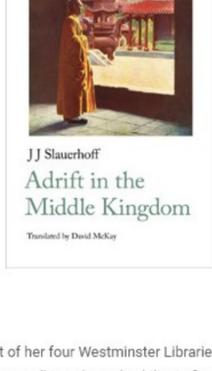


The Handheld Newsletter

October 2021

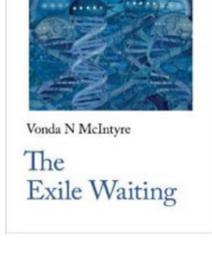
Longlisted!

Our 2019 book *Adrift in the Middle Kingdom*, written by Jan Jacob Slaerhoff and translated by David McKay, has been longlisted for the [2022 Vondel Prize for Translation](#). The Vondel Translation Prize is a biennial prize for the best book translation into English of a Dutch literary or cultural-historical work. It was established in 1996 by the Society of Authors, and is funded by the Dutch Foundation for Literature. David McKay won the 2018 Prize. We'll find out on 16 November whether we've been shortlisted.



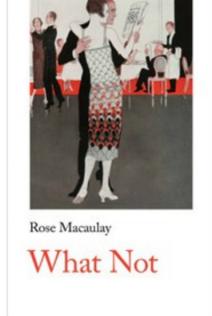
Disability in fiction

On 13 October Kate did the last of her four Westminster Libraries talks for 2021, in conversation with bioethicist Tom Shakespeare, talking about disability in fiction, and particularly about Vonda McIntyre's *The Exile Waiting*. It was an energetic session, ending with a discussion of books recommended by the audience, which we hope the Library will keep as a resource for readers. You will be able to see the video of the event via the link on our [videos page](#), after 20 October.



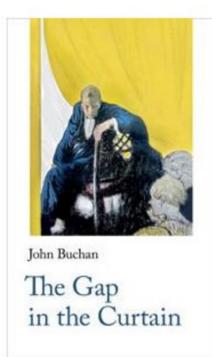
Guildhall Library talk

Get your free ticket for 'Five London novels from Handheld Press': an online illustrated talk by Kate for the Guildhall Library London, on **Wednesday 10 November 2021, 2-3pm**: [free ticket registration here](#). Warning: this isn't a talk you can save for later, one live performance only.



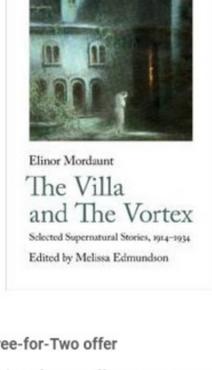
John Buchan arrives soon

On 9 November we'll be publishing a long overdue new edition of John Buchan's *The Gap in the Curtain*, about the consequences of seeing forward in time. If you could see one year ahead into the future what would that knowledge do to you? Kate (who spent a lot of academic career publishing her research on Buchan) has written the Introduction.



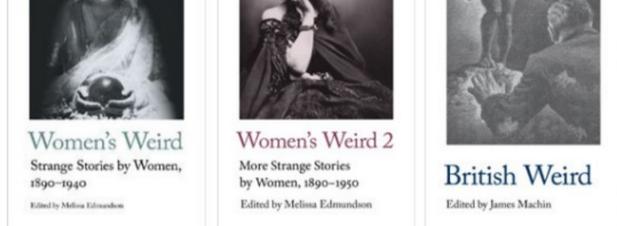
Launch video for *The Villa and The Vortex*

Also on our videos page, we've posted the launch video for *The Villa and the Vortex* from September, in which Amy Sturgis interviewed Melissa Edmundson about Elinor Mordaunt and selecting the stories from this extraordinary forgotten author's output of supernatural fiction.



Don't forget our October Three-for-Two offer

Remember to make use of our three for two offer on our supernatural fiction during October. Buy two copies of any of *Women's Weird*, *Women's Weird 2* and *British Weird* during October through our website, and receive a third title from those three free of charge. (Tell us which one you want in the Note section of the order page.) P&P will be free to UK addresses, and the usual rates for the USA and Canada.



