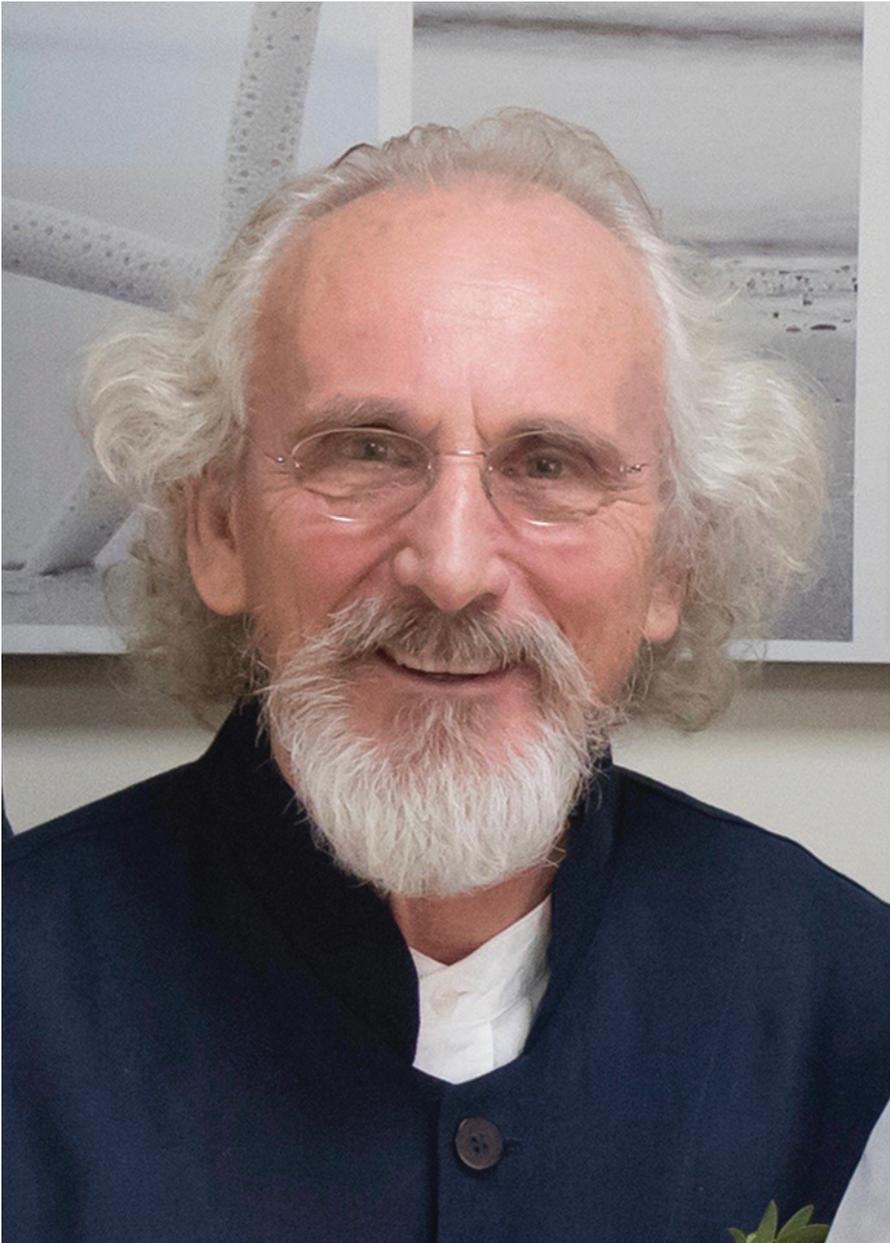


William Blyghton

Sara Green meets up with William Blyghton, Suffolk-based author of *The Suffolk Trilogy* to find out about his first two novels, 'The House by the Marsh' and 'Abraham Soar' (out in March).



story of William, a recently widowed older man, and the adjustments he makes to find peace again. The book transports us from a frenetic London to the solitude of a beach house on the Suffolk marshes, all the time describing his journey from the edge of the abyss to a gentle peacefulness. At the beginning William cannot contemplate his future but Providence takes a hand and he is introduced to some fascinating characters who together with his new found confidence, help him take his life in an altogether more positive and hopeful direction all against the backdrop of a very recognisable Suffolk.

