

Shadows in the Hay

Landscape, nature and the passage of time on a Herefordshire farm



Colin Williams

Shadows in the Hay

Published by Logaston Press

Tuesday 11th November

7pm Rossiter Books, Ross-on-Wye

“It is the fleeting angle of the setting sun that turns the river near home into a ribbon of flame. It is the flash of carmine in the wing of the hawk moth; the familiar line of the drovers’ road at the spine of the downs outside my window. It is the gaze upwards between the ragged tops of a ruined building on a distant mountain pass to see the framed sky full with the black and beautiful shapes of choughs. These are the things that give me a sense of belonging.”

Shadows in the Hay is the story of our changing and complex relationships with nature and the landscapes that surround us. In part told through the inter-war images of one family’s life on a Herefordshire farm, this is a hymn to the winding threads of a slowly-built intimacy with place and the otherness of the natural world. These images and the author’s experiences amongst the people and wild places of the Arctic Circle, the mountains of Eastern Europe and the open oceans set him on a personal and poignant journey deep into our relationship with the places we call home. Like another picture taken on the very edges of memory and consciousness, *Shadows in the Hay* tells how a world of journeys came to settle in just a few acres.

Colin Williams is a writer who explores our relationship with the landscape and its wildlife. He grew up on the open country of Norfolk’s fens with a childhood full of nature but now lives on the chalk downs of Hampshire. He’s worked as a conservationist, wildlife guide and has written for *BBC Wildlife*, *Earthlines* and *Orion* magazines as well as curating collections of new work by some of the world’s pre-eminent writers on the natural world. His work on landscape has been praised as having ‘a deeply personal precision’. *Shadows in the Hay* is his first book.

