

The Handheld Newsletter

April 2020

New catalogue leaflet

The new Handheld Press catalogue leaflet is now available, in a fetching velvety plum colour. If you'd like a copy, email us at enquiries@handheldpress.co.uk and we will post it to you (free, obviously).

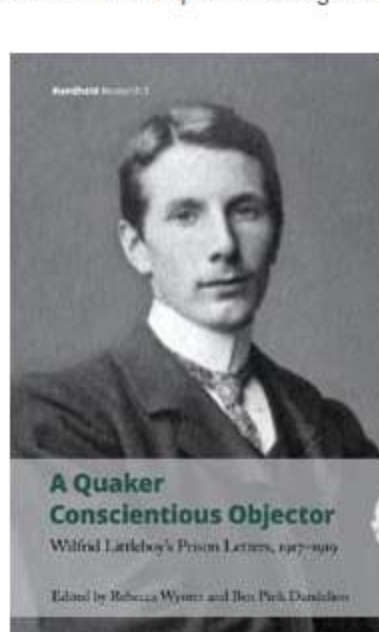


New book in May

It's been odd rereading *A Quaker Conscientious Objector. Wilfrid Littleboy's Prison Letters, 1917-1919*, which we publish on 18 May, because these are letters written in isolation, by a man kept separate from his family and friends and the rest of the world, describing how his days pass with his very limited resources and the birds and plants he spots in his daily outing for exercise, or through his window.

When we commissioned this book from Quaker historians Ben Pink Dandelion and Rebecca Wynter last summer none of us could have imagined the conditions we would be publishing it in. There won't be a book launch, and we won't meet the editors in person, or the Littleboy family, for the foreseeable future.

We're preparing an article for publication in Quaker periodicals to explain the background to these letters, and how they influenced Wilfrid's later career as a leading figure in British Quakers, and how his experience as a CO helped to change British law.



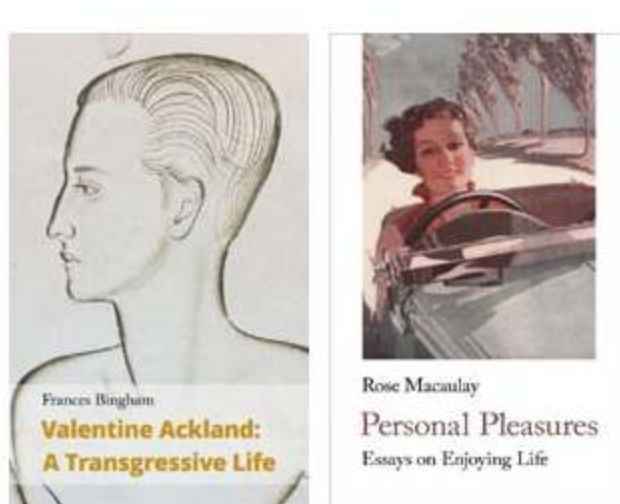
New pre-ordering bonus

Normally, when a book is pre-ordered we say thank you very much and then wait until a fortnight before the publication date, and then post the pre-orders. Yet, it seems silly to hang on to the printed copies when we could be posting them. Also, pre-ordering is really helpful for our cash flow (in one spectacular case the income from pre-orders actually paid for the production costs outright, our biggest expense). We want to say thank you for paying in advance in a more meaningful way. So, from this day hence, all books that have been pre-ordered through our website will be posted as soon as the books have arrived from the printer. This applies to all existing pre-orders, and the books could be sent up to three or even four months ahead of publication.

New order pages online

And, as if by magic, four of our 2021 titles are now available for pre-order!

Frances Bingham's biography *Valentine Ackland* comes out in May 2021; Rose Macaulay's marvellous collection of essays on enjoying life, *Personal Pleasures*, will be out in August 2021; Kate's edition of *John Buchan's The Gap in the Curtain* and Melissa Edmundson's edition of the first modern collection of Elinor Mordaunt's supernatural fiction, *The Villa and The Vortex*, will both be out in October 2021.



New monthly discount

We have a new title for our monthly discount: *The Conscientious Objector's Wife: Letters between Frank and Lucy Sunderland, 1916-1919*. Now available through our site at £14.99 until the end of April.

Lucy is at home in Letchworth struggling to keep herself and her three young children fed and clothed during the First World War. Hers is the only income, because her husband Frank is in prison, as a conscientious objector to military service. Two and a half years of letters about isolation, not seeing people, being cut off from your family, with Spanish flu on the horizon, and scarlet fever in town. A unique family archive of letters about a woman's life on the domestic Home Front. This may be a very suitable book to read in present circumstances ...



The sale box

We have had to cancel all our planned book fairs and events until August, which is very sad, but necessary. A by-product of this is that our sale box is getting a little out of control. Corners get bashed, books get travel-worn, so we collect these perfectly good but not quite perfect copies in a box to sell at a discount at book fairs. So in lieu of the book fairs that we can't attend, please rummage in the sale box in the photo below.

Business as Usual x 2

Desire x 4

What Might Have Been x 2

Save Me The Waltz x 1

After the Death of Ellen Keldberg x 1 (a late addition since the photo was taken)

All books are £10 each, p&p included for the UK, £6 for the rest of the world. Email us at enquiries@handheldpress.co.uk to secure your copy, and we'll discuss payment then. First come, first served!



News from the garden

How are you all? It's been over two weeks now since the UK went into lockdown, and we feel as if we are living in a bubble. Book sales continue to do far better than we had ever expected, and in March we had our highest monthly sales figures yet, which is confounding yet cheering. Kate still works 12 hours a day on Handheld. David is working at his day job remotely from home, and is now available much more often for production and strategy meetings, sometimes while working in the garden. Our daily outings are the post office, to get food, and sometimes to take a walk up the hill that we live on. We do a lot of online meetings. But we don't forget that – at the time of writing – tens of thousands of people have died from Covid-19, and anyone can catch it. We are focusing on our jobs, and are not taking any risks. We hope you are too. Kate is also sewing laundry bags for local NHS staff as part of [this initiative](#): finally, some of the sewing cupboard fabric stash has a purpose.

In the garden we have had an outbreak of white violets under the ash tree, but the tulips planted in the grass didn't make it. We blame the muntjac. David spent a weekend digging a potato patch on the flattest piece of lawn, and started to riddle (technical term) the compost heap for some impressive home-grown compost. Kate planted all the forgotten bulbs that should have been dealt with months ago and awaits the results hopefully. The garden camera continues to record vast numbers of deer passing through, and some badger action, and finally (after a bit of an absence) some foxes.

Hoping for better times to come soon,

Kate & David

Handheld Press

The Handheld newsletter is only sent to readers who have expressed an interest in receiving news from us. Our aim is to be informative and useful, and to keep you in the picture about what we're up to, offers and promotions.

Please rest assured that your details will never be passed on to any third parties nor used for any other purpose.

Should you wish to not receive any further email newsletters from us then we'll be disappointed, but we'll understand.