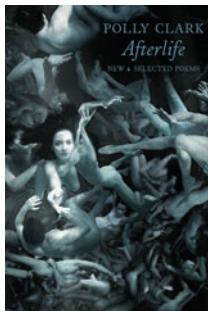


# BLOODAXE BOOKS



## NEW BOOKS 2026

[www.bloodaxebooks.com](http://www.bloodaxebooks.com)



**FEBRUARY 26**  
**POLLY CLARK**  
***Afterlife***  
**NEW & SELECTED POEMS**

Polly Clark's poetry inhabits a world that is strange, unsettling, and edged with danger. By turns moving and darkly comic, her poems examine the ways we cling to who we were, even as certainty dissolves and the past slips beyond reach. Her retrospective opens with a magical new collection in which there are no physical limits, nothing is stable and the world is distilled to its elements. The poems suggest that we are most real in that mysterious space between living and dying.

**POLLY CLARK** is an award-winning poet and novelist. Her second collection, *Take Me with You*, a Poetry Book Society Choice, was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. She divides her time between the west of Scotland and a houseboat in London.



£14.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 372 0  
 208 pages • 234 x 156 mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Farewell My Lovely*  
*Kiss*  
*Take Me with You*



**FEBRUARY 26**  
**PENELOPE SHUTTLE**  
***History of the Child***

Penelope Shuttle's *History of the Child* is a highly evocative exploration of childhood, memory, and imagination, blending personal and historical perspectives. The book's themes include parenting, grief, nature, psychological crises, trauma, emotional recovery and connections to the past, guided by the idea of childhood as a transformative and rebellious space. As well as memory and imagination, other elements of her *History of the Child* include foreboding, magic, history and humour as Penelope Shuttle seeks to articulate the essence of 'being' through fiery language and elemental imagery.

**PENELOPE SHUTTLE** has lived in Cornwall since 1970. Her 14 books of poetry include *Redgrove's Wife* (2006), which was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot and Forward Prizes.

£14 paper  
 978 1 78037 785 8  
 128 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Lyonesse*  
*Unsent: New & Selected Poems 1980-2012*  
*Will you walk a little faster?*



**FEBRUARY 26**  
**CATHY GALVIN**  
***Ethnology***  
**A LOVE SONG FOR CONNEMARA**

Cathy Galvin's debut *Ethnology* draws on the mystical cry for the dead of her Irish-speaking ancestors. Within an epic narrative she reclaims place, people and language, creating a bridge between our own times and a Connemara community on the margins of Europe, witness to vivid encounters: between the living and the dead and between poets, folklorists and ethnologists who've written about Connemara.

'Here the west of Ireland comes alive, island life and sea-shore culture caught in language and rhythms that are natural to the themes... This is a profound achievement.' — JOHN F. DEANE

**CATHY GALVIN** received a Heinrich Böll (Achill Island) residency. With roots in Coventry and Connemara, she now lives in Cornwall.



**MARCH 26**  
**LILY BLACKSELL**  
***Life Immediately***

*Life Immediately* is a pacy, dynamic debut collection containing all the preoccupations of Lily Blacksell's work, from womanhood, to music, to the natural world and our calamitous dealings with it.

'Riotous, creatively quixotic, both funny and deadly serious' — RICHARD SCOTT

'*Life Immediately* is the most purely enjoyable collection I have read in years.' — TIMOTHY DONNELLY

'A poetry that's hilarious and complex, witty and wise, understated and extravagant. A rare talent brimming with charm and mischief!' — DALJIT NAGRA



**LILY BLACKSELL** has published two pamphlets. She organises events at The Conduit and at The Social in London and Glastonbury.



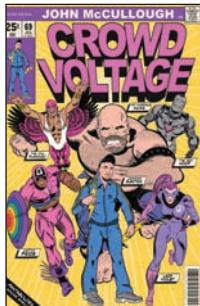
**MARCH 26**  
**RITA ANN HIGGINS**  
***Living with Wasps***  
**NEW & SELECTED POEMS**  
*Poetry Book Society Special Commendation*

*Living with Wasps* is a new retrospective from Ireland's Rita Ann Higgins drawing on a dozen books of poetry published over four decades, from *Goddess on the Mervue Bus* (1986) to *The Long Weekend* (2024), in addition to new poems appearing here for the first time. These are provocative and heart-warming poems of high jinks and telling social comment by a gutsy, anarchic chronicler of Irish lives and foibles.