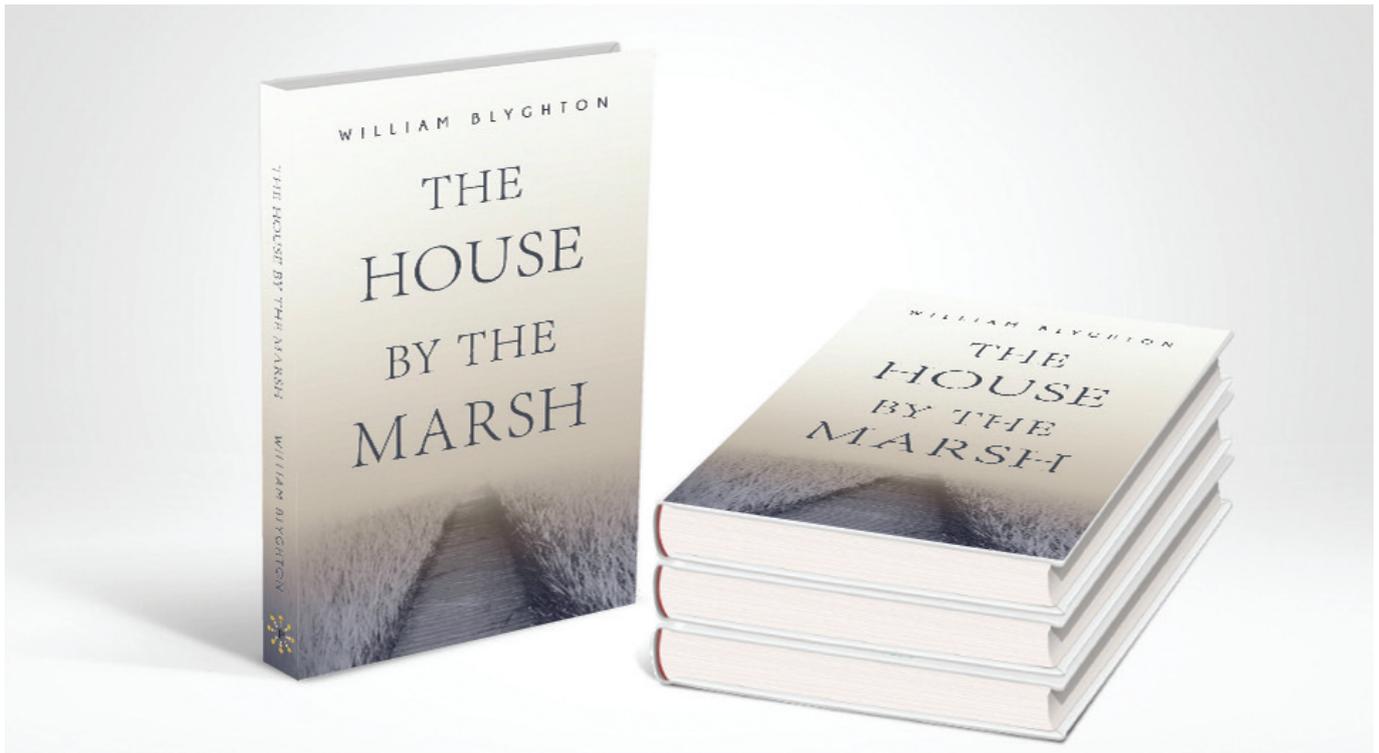
"Quite by chance, although nothing is by chance, William came to live in Suffolk, in the house by the marsh, and here a sense of ease slowly enveloped him."

I'm not really sure who to focus on more in this review - the William in the book or William the author. When I met William Blyghton for the first time it was hard to tell them apart. They definitely are different people, but I think they probably look alike; I'm sure they dress alike; I'm certain they read the same books; have the same deep spirituality; they both must love Suffolk and they definitely take their tea in the same way. When

There is something wonderful about picking up a book and becoming deeply involved with a work of fiction. That amazing feeling when you are completely transported to another time or place is what you are hoping for every time you choose a new book to read. The disappointment you can feel when a

book doesn't meet expectation is very real. So when I started reading 'The House by the Marsh' by Suffolk author, William Blyghton, knowing I would be meeting him shortly after, I was somewhat relieved that I was drawn almost immediately into the beautiful story that he has created. In fact, I was unable to put it down! 'The House by the Marsh' tells the

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William, the author made me a cup of tea it was as if William, the character, had made it - black tea, no milk unless you count almond milk. It was a surreal experience even though I know most authors write about what they know.

William Blyghton is not the writer's real name and I can tell you that the man behind the pseudonym has had a very interesting and somewhat high profile life, but I'm afraid that's all I can

tell you! 'The House by the Marsh' is the first of three love stories known as 'The Suffolk Trilogy'. The second, 'Abraham Soar' is due out in March and the third, 'Noah: An Old Fool' due out in the Autumn. The main characters in all three are similar but not the same, and the usually difficult issues of grief, loneliness, aging and love later in life run through all the books. And having been able to read the first two, I surprised myself by looking for these themes, welcoming them and finding a great deal of comfort in the wisdom of William Blyghton's words. They are themes that I would normally shy away from when choosing a book. Many of us will experience the grief of losing a partner but William Blyghton's writing made me feel sure that we can get through even the very saddest and loneliest of times. However, I must admit that the addition of a beautiful beach house complete with stunning interiors and mesmerising views might make the process a little gentler. Nevertheless, the way William Blyghton describes getting older and the challenges caused by this inevitability is done so tenderly and so thoughtfully that his words help ease the journey for readers.

"It was as if he were walking into a dream, a dream made especially for him. The house stood above the marsh on a platform set upon wooden piles,

and with a veranda around three sides."

William Blyghton's second novel, 'Abraham Soar' is due out this month and will be launched with a book signing on 29th March at The Aldeburgh Book Shop. This book is written very differently; although it is also set in coastal Suffolk, with a beach house and the sea playing central roles. Again, the themes of love and ageing are addressed, but this book goes deeper and asks the question of who ultimately writes our stories. We are reacquainted with William, the character, but this time he is the story teller with his own main character, Abraham Soar, a delightful older man with far more free will than William intends. William thinks he's in charge of his character but many authors will tell you that even though they think up their characters from their own imagination those characters very often have other ideas about the path their story will take. Abraham is very definitely full of surprises, and this is a wonderful read full of humour, pathos and William Blyghton's wisdom.

William's third book in the 'The Suffolk Trilogy' is 'Noah: An Old Fool' out Autumn 2019. He's also the author of 'Finding Elsewhere'.

■ www.williamblyghton.com

Books published by Panacea Books. Available from The Aldeburgh Book Shop and Amazon.

Book Launch, 6pm on Friday, 29th March at The Aldeburgh Book Shop.

