

An Extra Handheld Newsletter

5th February 2024

We Have News

We're sending you this special extra Handheld Newsletter because we have news we want to share with you, our loyal customers and subscribers, directly.

Handheld Press is winding down. We will publish our last book on 9th July 2024, and on 31st June 2025 (next year, not this year), we will wind up the business and bring it to a tidy end.

Why are we doing this?

Not because we are bankrupt: by the time we close the books we will only owe money to ourselves, the Directors.

Not because we have run out of ideas: there are so many books and authors out there still to be discovered, but, we've done enough. It's time to stop. Kate had only a few books in mind when we started the business in 2017, and things have snowballed considerably. But how much longer do we want to push the snowball?

At the beginning of 2023 Kate was already asking herself the snowball question. By then we had a full schedule of six titles to publish in 2023 and five more already scheduled for 2024. We thought about it: should we just stop, then and there, and abandon them all?

The answer was no. Kate was brought to tears at the thought of not publishing the fabulous books she had put so much work into finding, commissioning, editing and getting ready for production. So, instead of stopping in 2023 we decided to keep going and publish what we've got lined up, but not to do any more.

So, now, in January 2024, we have just published our fifth-last title, Ann Stafford's *Army Without Banners*, and we have four more to go.

12 March: our last Handheld Biography, Rosemary Sutcliff's *Blue Remembered Hills*

14 April: our tenth and last Weird, a collection of E Nesbit's marvellous ghost stories, *The House of Silence*

11 June: the tremendous and long forgotten first and last books by Faith Compton Mackenzie, *Tatting and Mandolinata*

9 July: the glorious romance of the 1930s and the Second World War by Sylvia Thompson, *The Gulls Fly Inland*.

We may also have a party as a final hurrah.

And after that, what then?

The Newsletter will continue until June 2025. Kate will probably keep performing online with Westminster and Guildhall Libraries with talks and bookish interviews. Perhaps some literary festivals will invite Kate to take part in a panel, or be interviewed, or to be an interviewer. If interested, do get in touch.

There are also books to be written. Kate has already begun writing *The Diary of a Publisher*, about the joys and terrors of being an indie publisher. She has a couple of new academic projects lined up, writing about Margery Allingham in wartime and the book reviews of Elizabeth von Arnim. And there's a new novel in the offing. So she won't be short of things to do.

Thank you all for your loyal subscription to this newsletter, which will continue until Handheld closes its doors for the last time in June 2025.

Kate & David

Handheld Press