Defiantly mischievous, playfully subversive, this irreverent iconoclast has been achieving even wider popularity through her regular appearances on RTÉ's *Brendan O'Connor Show*: 'Rita Ann Higgins is the people's poet. She's magic. She's a one-off.'

'Silly, funny, and at times deeply discomfiting, these poems use vibrant and buoyant anecdote to invite you in, only to sadden and unsettle you with what might be hiding behind the linguistic misdirection.' – SUSANNAH DICKEY on *The Long Weekend*

**RITA ANN HIGGINS** was born in 1955 in Galway, where she still lives. She left school at 14, and was in her late 20s when she started writing poetry.



**MARCH 26**  
**JOHN McCULLOUGH**  
***Crowd Voltage***

John McCullough's fifth collection addresses yearnings for community. It probes fragmentation – disturbances within the body of the crowd and the crowd of the body. Engaging with working-class and queer experiences, the poems move between solitude and togetherness, haunted by ghosts from history as they dream of unity and discover joy in deserted corners.

'Elegant, curious, and surreal, McCullough's poetry invades like moss, making everything alive again. A stunning, vibrant collection from one of the UK's most inventive thinkers. Glorious.' – JOELLE TAYLOR on *Crowd Voltage*

**JOHN McCULLOUGH** won the Polari First Book Prize. One of his three *Penned in the Margins* collections was shortlisted for the Costa Poetry Award. He lives in Hove.

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**No One Mentioned the Roofer**

We met the Minister,  
we gave him buns, we admired his suit.  
The band played, we all clapped.

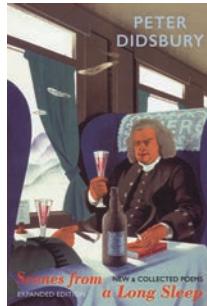
No one mentioned the roofer;  
whose overtime was cut  
whose under time was cut  
whose fringe was cut  
whose shoelaces were cut  
whose job was lost.

We searched for his job  
but it had disappeared.  
One of us should have said:

Hey Minister, we like your suit  
have a bun, where are our jobs?  
But there was no point,  
he was here on a bun eating session  
not a job finding session.

His hands were tied.  
His tongue a marshmallow.

**RITA ANN HIGGINS**  
FROM *Living with Wasps*



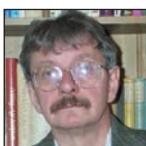
**MARCH 26**  
**PETER DIDSBURY**  
***Scenes from a Long Sleep***

**APRIL 10**  
**PETER DIDSBURY**  
***Scenes from a Long Sleep***  
**NEW & COLLECTED POEMS**  
**EXPANDED EDITION**

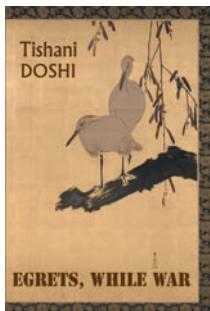
£14.99 paper  
978 1 78037 822 0  
288 pages • 234 x 156 mm  
Rights: World

Published to celebrate his 80th birthday, this expanded edition of Peter Didsbury's *Scenes from a Long Sleep* (2003) includes a later collection, *A Fire Shared* (2020), as well as new poems. Didsbury's staggering powers of invention, outrageous flouting of convention and subversive humour are fully and flagrantly displayed in this new collected edition of the poetry of this 'secular mystic with the lugubrious tongue' (*Independent on Sunday*).

'A sense of adventure hardly to be paralleled in contemporary poetry'  
– SEAN O'BRIEN, *London Magazine*



**PETER DIDSBURY** lives in Hull where he worked as an archaeologist.



## MAY 21

### TISHANI DOSHI

### Egrets, While War

The poems in Tishani Doshi's fifth collection navigate the deep entanglements between environmental loss, ancestral memory, the slow transformations of ageing, and the devastations of war. Birds appear throughout these pages, not simply as subjects but as symbols and messengers, witnesses to war, extinction and exile. Here, love and desire emerge not as consolation but as a form of radical presence. With lyric clarity and a gaze both wide and precise, *Egrets, While War* becomes a meditation on survival – of species, of history, of the heart.

