

THE GLADSTONE REVIEW

*Informal commentary, opinions, reviews, news, illustrations and poetry
for bookish people of philanthropic inclination*

An Introduction

This is the successor to the Gladstone Books Newsletter, the publication which was launched in November 2015 in association with the Gladstone Books shop in Southwell. The shop was named after William Gladstone, who became an MP for near-by Newark when only 23 years old in 1832, and was subsequently Liberal Prime Minister on four occasions until his death in 1898.

It was Gladstone's *bibliophilia*, rather than his political achievements, that led to adoption of this name when I first started selling second-hand books in Newark in 2002. For he was an avid reader of the 30,000 books he assembled in his personal library, which became the nucleus of the collection in the St Deiniol's library in north Wales, and which is his most tangible legacy. I retained the name when moving the business to Lincoln in 2006, and since May 2015, to the shop in Southwell.

Although the two are closely associated, I have now decided to promote the publication and bookshop as independent ventures, not least because the readership of the newsletter has included many, who for reasons of geography, opening hours or mobility were rarely able to visit the shop. My own changing circumstances now also allow me to devote proportionately more, and more flexible, time to the newsletter than to the shop. But I want to emphasise that, as previously, I am prepared to open the shop to *bona fide* browsers if contacted in advance by phone or email.

Consequently, from January 2017 instead of issuing it free of charge I am making a modest charge (£10 *per annum*) for receipt of the 12 monthly issues of the PDF publication. This will reflect the time, effort and resources involved in producing it - and generate some additional income that might improve the chances of the bookshop's survival at a time when independent bookshops are under threat from corporate on-line businesses. In fact, the additional income might be crucial. And to correct any misconception that the publication is primarily a *newsletter*, I have renamed it to emphasise its wider remit and distinctive character.

In line with this broader vision, I would be happy to consider relevant articles submitted for publication, on the understanding that acceptance is subject to my assessment on their suitability, and that I am not in a position to pay any fees.

For details on how to pay subscriptions see below

Ben Mephram

The Gladstone Review

Fees, new arrangements and where the profits go

Subscription Fees for 12 monthly issues sent as PDF attachments to emails

Standard fee: £10.00 p.a.

Higher fee Anyone wishing to pay a higher fee can be assured that, along with profits from book sales, it will be donated to UNICEF, as noted below.

Anyone interested in subscribing will be sent a free sample issue on request to

info@gladstonebooks.co.uk

Payment options

1. Write a cheque for the appropriate amount to **Ben Mepham** and post, or deliver by hand, to **Gladstone Books, 2 Bull Yard, Southwell, Notts NG25 0EH**.

Payment may also be made by cash when delivering directly during opening hours (or through the letterbox) to the shop in Bull Yard. All subscription payments will be acknowledged by email.

2. Please remember to include your name, email address, and full postal address. This is important, because sometimes emails are reported as 'undelivered' - a problem that can only be sorted out by making contact by other means.

Another change to the current accessibility

3. Although the archive of earlier issues of the Newsletter is no longer accessible via this website, you can request copies of PDFs for individual months (at £1.00 per copy) as described elsewhere on this website:

www.gladstonebooks.co.uk