

# Dorchester Literary Festival

**PRESS RELEASE –21/06/19**

## **Short List Announced for Hall & Woodhouse DLF Writing Prize**

Local writer and journalist, Dee La Vardera has been shortlisted for a prestigious local writing prize with her non-fiction book about events in Italy in 1944. Having been chosen from more than seventy original entries. *The Road to Civitella 1944: the Captain, the Chaplain and the Massacre* (Fonthill Media) was first published in 2016 and tells the true story of two British officers who brought life back to an Italian village after it was devastated by the retreating German army. This year is also the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civitella massacre on 29 June 1944.

Dee said, ‘I am thrilled to be shortlisted and to have my book recognised in this way. It’s wonderful discovering hidden stories and being able to explore the subjects and present them to readers. I felt it important to write about the unspoken heroism and empathy of these two officers - good men doing good deeds in the most difficult of circumstances.

Paul Atterbury, co-director of the Dorchester Literary Festival said, ‘This year’s books are particularly timely, with their themes of identity and acceptance. And we were delighted to note that, coincidentally, all four finalists are women. Our thanks go to our local judges and everyone who took the time to enter the competition originally.’

The books will now be read by a leading literary agent and publisher and the winner will be announced on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at an event hosted by Hall & Woodhouse at the Duchess of Cornwall in Poundbury, Dorchester. Best-selling author, Minette Walters will be the guest of honour, presenting the £1000 prize.

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