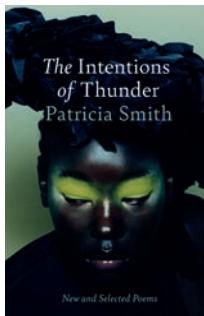
#### ALSO AVAILABLE:

*A God at the Door*

*Everything Begins Elsewhere*  
*Girls Are Coming Out of the Woods*



**TISHANI DOSHI** is a poet and dancer from India who spent part of her childhood in Wales. Her previous collection *A God at the Door* (2021) was shortlisted for the Forward Prize while *Girls Are Coming Out of the Woods* (2018) was shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award.



## MAY 21

### PATRICIA SMITH

### The Intentions of Thunder

#### NEW AND SELECTED POEMS

Longlisted for the National Book Award for Poetry 2025

America's Patricia Smith is one of the most indispensable, groundbreaking voices in contemporary poetry. *The Intentions of Thunder* gathers, for the first time, the essential work from across her career. With impassioned eloquence and a sharpened focus on incidents of national mayhem and mourning, these poems traverse the redeeming landscape of pain, confronting the frightening revelations of history.

'Patricia Smith is the greatest living poet. Every book is better than the last.' – DANEZ SMITH, *The Guardian*

**PATRICIA SMITH** won America's National Poetry Slam four times, the most in its history, and is a professor at Princeton University.



#### ALSO AVAILABLE:

*Incendiary Art*

### Egrets, While War

In the garden, egrets are doing their stalking dance, and it's easy to see how they are really feathered dinosaurs flown in through a hole from the past. Somewhere, a city under siege remains sleepless. The dirge of *loss recovery loss loss loss* continues. I cannot say why other people's family portraits fill me with such tectonic longing. Ancestors who stepped from ocean to land, shedding fin, tail, gill, to transform into a symphony of great-aunts and uncles. We bury clues of our dispossession—bony-plated language, heart scarab. Our task is to march on. To rise and leave the apple orchard, throw stones at marauders who threaten to tear up the carpets. Father will file a missing person report while spring carries on with its hedonism. It is pointless to resist the pull of our fruiting bodies. Whatever we fear has already happened. Will keep happening. If we could just wake to fullness in a delta with the berry-red lips of an amorous god upon us. Climb trees to listen to heartbeats. But here, the earth remains leashed to mystery—clay fingerprint, fragment of jaw. The sea retracts her tongue like a warning. Winged creatures lurch and soar. Whiteness, then vanishing.

**TISHANI DOSHI**  
FROM *Egrets, While War*

### In His Room. With Him Gone.

She walks into her son's room without knocking, more a voyeur than a nurturer, and is knocked back by the rancid air that says *man*.

Again she is surrounded by the remnants of a life lived desperately—seven baseball caps sporting the insignia of the moment, crumpled fast food bags, foil packets ripped of their rubbers, posters of snarling rappers with guns in their hands and ice in their names. She can still smell her son, the deep musky growl of him, even though he is miles away, anxious, shackled. The phone rings, and it is another child with a mustache and a roar in his throat. She pictures him on all fours, snarling, the receiver in his teeth, sniffing the air for her son's blood.

**PATRICIA SMITH**  
FROM *The Intentions of Thunder*



## MAY 21

### JENNIFER LEE TSAI

### **Melete**

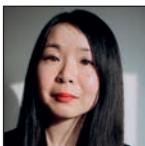
Jennifer Lee Tsai's first full-length collection – named after the Muse of meditation – explores family history, intergenerational trauma, love, loss and belonging through the perspective of a second-generation British Chinese identity.

'These extraordinary poems... speak powerfully against exoticism, stereotyping, and the manifold forms of racism experienced by the Chinese in Britain.' – HANNAH LOWE

'Powerful and distinct, Jennifer's poems weave historical and personal trauma into a vivid, striking exploration of family, heritage, and personhood.'

– ROMALYN ANTE

**JENNIFER LEE TSAI** was born and raised on Merseyside. She is a fellow of The Complete Works and a Ledbury Poetry Critic.



£14 paper  
978 1 78037 757 5  
144 pages • 234 x 156mm  
Rights: World



£12.99 paper  
978 1 78037 793 3  
80 pages • 216 x 138 mm  
Rights: World exc North America

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Goat's Milk: New & Selected Poems*  
*The Darkness of Snow*  
*The Rain Barrel*



## JUNE 25

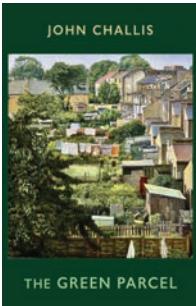
### FRANK ORMSBY

### **The Tumbling Paddy**

Frank Ormsby's eighth collection is, on the whole, a playful book which constantly surprises us with serious themes, including life with Parkinson's Disease. History is the word and history the image, whether as in a dream about Auschwitz or a portrait of the History Club on its annual outing.

