

**The Handheld Newsletter**

December 2023



The Christmas tree from [Jane's Country Year](#) by Malcolm Saville.

**Talking, talking, talking ...**

By the time you read this we will have done our first December talk: Kate talking to Kate Slotover of the Book Club Review Podcast about book clubs. The more Kate thought about book clubs, the more she remembered the books she had read with them. A bit like opening a can of worms. So if you watched it, we hope you enjoyed it.

Here are the rest of the talks, all free to watch online. And one of them is NEW! (Adorned with \*\*\*\* asterisks.)

**Tuesday 12th December, 2-3pm: Our changing tastes in reading. A journey along the library shelves.** Join Kate for an illustrated talk for the Guildhall Library London, unpicking the mysteries of changing literary taste in twentieth-century British fiction, and hear some unfortunate truths about the publishing industry. The collapse of the three-decker novel, the rise of the cheap series, and the passion for escapism all affected what and how our grandparents and great-grandparents read for pleasure. (This is a repeat of her talk earlier this year for the