

NEWS RELEASE: 7th SEPT 2017



Non-fiction winner of 2017 New Angle Prize

From the first all-women shortlist since the East Anglian literary prize began, Julia Blackburn's *Threads, The Delicate Life of John Craske* (Jonathan Cape, April 2015) has been announced as the £2,000 winner.

Jill Dawson's *The Crime Writer* (Hodder & Stoughton, June 2016) was the runner-up. Both authors were present to hear the announcement at the New Angle Prize Awards Dinner on Wednesday 6th September, held at Hintlesham Golf Club, Suffolk.

In the words of the judges, Julia Blackburn has produced "a beautiful, surprising book that defies definition: it's about biography, landscape, art, history and grief". Jill Dawson's work is "immensely rewarding, but also deeply disconcerting. Like Patricia Highsmith, the Crime Writer in question, we start to lose our own grip on reality".

A Readers' Choice competition run by Suffolk Libraries was won by Rosy Thornton's *Sandlands* (Sandstone Press, July 2016), a collection of short stories where the past and present communities of a small Suffolk village intertwine.

The biennial New Angle Prize for Literature was established in 2009 to celebrate writing inspired by the region of East Anglia. There are no categories – entries simply have to have a strong regional theme.

Past winners of the New Angle Prize have included Mark Cocker's, *Crow Country*, (Jonathan Cape, 2007) *Death Watch*, by Jim Kelly (Penguin Books, 2010) and Kate Worsley's *She Rises* (Bloomsbury, 2014).

The other shortlisted books this year were Fiona Melrose, *Midwinter* (Little, Brown, November 2016), Julie Myerson, *The Stopped Heart* (Jonathan Cape, February 2016), Sarah Perry, *The Essex Serpent* (Profile Books, May 2016).

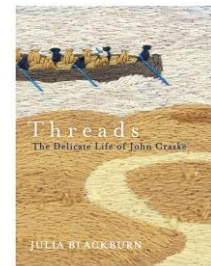
The New Angle Prize is organised by the Ipswich Institute (independent library and the only surviving Birkbeck foundation outside London) and is sponsored by Gotelee Solicitors and Scrutton Bland accountants.

Details of the prize can be found on the New Angle prize website www.ipswichinstitute.org.uk/NAP.html and progress can be followed on Twitter @PrizeNewAngle

Contact Hugh Pierce for more information on 01473 253992 or email library@ipswichinstitute.org.uk

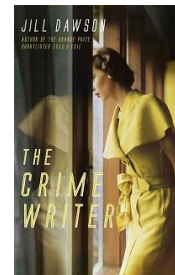
2017 New Angle Prize Winner

Julia Blackburn, **Threads, The Delicate Life of John Craske** (Jonathan Cape, April 2015) *“This is a book beautifully written, beautifully illustrated and beautifully produced about the recently rediscovered genius of a Norfolk fisherman. Falling seriously ill at the time of the First World War Craske began painting the sea, boats and coastline, and when he could no longer stand, lay in bed and embroidered.”*



Runner-up

Jill Dawson, **The Crime Writer** (Hodder & Stoughton, June 2016) *“Eccentric and troubled American writer Patricia Highsmith spent part of the 1960s in rural Suffolk – where she would have stood out just a bit. In Jill Dawson’s destabilising book, you’re never quite sure what’s real, imagined, or simply the result of madness. One of those stories you can’t stop thinking about for weeks afterwards.”*



2017 New Angle Prize Judges

Midge Gillies Cambridgeshire-based biographer and director of creative-writing at Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education

Steve Russell Booklover, journalist and leader-writer for the East Anglian Daily Times

Kate Worsley Harwich-based author of prize-winning first novel *She Rises* (Bloomsbury, 2014)

7th September, 2017