'Wise and vulnerable, this poet courageously scans the horizons presented by illness and death. Love poet as well as elegist, he embraces heartbreak and gladness. Its depth of thought and emotion gives *The Tumbling Paddy* a sense of resurrection.' – MICHAEL LONGLEY

**FRANK ORMSBY** was editor of *The Honest Ulsterman* from 1969 to 1989, and was Ireland's Professor of Poetry in 2019-22. He lives in Belfast.



## JUNE 25

### JOHN CHALLIS

### **The Green Parcel**

The rural terrain of John Challis's second collection provides a new lens for exploring history, class and work, our relationship to the natural world, and cycles of growth and decay. Much of his debut *The Resurrectionists* concerned working lives in the city: his father a London cabbie, his grandfather a market porter. Here his focus shifts to a crumbling stately home in Northumberland. London is at a distance. We find ourselves beyond, in backyards, on motorways, in fields, searching for the green patch in Kent, where an East End family picked hops in the summer.



£12.99 paper  
978 1 78037 769 8  
80 pages • 216 x 138mm  
Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*The Resurrectionists*

**JOHN CHALLIS** worked as a researcher at Newcastle University, and now teaches at York St John University. He lives in York. His debut *The Resurrectionists* was published by Bloodaxe in 2021.



## JUNE 25

### LAWRENCE SAIL

### **Double Takes**

Twining is well embedded in Lawrence Sail's family: himself the son of a twin, he also has a twin sister and – youngest of his four children – twin daughters. His 14th collection's title *Double Takes* reflects the poems' central concern with many aspects of duality – whether manifested in the context of human relations, translations, 'the moment saved from time' or the touchstone of mortality. In some instances, juxtapositions and counterpoints bring affinities to light; in others, distance and difference.



£12.99 paper  
978 1 78037 794 0  
80 pages • 216 x 138mm  
Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Guises*  
*The Quick*  
*Waking Dreams: New & Selected Poems*

**LAWRENCE SAIL** published his retrospective *Waking Dreams: New & Selected Poems* with Bloodaxe in 2010. His later collections are *The Quick* (2015) and *Guises* (2020). He lives in Exeter.



£12.99 paper • 80 pages  
978 1 78037 774 2  
234 x 156mm  
Rights: World

## SEPTEMBER 24

### CLEMENTINE EWOKOLO BURNLEY

#### Belling the Leopard

*James Berry Poetry Prize 2024*

In her debut collection, Clementine Ewokolo Burnley asks what remains after once-familiar places and people have gone. The poems criss-cross the Atlantic, beginning in the 1850s. The voices of Caribbean returnees to the west African coast mingle with those of west African recaptives, German missionaries, and kidnappers. The collection addresses the past to illuminate what people can become to each other in the present. Weary of searching outward, women drop anchor in themselves.

**CLEMENTINE EWOKOLO BURNLEY**  
grew up in Cameroon and has lived between Scotland, Italy and Germany for forty years. Her pamphlet *Radical Pairings* (2023) was short-listed for the Michael Marks Poetry Award. She lives in Edinburgh.



£12.99 paper • 80 pages  
978 1 78037 776 6  
234 x 156mm  
Rights: World

## SEPTEMBER 24

### ROSHNI GALLAGHER

#### Even the Trees

*James Berry Poetry Prize 2024*

Roshni Gallagher asks what can be seen, named, or remembered in her debut collection. From Scotland to Guyana, the poems explore the porous boundary between past and present, and how ecological landscapes and landscapes of the mind and body are permanently altered by migration and memory. ‘Intelligent, searching, and beautifully written...an exceptional debut collection, full of enviable phrasing and insight.’ – KAREN SOLIE

‘Poignant, exquisite and haunting... so visceral, so perceptive, so adept.’ – PATIENCE AGBABI

**ROSHNI GALLAGHER** is a poet and librarian from Leeds of mixed Indo-Guyanese and Irish heritage, winner of an Edwin Morgan Poetry Award and Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award. She lives in Edinburgh.