Come write with us

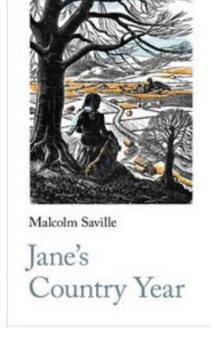
As announced previously, our June Science Fiction and Fantasy writing retreat was such a success that The Dell House in Malvern will be running them regularly from now on, in collaboration with Handheld. Our next writing retreat will be on **Fiction, Nature and Travel**, 24 to 27 January 2022, which will offer (almost) fully catered protected writing time with no chores. Kate will be in attendance, running a workshop on 'How to Pitch Your Book, Or, I've Written It, Now What Do I Do With It?' Novelist and critic [Alice Jolly](#) will be giving an interactive evening workshop, and Sabrin Hasbun of the University of Falmouth's creative writing department will offer optional feedback and a one-to-one tutorial on your writing.

Two months later we have organised a second retreat for 2022, on **Life Writing, Biography and Memoir**, with biography and critic Sarah LeFanu as your tutor and speaker, and Kate repeating her January performance for the assistance of nervous writers.

For all details, [please look at the Dell House website](#).

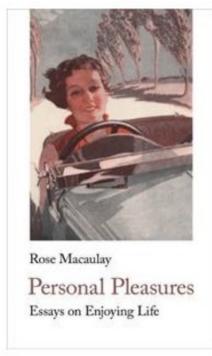
A book launch for *Jane's Country Year*

We have arranged our first in-person book launch for nearly two years, for our new edition of Malcolm Saville's country novel *Jane's Country Year*. Burway Books in Church Stretton, Shropshire will be hosting this event at 19.30 on Monday 17 January. Tickets are limited in numbers, and so if you'd like to attend please [contact the bookshop to register](#). Saville's daughter and some of his grandchildren are expected to be there, and members of the Malcolm Saville Society.



Look out for *Personal Pleasures* in the *Church Times*!

(We didn't really expect to end up writing that sentence, but that's the way it came out so we're sticking with it.) After our macaulay's to the *Church Times* they're planning to review the book AND feature it as their reading recommendation for book groups, in the 5 November issue. Reserve your copy now. We've already had to reprint the book.



Gardening News

News that came too late for the September newsletter was that Kate picked the damsons from the tree in the hedge, and we both won prizes at the Bathampton Show. Kate got two seconds and a third for her marmalade, jam and fruit scones, and David got two firsts and a second for his photographs. We basked in glory.

This month we are getting ready for winter. Hedge-trimming and shredding has been David's main activity in his week of holiday, and the damsons look a lot better for it. The pear tree was infested with *gymnosporangium sabinae* (pear rust) so it has been lopped of all its whippy, unfruitful branches. If it comes back next year, fine, but we really only keep it as a useful tall stump to hold the washing-line. The cardoon plants have tripled in height in six weeks, with all the rain we've had, and we're now wondering whether they might survive if we moved them now to their permanent destination, the high bank at the end of the garden under the big ash trees. Their leaves are seriously prickly, and haven't had much slug damage so far, and the plants look magnificent. But could they survive the deer?

We had one fig from our new fig-tree, which Kate ate with cheese and bread. It wasn't the sweetest fig in the world but it was undeniably figgish. Kate's late birthday roses are truly the gift that keeps on giving: the peach-coloured one and the double yellow have scented the garden beside the back door for weeks now. David has laid a temporary lid of wire netting over the pond to keep the leaves out. Kate rescued a struggling yellow dogwood from its red dogwood neighbours, both taller and bushier than it was, by digging a new bed for it. 'Digging' in this case meant unpeeling the turf, extracting the stones, finding a way past the layer of sticky yellow clay, and shoving in loads of mulch and compost above and below the roots. She put a penstock in there too, that seemed to need far more water than its pot could accommodate. Both patients are doing well.



Have a good October.

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.