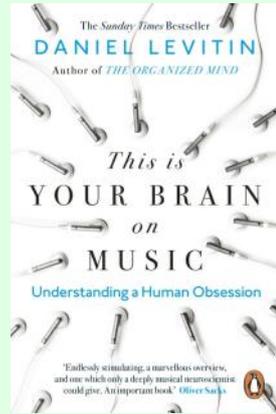
Given that clearly he's such a convincing fibber, here are three more statements about him, only one of which is true - but which one ...?!

1. In between leaving school and starting university in the summer of 1983 he cycled up Mount Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa).
2. During a cruise in the Norwegian fjords last year to celebrate his 60th he met Strictly star, the drag queen La Voix.
3. On holiday in Croatia as a child he trod on a sea urchin and had to go to hospital

But which one is true ...?! #skylarking

David's Book Review of the Month

This is Your Brain on Music by Daniel Levitin is fascinating insight into the science of what is happening in your brain when you listen to music, alongside how music has always been a vital component of human evolution and culture, pre-dating language as a form of communication. Whilst it goes a long way to describing and analysing the ways in which music is heard and decoded by the brain, it never spoils the experience by demystifying everything too much, so the sheer awe and wonder of how music moves us is never lost, quite the opposite. From asking why some people become virtuosos to why some people have perfect pitch, I found this compelling and fascinating in equal measure. For anyone who loves and values the importance of music, in all its wondrous forms!



Find it now on our central table of new and interesting releases.

T&S Book Club

We would love to know your thoughts on a Teasel & Skylark Book Club.

Would you be interested in joining one? How often would you like to meet? And when? What type of books would be of most interest? Would you be willing to run the book club, in conjunction with us? Please let us know via email or WhatsApp or come in and chat with us - we'd be really grateful - thank you.

Did you know ...?

... 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.

... We can order in any book for you if you can't find what you're looking for on our shelves. We have access to over 6 million titles so please do ask us and we'll try to get in the book you want, often for next day or within two working days.

... Teasel and Skylark has its very own theme tune, composed by David, written as a little musical dedication to our beautiful shop. You can listen to it on [Spotify](#) or [YouTube](#) if you have a spare 3'20"

T&S Pets' Corner



Everybody say awwww because our lovely Ruby has just had a big op but is still managing to look schamazing in her all-in-one body stocking to keep her surgery clean and safe.

Pink is so her colour, but she's still looking forward to showing off her beautiful fur coat very soon!

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.



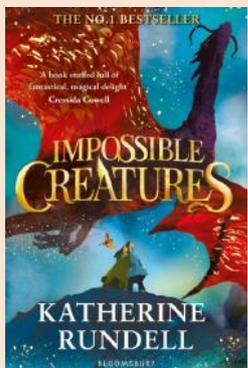
Thank you to everyone who entered our Christmas Poetry competition - and congratulations again to all the winners and runners up.

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

Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell

is a dazzling adventure into a world where myths are alive, danger lurks around every corner, and two courageous children might be the key to saving it all. Christopher is stunned when he discovers a way between our world to the Archipelago: a cluster of magical islands where all the creatures of myth still live and breed and thrive in their thousands. There he meets Mal: a girl from the islands, who is in possession of a flying coat and a baby griffin, and who is being pursued by a killer. Together they embark on an urgent quest to discover why the creatures are suddenly perishing,



Perfect for middle grade readers, aged 8 to 12, this is a fast paced adventure with imaginative world-building, memorable characters, dramatic threats, and the belief that one person can make a difference – but told with its own fresh voice. Whilst the book is unafraid to explore sadness and loss, it manages to balance them with wonder, humour, and hope. We would definitely recommend this book to our readers who love magic-rich quests, unforgettable characters, and stories that stay with you after the last page is turned.

Top 10 Children's Books January 2026

1. *Ajay and the Red-winged Prince* by Ewa Jozefkovicz
2. *ABC Zoo* by Rod Campbell
3. *Turtle Moon* by Hannah Gold
4. *The Scarecrow's Wedding* by Julia Donaldson
5. *The Rupert Annual 2026* by Rupert Bear
6. *Impossible Creatures* by Katherine Rundell
7. *The Owl Service* by Alan Garner
8. *The 2026 Children's Almanac* by Collins Kids
9. *Pablo and Splash* by Sheena Dempsey
10. *The Amazing Generation* by Jonathan Haidt

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 17th February - 'Live Audiobook' with Alastair Braidwood (multiple weeks)

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

14th March - Gerald Killingworth and Paula Harmon, local authors

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

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

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

Strange Buildings by Uketsu - 26 February

New Boy: Othello Retold by Tracy Chevalier - 5 March

Megalomaniacs by Jamie Smart - 26 March

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>