

**NEWS RELEASE: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019**



## **2019 New Angle Prize Longlist Announced**

The judges' longlist is announced for the 2019 New Angle Prize, for literature associated with or influenced by the region of East Anglia. The competition has an open entry format, with no separate categories, and a wide variety of genres are represented.

The twelve works chosen include two volumes of poetry (Esther Morgan's *The Wound Register*, Matt Howard's *Gall*), three perambulatory explorations of place (Jules Pretty's *The East Country: Almanac Tales of Valley and Shore*, Tom Bolton's *Low Country*, Dr James Canton's *Ancient Wonderings: Journeys into Prehistoric Britain*), and two very different memoirs (Matthew De Abaitua's *Self & I*, James and Catherine Dodds, *Tracks in the Sand. A Railwayman's War*). The five novels chosen include one debutant (Anna Mackmin's *Devoured*) and four from established writers (Nicola Upson's *Nine Lessons*, Stella Tillyard's *The Great Level*, Melissa Harrison's *All Among the Barley* and Haydn Middleton's *The Ballad of Syd & Morgan*).

The £2,500 competition, organised by the Ipswich Institute and sponsored by Gotelee Solicitors and Scrutton Bland accountants, is an important feature of the region's literary calendar. Authors of the short-listed books (to be announced on 25th March) will be asked to attend a book-reading event at the Ipswich Institute on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Prize-winners will be announced at the Awards Dinner on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Details can be found on the New Angle prize website [www.ipswichinstitute.org.uk/NAP.html](http://www.ipswichinstitute.org.uk/NAP.html) and progress can be followed on Twitter @PrizeNewAngle

### **New Angle Prize Judges for 2019:**

**Julia Blackburn** Author and poet. Winner of the 2017 New Angle Prize for *Threads: The Delicate Life of John Craske*.

**Andrew Burton** Teacher and Arts marketing consultant

**Amanda Hodgkinson** Novelist and lecturer in creative writing

Contact Hugh Pierce for more information on 01473 253992 or email [library@ipswichinstitute.org.uk](mailto:library@ipswichinstitute.org.uk)



## 2019 New Angle Prize Judges' Long-list.

Tom Bolton, **Low Country, Brexit on the Essex Coast** (Penned in the Margins, Oct 2018). *"A journey through Essex; a travelogue, a mapping of the history of the region and also an unrolling of Britain set against the backdrop of Brexit. It's a gripping narrative and the photographs which accompany the text are beautiful additions to the story."*

Dr James Canton, **Ancient Wonderings: Journeys into Prehistoric Britain** (William Collins, Jun 2017). *"A personal journey through a pre-historic history, Canton asks how we might consider our modern selves alongside the ancient inhabitants of the British Isles."*

Matthew De Abaitua, **Self & I** (Eye Books, Mar 2018). *"A beguiling memoir set in the 1990s. Matthew is living in a remote cottage in Suffolk as the writer Will Self's assistant. A funny and thoughtful book which has much to say about the art of writing."*

James & Catherine Dodds, **Tracks in the Sand, A Railwayman's War** (Jardine Press, Jan 2018). *"From a trunk filled with family memories, letters and photographs, James Dodd and his wife created this poignant retelling of his grandparents' courtship and enduring love during their separation in the First World War."*

Melissa Harrison, **All Among the Barley** (Bloomsbury, Aug 2018). *"A beautifully written story of Suffolk in the 1930s, and a young girl's tragic move into adulthood in an isolated farming community in the years before the Second World War."*

Matt Howard, **Gall** (The Rialto, Mar 2018). *"A striking and powerfully imaginative collection of poems which really gives us the chance to consider the natural world around us in all its details."*

Anna Mackmin, **Devoured** (Propolis, May 2018). *"An intriguing world of hippies, communes and childhood collide in this riotous story which manages dark themes with humour, tenderness and grace."*

Haydn Middleton, **The Ballad of Syd & Morgan** (Propolis, Oct 2018). *"Imagine Pink Floyd drummer Syd Barret meeting with EM Forster towards the end of his life. Set in Cambridge, Syd meets Forster and the two of them talk about life and everything else in between."*

Esther Morgan, **The Wound Register** (Bloodaxe Books, Mar 2018). *"This book of poems is based around the Wound Register, or Casualty Book of the Norfolk Regiment during the First World War – Morgan's East Anglian family history is woven into the poems including her own present life as a mother."*

Jules Pretty, **The East Country: Almanac Tales of Valley and Shore** (Comstock Publishing, Sep 2017). *"A slim, elegant volume crammed with information and insights. Part-memoir, it also weaves a story of natural history and cultural landscapes."*

Stella Tillyard, **The Great Level** (Chatto & Windus, Jul 2018). *"This mesmerizing and complex novel shines its light on the engineering feats of land reclamation in the fens in the 17th century."*

Nicola Upson, **Nine Lessons** (Faber & Faber, Nov 2017). *"Set in Cambridge and along the Suffolk coast, this is a detective story which combines the ghost stories of MR James with a gripping tale of murder and revenge."*

25<sup>th</sup> February 2019