

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Great Expectations, by Charles Dickens.

Review: Angela Everitt of Clevedon Community Bookshop

One of Dickens' later novels, *Great Expectations*, is a treasure trove for readers, creative writers and social analysts and worth revisiting in this, the 200th anniversary of his birth. It displays aesthetic qualities and, as expected by readers at the time, conveys strong moral messages still relevant today.

Clearly influenced by his contemporaries, for example, Mary Shelley's gothic writing and Jane Austen's romantic, Dickens presents us with style, storytelling, social concerns and satire, writing quite experimentally. The speaking voice of the first person adult narrator reflecting on the words and perspectives of the boy Pip, provide opportunities for playing with time, specific moments and generalised experiences. Thus, aesthetically, the novel is cleverly crafted with the attention to detail that we expect from Dickens, with metaphor, rhythm and rich dialect. Instrumentally, Dickens addresses social class and status showing that, for Pip, the route to respect is through dutiful, decent behaviour rather than through wealth and riches. Middle-class hardworking integrity wins over sponging snobbery.



My cultural life



This month we ask Janette Kerr, the new president of the Royal West of England Academy

Which book are you reading?

The Frozen Ship by Sarah Moss which describes early polar explorations of the frozen landscapes of the Arctic and Antarctic, places to which I dream of journeying to paint and draw.

Which museum or gallery will you be visiting?

The John Martin exhibition *Apocalypse* at Tate Britain and Gerhard Richter's retrospective exhibition *Panorama* at Tate Modern.

What's on your MP3 player?

Contemporary jazz, often Scandinavian, such as Esbjorn Svensson and Tord Gustavsen. Female singers feature heavily, from the Norwegian Sami musician Mari Boine to PJ Harvey. Sigur Rós is a favourite, as is Enrico Caruso. A lot of my music references the sea, from Martha Tilson's *Till I Reach the Sea*, to Ketil Bjornstad and David Darling's *The Sea*. Of course I also listen to my son's band Reism – a melodic meld of gothic, rock, metal and industrial.

Film or play? What will you be going to see this month?

I've just seen Sergei Paradjanov's classic film *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*, a strange, sometimes psychedelic, film based on a Ukrainian folk tale.

What local outdoor activity/location will you be going to do or visit this month?

I am planning on visiting the Dorset coast. I need my fix of those breaking waves to remind me what my paintings are about.

You passions? What regular hobbies or interests will you be pursuing this month?

Zumba features regularly, as does Salsa aerobics. In terms of my passions, my partner says I have to mention him – so, Steve Poole.

T'would be a crime to miss it

The legions of enthusiasts who have enjoyed the dark Scandinavian TV drama, *The Killing*, will be delighted to hear that a new novel based on the Danish series, written by British crime writer David Hewson, is to be launched in Bristol this spring. Yorkshireman and bestselling writer Hewson won the right to bring Detective Sarah Lund from screen to



page and publisher Pan Macmillan will be holding a launch event at CrimeFest in Bristol in May. The festival is already talking about other big names and treats in store for crime aficionados, including Lee Childs, Sue Grafton and veteran Queen of Crime PD James. The convention runs from May 24 – 27. To find out more visit: www.crimefest.com. Among the highlights will be the launch of the shortlist for the annual Dagger writing awards and the Pitch An Agent event. This is the crime writers' equivalent of Dragons' Den, which gives unpublished writers the chance to pitch their manuscripts to literary agents who represent some of the biggest names in the business. If you are an aspiring crime writer, the next few months can be put to good use, honing that debut novel and preparing to move in for the kill.

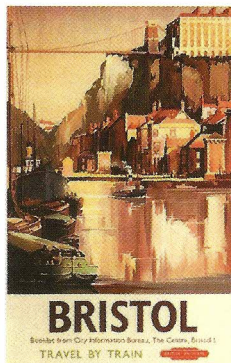
NEWS IN BRIEF

Light a loyal beacon

In all the excitement of this summer's Olympic Games in London, let's not forget the country has another reason to celebrate this year when HRH Queen Elizabeth II becomes only the second monarch in British history to celebrate 60 years on the throne. The nation is to light a series of beacons to celebrate the occasion. On the evening of Monday 4 June, over 2,000 beacons are expected to be lit simultaneously across the British Isles and the Commonwealth. Individuals and groups interested in holding a beacon celebratory event are asked to register their interest. Beacon lighting will offer a great way to raise money for a local or national charity of choice, or simply to celebrate with family and friends. All official beacon events will be listed in a special commemorative book that will be given to the Queen. To get involved visit: www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk.

Create poster art

Portishead might seem an unlikely holiday destination, but to mark the forthcoming re-opening of the Portishead railway line, a competition has been launched to find the best new poster to draw visitors by train. The railway posters of bygone ages have become collectable works of art, and this competition provides the opportunity for contemporary artists to stamp their mark on this genre. A poster exhibition is being staged in March by the Pure offices at Kestrel Court, Portishead. The deadline for entries is 10 April. To find out more visit: www.postertoposter.co.uk



Picture by Richard Furness of JDF & Associates

The Bristol Magazine

The Bristol Magazine
2 Princes Buildings
George Street
Bath BA1 2ED

Telephone: 0117 974 2800

Fax: 01225 426677

editor@thebristolmagazine.co.uk

sales@thebristolmagazine.co.uk

© MC Publishing Ltd 2012

The Bristol Magazine is distributed free every month to over 24,000 homes and businesses throughout Bristol.

Published by MC Publishing Limited

Disclaimer: Whilst every reasonable care is taken with all material submitted to The Bristol Magazine, the publisher cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to such material. Opinions expressed in articles are strictly those of the authors. This publication is copyright and may not be reproduced in any form either in part or whole without written permission from the publishers.