



'IN THE SPOTLIGHT'

Each month we put a different person 'in the spotlight' and pose 12 wide-ranging questions to them. This month, we feature **Kitty Kovacevic, Volunteer Graphic Designer for the Evesham Festival of Words.**

1. Tell us an interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.

Whilst on a student exchange in Finland me and a friend were escorted off the grounds of the prime minister's holiday residence Kultaranta Castle. I used to love exploring the local area and would often set out on walking adventures with no plan, no map and generally no idea where I'd end up. Looking back this seems very irresponsible but it did lead to some interesting encounters, this being one of them! Kultaranta is close to the pretty little archipelago town of Naantali, also home to Moominland (as in the Tove Jansson books). It was winter at the time and the water between the little islands was frozen, and full of people walking and skating. We just happened to walk a bit further than most and accidentally ended up trespassing. It didn't take long before a bemused security man found us and kindly gave us a lift into town along with his wife who was off to do the shopping.

2. What book made most impact on you as a child?

Like most people of my generation I am an alumni of Hogwarts! I was just the right age when the first Harry Potter book came out and I am so thankful to have had such wonderful carefree hours reading. Me and my sister would read every book from cover to cover on day of release often in competition with each other and barely moving all day except for essentials. No book will ever match the childhood thrill of reading the latest Harry Potter and I would love to go back and read each book as if for the first time.

3. What is your favourite film, and why?

Amelie. I've watched it so many times I can almost speak French. A typical Jean-Pierre Jeunet film, a whimsical story full of vivid colours and quirky characters. Best enjoyed Sunday afternoon with a cup of coffee and a rock cake.

4. What are your main hobbies/interests, apart from reading, of course?

Drawing and cycling are probably the top two. I mostly draw local landmarks, including Evesham Bell Tower, Pershore Abbey and Broadway Tower. In 2016 I was Cotswold Life Magazine's Artist in Residence which was a fantastic honour. At the moment I'm trying to get to grips with drawing on my iPad although it's just not the same as paper and a pencil.



5. What would be the three things you would like to have if you were stranded on a desert island?

Ignoring any practical items, I would definitely have to take a radio. I listen to Radio 6 and Radio 4 constantly and can't imagine daily life without indie tunes or a good radio play.

Second would undoubtedly be a supply of coffee. Lastly I'd pack a never ending sketch pad and an everlasting 2B pencil - that way I can document life on the island, draw a map and maybe even get to grips with life drawing (although I'd be the only model so I'm not sure how that would work!).

6. What would a look at your bookshelves tell us about you?

I own mostly art books, travel books and sci-fi so I am clearly trying to escape somewhere! If you look really closely you might also notice that I don't dust as often as I should!

7. If you could invite any three people, dead or alive, to a dinner party, who would they be, and why?

Bjork. Her music is the backing track to my life. It would be great to hear what creative projects she is working on next. I also think she would be great fun after a few glasses of wine.

Bill Bryson - for travel tips and all round humour.

Dexter Dalwood - a British painter and collage artist. I heard him speak when he was exhibiting at the Tate St Ives in 2010. It had a huge impact on my own artwork at the time but I regret not asking any questions.

8. What kind of music do you like, and is there one favourite soundtrack?

In case my previous answer didn't give you any clues! Bjork. There is more to her music than 'It's Oh So Quiet'. She combines genres, from beats to strings and endlessly pushes creative boundaries inspiring us mere mortals that 'It's in Our Hands' to do the same. Other staples are The Smiths, Roxy Music and Kate Bush. I listen to a huge range of music and at the moment I've been enjoying Soar, an album by Catrin Finch and Seckou Keita which is a fusion of Welsh harp with Senegalese Kora.

If I have to pick a favourite soundtrack it would be Unison by Bjork, the special edition Livebox version.

9. What are your favourite charities/good causes, and why?

Air Ambulance and the RNLI as I have friends and relatives who have been saved by both. I also helped support the Evesham Bell Tower Appeal.



10. Who is the person who has influenced you most/you most admire?

My Gran, she is in her 90s now and is very much the 'traditional Gran'. I really respect the old fashioned values she has instilled in me. She taught me to bake, and has patiently tried to teach me to sew and knit with limited success.

11. What is your connection to Evesham?

I grew up in Bidford, but moved away for University. I came back for an internship at the RSC and not long after met my partner whilst volunteering at another local theatre. We then brought a house here about 6 years ago.

12. What would you list as your greatest achievement to date?

Earlier this year I qualified as an Adobe Certified Associate Visual Design Specialist (what a mouthful). Basically, this is a Graphic Design qualification to say I know my way around Photoshop. I work full time as a Graphic Designer and have done for several years, however, I am mostly self-taught so certification is proof to myself that I do have some idea what I'm doing!

Being involved with the Evesham Festival of Words over the past few years has been a great way to put new skills into practice and it has been wonderful supporting the festival as it grows.