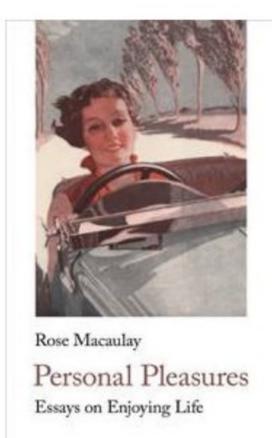


The Handheld Newsletter

December 2021

Yet more *Personal Pleasures*

This book truly is the gift that keeps on giving. The London Review Bookshop have announced for three weeks running that *Personal Pleasures* is in their bestselling top ten. And on 18 December the *London Review of Books* published [a lengthy review by Rosemary Hill](#).



Jane's Country Year book launch moves online: 17 January

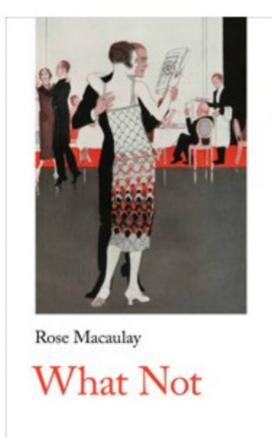
As we half expected, the book launch for *Jane's Country Year* has moved online, as Burway Books feel an in-person launch wouldn't work with the changing public health restrictions. It will be on the same date and at the same time: Monday 17 January at 7.30pm. You can [book your free ticket to attend the Zoom launch here](#). Kim Spencer of the Malcolm Saville Society will be in conversation with Kate, and perhaps some others from the world of Malcolm Saville, to talk about the book. It's a pity that we can't meet in person, but Zoom events have the great advantage of allowing loads of people to take part. Join us!



Rose Macaulay's London Ladies: 26 January

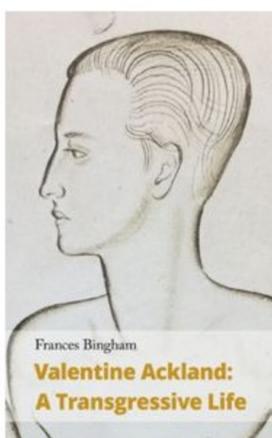
Kate will be giving an online talk at the Guildhall Library on Wednesday 26 January, 2-3pm, 'Rose Macaulay's London Ladies'. She'll be taking viewers on a guided tour of the single ladies in Macaulay's London novels, looking at how they align with and veer away from Macaulay's own life and experiences. Novels most likely to be under examination are *Non-Combatants and Others*, *What Not*, *Potterism*, and the London stories in *Personal Pleasures*, as well as Macaulay's strong interest in homelessness and providing homes for working women.

You can [download the Guildhall Library programme here](#), which has links for all its events.



Valentine Ackland in Dorchester: 12 February

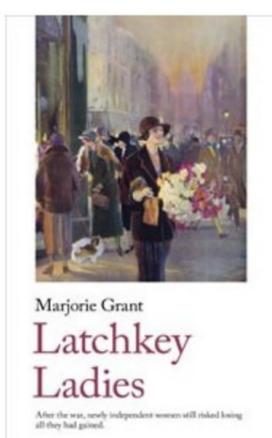
As part of the LGBTQ+ History month, Dorset Museum will be holding a day of talks and art inspired by the lives of Sylvia Townsend Warner and Valentine Ackland, on 12 February at the Museum. Frances Bingham will be giving a talk about her [biography of Valentine](#) at 6.30pm: [you can order your tickets here](#).



Book launch for Marjorie Grant's Latchkey Ladies: Tuesday 15 March

Back at the Guildhall Library, Kate and Sarah LeFanu (author of *Dreaming of Rose*) will be in conversation about Marjorie Grant's first novel *Latchkey Ladies* (1921), for which Sarah wrote the Introduction. Sarah also (re)discovered Marjorie Grant when she was writing her 2003 biography of Macaulay. What she had to say about Grant and the novel, and about the close connections between Grant, Macaulay and Gerald O'Donovan and his family, brought *Latchkey Ladies* to our attention, and very glad we were to have discovered it, albeit a century late.

This talk will be a hybrid book launch, both for an in-person audience at the Guildhall Library and streamed on Zoom, 2-3pm. You can book your free tickets in the [link in their downloadable programme](#).



Latchkey Ladies at Westminster Libraries: Wednesday 16 March

If you can't make the launch on 15 March, Kate and Sarah will be performing for Westminster Libraries at a second library event, on Weds 16 March, 5-6pm. This will be wholly on Zoom, and will have a slightly different focus, since if they had the same conversation all over again they'd be bored. Novelty is the spice of life. You'll be able to book the Westminster event soon.

No news from the garden

Because, honestly, it's winter and it's cold. It's a short newsletter this month because we just want to slow down and read books for the holidays. See you in January!

Kate & David

Handheld Press