

Lingham's

BOOKSELLERS

28th August
George Alagiah
BBC News Presenter

4th September
Sir Alastair Cook
England's former cricket Captain

9th September
Mark Radcliffe
Radio broadcaster, musician and writer

17th September
Max Hastings – *Operation Chastise*

19th September
Jon Sopel
Correspondent for BBC World News

25th September
David Baldacci
One of the world's bestselling thriller writers

30th September
Andrew Wilson
Award-winning journalist and author

4th October
Jojo Moyes – *The Giver of Stars*

7th October
Ambrose Parry – *The Art of Dying*

9th October
Chris Ryan
Author, presenter, security consultant and former Special Air Service sergeant

15th October
Jung Chang – *Wild Swans*

19th October
Heather Morris – *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*

**Tickets on the website
or call 0151 342 7290**



Award-winning Wirral novelist, **Margaret Murphy**, who pens thrillers as **A.D. Garrett** and **Ashley Dyer**, recommends two books per month, across a range of styles and a mixture of new and old.

***In a Kingdom by the Sea* by Sara MacDonald**
HarperCollins, ISBN-10: 0008245193



Gabby has spent most of her marriage bringing up her two boys largely single-handed, running a book translation service, and fitting her publishing life around her husband Mike's busy international work schedule. Her self-effacement and self-denial are heroic, and she has been taken shamefully for granted. Approaching her fifties, she wonders if Mike will ever slow down, and worries that she will be forever stranded in London as her boys prepare to fly the nest. But a surprise invitation from Mike to accompany him at his new posting in Karachi gives her fresh hope. Then a shocking letter from her sister reveals a devastating secret. Gabby is transported back to her childhood home on the Cornish coast, and as memories unravel, so too does her new life in Karachi.

I read *In a Kingdom by the Sea* in three enchanted days. Sara MacDonald's Cornish novels evoke the place brilliantly; it's her home, and her love of Cornwall in all seasons is evident in her dazzling descriptions. But this novel is set in three very different locations: London, Cornwall and Pakistan, each of which she summons with equal facility: the growl of London traffic, the wild, windswept seascapes of Cornwall, and the tense, colourful, nerve-jangling danger of the streets of Karachi. MacDonald establishes parallels between the constrained lives of women in Karachi, and Gabby, who begins to see her own circumstances in a new light. The characters are richly layered, and the story, told partly in flashback, is complex, emotionally gripping, and packed with suspense.

***Scrublands* by Chris Hammer**
Wildfire, ISBN-10: 1472255127



In the searing heat of Australia's 'Millennium Drought', journalist Martin Scarsden comes to a small country town aptly named Riversend one year after charismatic priest, Byron Swift, gunned down five local men.

Sifting through the ashes of a community ravaged by a decade-long drought, and burdened by the notoriety caused by the killings, Scarsden asks questions, forms unexpected affiliations, and discovers that nothing is as it seems. Until the shooting, Father Swift was well-liked in the town – even by the cranky local kids – and the police officer who shot him dead had counted him a friend. But why did a priest have an entire artillery of guns? Are the rumours that he was a pederast true? And why should this interest Australia's security intelligence service? Scarsden slowly pieces together the puzzle and becomes convinced that the town harbours even darker secrets.

This immersive whydunnit evokes vividly the devastation of a seemingly endless drought, the desperation of a dying town, and the destructiveness of journalists out for a story at any cost. Hammer's description of a bushfire is visceral and terrifying, but one of the great surprises for me was that it's possible to survive such a fire – a lesson which could stand as an allegory for the resilience of Riversend's townsfolk. *Scrublands* is satisfyingly twisty tale with a strong sense of place – a perfect summer read. Just remember to keep plenty of bottled water to hand.

Ashley Dyer's *Splinter in the Blood* is now on sale in all formats from Corsair, and *The Cutting Room* in hardback from William Morrow.