£12.99 paper • 80 pages  
978 1 78037 778 0  
234 x 156mm  
Rights: World

## SEPTEMBER 24

### NADINE EL-ENANY

#### Pelican Daughter

*James Berry Poetry Prize 2024*

The poems of Nadine El-Enany’s debut collection are imbued with tenderness and fuelled by a hunger for justice, connection and a more empathic world. With stunning lyricism she fiercely probes the pain of being powerless in the face of global catastrophes – genocide, climate crisis – without tilting into despair.

‘A bracing social consciousness melds with a lyric transparency that make these poems supple enough to startle readers to that place where “only new things happen”’. – MAJOR JACKSON



**NADINE EL-ENANY** won the Newcastle University Chancellor’s Poetry Prize in 2024. She is Professor of Law at Kent Law School, and was previously Reader in Law at Birkbeck College. She lives in London.

## JAMES BERRY POETRY PRIZE

Run in partnership with Newcastle University since 2021, the James Berry Poetry Prize is Britain’s only poetry prize offering both expert mentoring and first book publication (by Bloodaxe) for young or emerging poets of colour. The 2024 James Berry Poetry Prize was judged by Neil Astley, Imtiaz Dharker, Major Jackson, Theresa Muñoz and Nathalie Teitler, and with Patience Agbabi, Karen McCarthy Woolf and Jacob Sam-La Rose as mentors. The three equal winners were Clementine Ewokolo

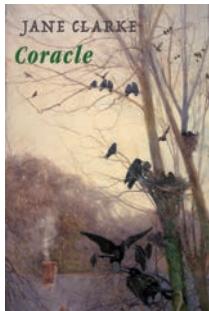
Burnley, Nadine El-Enany and Roshni Gallagher.

## SEPTEMBER 24

### Winner of the Mslexia Women's Poetry Pamphlet Competition 2025

The Mslexia competition has been judged by Imtiaz Dharker for the first four years of its partnership with Bloodaxe. Courtney Conrad’s *I Am Evidence* (2023) won the 2022 competition plus the Michael Marks Poetry Award. Nia Broomhall’s debut pamphlet *Backalong* (2024) was the 2023 winner, while Emilie Jelinek’s second pamphlet *The Sky Around My Father* (2025) won the 2024 competition. The 2025 winner will be announced in the June 2026 issue of *Mslexia* ahead of its publication by Bloodaxe in September 2026.

£7.50 pamphlet • 978 1 78037 795 7 • 32 pages  
210 x 140mm • Rights: World



## OCTOBER 22

### JANE CLARKE

### *Coracle*

Jane Clarke's *Coracle* explores what it means to care for each other and the natural world in the midst of social and environmental jeopardy. With a timeless lyricism her poems attend to lives, language and landscape. Her finely observed, distilled and intimate poems reflect on our kinship with all living things. The coracle, a small, simple boat used from antiquity to the present day symbolises our shared vulnerability and resilience. Heart-stirring and wise, this collection – her fourth – faces the reality of loss while celebrating acts of restoration that inspire hope.

JANE CLARKE's *A Change in the Air* (2023) was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, Forward Prize and Farmgate Café National Poetry Award, as well as being longlisted for the Laurel Prize. She lives in Glenmalure, Co. Wicklow.



## OCTOBER 22

### CAROLYN FORCHÉ

### *Otherwhere*

#### NEW & SELECTED POEMS

Carolyn Forché is one of America's most important contemporary poets – renowned as a 'poet of witness' – as well as an indefatigable human rights activist. Her retrospective, *Otherwhere*, is published fifty years after her debut, *Gathering the Tribes*, winner of the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award in 1975. It includes selections from that book and from four subsequent books published by Bloodaxe in the UK, plus new poems. In an introductory essay, *Older Than Glass, Younger Than Music: a poetics*, she relates her life and times to her development as a poet and thinker, tracing the shifts in her poetry across her five collections.

CAROLYN FORCHÉ is Professor of English and Director of Lannan Center for Poetics and Social Practice at Georgetown University.

£14.99 paper • 272 pages  
978 1 78037 818 3  
234 x 156mm  
Rights: World  
exc North America

ALSO AVAILABLE:  
*Blue Hour*  
*In the Lateness of the World*  
*The Angel of History*  
*The Country Between Us*



### Coracle

The mottled-brown blackbird  
will not let the wind distract her –

she's gathering moss, roots, twigs,  
ribs of bark and tattered leaves.

She lifts a scrap of baling twine,  
bright blue in her yellow-brown beak,

weaves it into the bowl  
hidden low in the hawthorn hedge.

