

The Handheld Newsletter

September 2020

Handheld ebooks available to the blind and partially sighted

By the time this newsletter comes out most, if not all, of Handheld's titles will be available on the Royal National Institute for the Blind Bookshare platform. RNIB Bookshare opens up the world of reading in education for learners with a print-disability, including those with dyslexia or who are blind or partially sighted. US platforms will share this, so we hope to make our books more accessible this way.

The Handheld Book Club

After the success of our online book launch for Rose Macaulay's *Potterism*, for her *Non-Combatants and Others* on 24th March, we've decided it's time that we ran a monthly online salon talking about Handheld's books. The Handheld Book Club will launch on 6th October with a very exciting lineup; add to your diary!

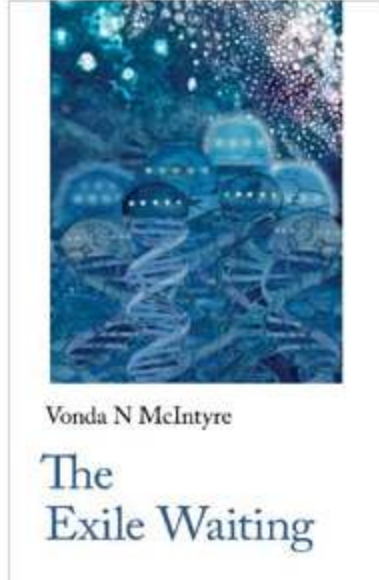
6th October: New York Times best-selling novelist Una McCormack and the multi-award winning SFF author and activist Nicola Griffith discussing Vonda N McIntyre's wonderful novel *The Exile Waiting*, and what writing for *Star Trek* is really like: book your Eventbrite ticket at £3 + VAT [here](#).

3rd November: award-winning translator David McKay talking about Dutch translation and Chinese fantasy, and J J Slauerhoff's *Adrift in the Middle Kingdom*.

8th December: Kate Macdonald of Handheld and Gayle Lazda of the London Review Bookshop talking about Jane Oliver and Ann Stafford's *Business as Usual*.

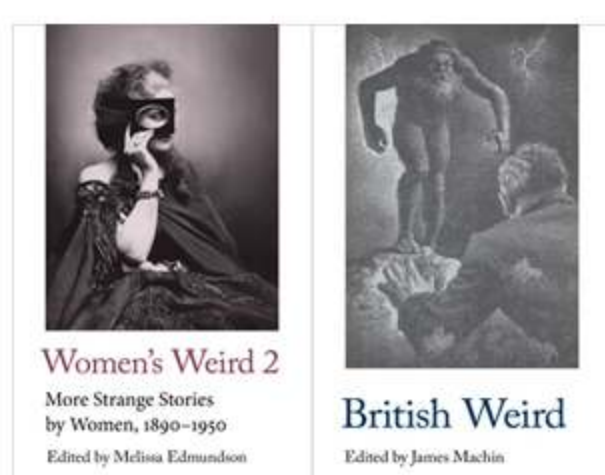
12th January: James Machin and Tim Jarvis of the University of Bedfordshire talking about James's anthology *British Weird*.

Most events will be at 19.30 UK time / 13.30 EST. Most events will be free though a few will be ticketed at a very reasonable price: see all the dates and each event's details on our Book Club page [here](#). Looking forward to seeing you online soon!



