

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



## **2019 New Angle Prize Shortlist Announced**

The judges' for the 2019 New Angle Prize, for literature associated with or influenced by the region of East Anglia, have selected their shortlist of six, from which the £2,000 winner will be chosen, with £500 for a runner-up.

Family, coming of age and the impact of change in uniquely East Anglian communities are themes which permeate this year's shortlist. The judges have chosen three novels; *All Among the Barley* by Melissa Harrison, *Devoured* by Anna Mackmin and *The Great Level* by Stella Tillyard; a volume of poetry with Esther Morgan's *The Wound Register*; and two non-fiction works, *Low Country, Brexit on the Essex Coast*, by Tom Bolton and *Self & I* by Matthew De Abaitua. (More details below).

The competition is organised by the Ipswich Institute and sponsored by Gotelee Solicitors and Scrutton Bland accountants, and is an important feature of the region's literary calendar.

Tickets are now available for The Shortlist Showcase, at 7pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, an event at which the shortlisted authors will be asked to read from and discuss their works and regional influences.

Prize-winners will be announced at an Awards Dinner on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July to be held at Hintlesham Golf Club, Suffolk.

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. New Angle Prize winner in 2017 for *Threads: The Delicate Life of John Craske*.

**Andrew Burton** Playwright and teacher of playwriting and radio drama.

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

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and Judges' comments.

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."*

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."*

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."*

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"*.

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."*

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."*

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