She plasters her nest  
with muck from the sheep shed,

then moulds it around her body  
till it's robust as wattle and daub.

There will come magpies, foxes,  
badgers, stoats. And still

she lays her heart in the basket-boat.

JANE CLARKE  
FROM *Coracle*

### Translation

(for Daniel)

In a café near the entrance to the catacombs  
you wrote your English versions of poems  
composed in the voice of a thrush in a cage:  
winter trees, plane trees, iron benches, bocci in snow.  
This is where I found you most afternoons:  
cigarette lit, stack of books, folded up *Le Monde*,  
writing into the past with your oldest pen,  
unraveling your script then rolling it up again,  
music turned back into ink on paper,  
a symphony on the table face-down.  
I was a young mother pushing a carriage then,  
the little one trying to free himself (as he now has done),  
while behind the glass door of an armoire  
armies of paper soldiers fought,  
bells ringing like stones through the clouds,  
an army of graves upright. How to be still  
as you were, to keep quiet as one language  
enters another? Leaving all usual worlds behind.  
Because fog is not the same as violin! Fog is flute.  
And violin is maple, spruce and willow singing.  
You wrote like a mole in its tunnel dreaming of stars.

CAROLYN FORCHÉ  
FROM *Otherwhere*



## OCTOBER 22 CHASE TWICHELL

### Things as It Is | The World It Was

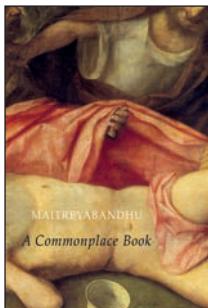
*Tell the truth. No decoration. Remember death.* These are the demands Chase Twichell has made of her poems for over half a century. One of America's most prominent poets and a longtime student of Zen Buddhism, she seeks to perceive what Shunryu Suzuki called *things-as-it-is*. These two books, published here in tandem, confront fundamental questions about the nature of the self: childhood trauma, the fate of a damaged planet, marriage and widowhood.

#### ALSO AVAILABLE:

*Horses Where the Answers Should Have Been*



**CHASE TWICHELL** grew up in Connecticut and the Adirondack Mountains. This early intimacy with wilderness was followed by her years at Zen Mountain Monastery in the Catskills.



## NOVEMBER 19 MAITREYABANDHU

### A Commonplace Book

In a commonplace book, you'd write a recipe, copy a proverb, jot down housekeeping advice, making a precious object out of ordinary things. Maitreyabandhu's *Commonplace Book*, his first book-length poem, follows a year from the death of his Buddhist teacher while he navigates his own spiritual life and smarts at lost love. Part epyllion, part diary, it mingles tradition with innovation, comedy with tragedy, traversing the bardo between this life and the next.

**MAITREYABANDHU** is a Buddhist teacher and writer. His first book-length collection, *The Crumb Road* (2013), was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, and was followed by *Yarn* (2015) and *After Cézanne* (2019). He lives and works at the London Buddhist Centre.



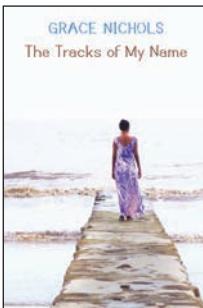
## NOVEMBER 19 HELEN FARISH

### Monet's Broom

When Claude Monet died in 1926 he left behind over three thousand works of art, and in his last decade he was exploring as rigorously as in his early years what a painting could be. Helen Farish's poems in *Monet's Broom* emerge from a deep absorption in the work of this extraordinary artist who revered that most fragile and fleeting of things: the present moment. This ambitious and immensely readable fifth collection – published in Monet's centenary year – asks searching questions about the creative process and what it means to lead a fully creative life.



**HELEN FARISH** lives in Cumbria. Two of her four poetry collections were shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, including *The Penny Dropping* (2024).



## NOVEMBER 19 GRACE NICHOLS

### The Tracks of My Name

*The Tracks of My Name* sees Grace Nichols embarking on a journey across the English countryside to the small Buckinghamshire town of Olney, where one-time English slave-trader (later abolitionist) John Newton lived and wrote his famous hymn, *Amazing Grace*. Two centuries later, in Guyana, her Methodist parents named her Grace Olney after both hymn and place. Her book lyrically and imaginatively explores the relationship between memory and history, conscience and greed, a sense of place and love of landscape.



**GRACE NICHOLS** was born in Guyana and has lived in Britain since 1977. She was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry for 2021. She lives in Sussex.