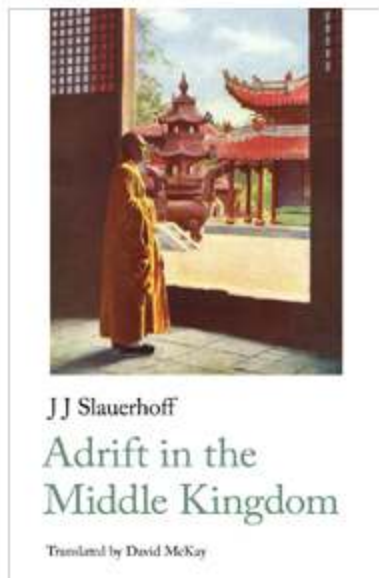
British Weird and Women's Weird 2: the book launch

Also online (isn't everything, these days?) we'll be holding a book launch for *British Weird* and *Women's Weird 2* on Tuesday 27th October at 19.30 UK time / 13.30 EST. James Machin and Melissa Edmundson will be in conversation about their anthologies with special guests. Register for a free Zoom link at enquiries@handheldpress.co.uk.



Chinese history, or is it?

On 15th September it'll be Jan Slauerhoff's birthday, the author of our wonderful novel of adventure and travel in 1920s China, with added flying monks. Do enjoy a £2.99 discount on *Adrift in the Middle Kingdom*, for 15th September only, using code MONK in our shop.



Books for peace

21 September is the International Day of Peace. Please enjoy a £2.99 discount on any of our three fine books about peace: *The Conscientious Objector's Wife*, or *A Quaker Conscientious Objector*, or Rose Macaulay's *Non-Combatants and Others. Writings Against War*, for 21 September only. Use code PEACE in our shop.



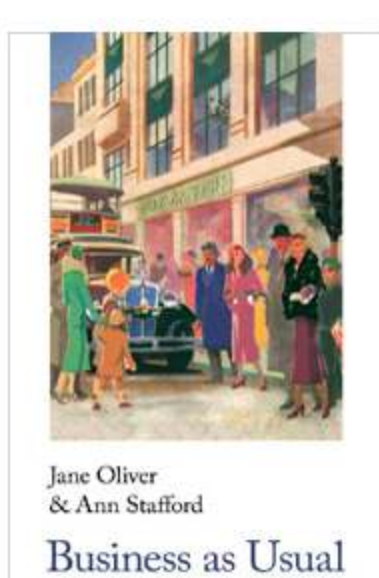
Happy Birthday Nicola!

On 30th September it will be Nicola Griffith's birthday! She's a friend of Handheld, and one our treasured authors, so please buy her excellent novel *So Lucky* (lesbians, bodies, getting stuck on a lake, and beating the ableist system) with a delightfully celebratory discount of £2.99 using code MARA in our shop, for 30th September only.



Business as Usual has a birthday

It'll be Jane Oliver's birthday on 15th October! Celebrate by enjoying a £2.99 discount from her marvellous novel *Business as Usual*, for today only. Use code JANE in our shop.



Yet more wonky books

Our sale box is slightly less full than it was, but we still have some books that need a home with someone who will care not about a slightly blemished cover or a bump on the corner. We have *Potterism*, *Business as Usual*, *The Caravans*, and *Blitz Writing*! If interested email us at enquiries@handheldpress.co.uk to order your copy at £10 each.



News from the garden

Gardening has slowed down a bit since the Triumph of the Damsons. Late in August Kate picked 4lbs of fruit from a tree that last year we didn't even know existed. It certainly wasn't fruiting, as it was smothered in the hedge, but this year it was very generous with its bounty. Careful netting and staking must have helped, though the birds and wasps didn't seem interested in the fruit Kate couldn't reach. The jam is very good. However, the blackberries this year have been terrible. The fruit has been watery and tasteless for weeks, possibly due to all the rain we've had? Perhaps more sugar crystallisation needs to happen, so we'll keep sampling the hedges over this month as the quantities of fruit in our area show no sign of slowing down.

In other news we are anxiously watching over the growth of two more pumpkins, as the first two got eaten by slugs. A deer climbed down two steps in the night to eat the last pink rose, which did not cause joy in the morning. We watched one of the local squirrels climb down those steps with a huge chestnut case clamped in her mouth, and then she buried it tenderly in the pot with the baby oak tree donated by our friend Caroline, patting the earth down afterwards.

Enjoy your harvest produce!

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.