

## THE MONICA EDWARDS APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Welcome news for the lovers of Monica Edwards' books is the announcement of the formation of a **new** Society for the gathering of like minded souls.

Initially under the name of *The Monica Edwards Appreciation Society*, it is condensing around three readers who wish to share their enjoyment of the author's work with others.

The three in question are Joyce Bailey, Susan Winn and Henrietta Chew. Regular browsers of the Site's guestbook will be familiar with these names.

A meeting in Thursley, up the lane from *Punchbowl Farm*, around a table in *The Three Horseshoes* brought plans to a head. A New Society would be formed—under the working title of '*The Monica Edwards Appreciation Society*'.

### 'The Martello' magazine

It would have a magazine, initially produced twice a year, to be known as the *Martello*; but it would also have a strong social element, meeting a few (or more) others to explore Rye Harbour, or to potter around the Punchbowl—or in fact any activities that members want—all ideas welcomed!

### Planned visit to Westling

As it is sixty years since Monica Edwards' first book was published it seemed apt to launch the Society with an exploration of the home setting of *Westling*—which all readers will be aware is the little fishing and working village at the mouth of the River Rother, properly known as **Rye Harbour**.

It was here that Monica came in her early teens, moving with her family down from Yorkshire, as her father moved to the parish. Her youth in and around the village, the river and marsh fields became the setting for her beloved Marsh stories, beginning with her first book *Wish for a Pony*. Sixty years on much of the area is little changed. The vicarage and the church, the *William the Conqueror Inn* and the **Martello Tower** still stand. It is possible to cross the shingle to where *Old Jim's ferry* plied its trade across the river.

Features of the later books are still to be found, **Camber Castle** and the **Lifeboat House** still sit on the flat scenery, battered by the winds but still standing.

### Society page

Details of the new Society can be found on the Society pages. Find these via the link on *The Monica Edwards Website's* front page.

Although the Site and the Society are two entirely separate concerns, I am happy to provide a temporary roost to its home pages.

For information from the horses' mouths please visit these pages. Here will also be found a link to the '**Member's Form**' for those who wish to sign up for the first issues of *The Martello*.

This form is also reproduced in full on page 2 of this Special issue of the *Ferry-Hut News*.

## 'Strangers to the Marsh' COMING SOON out this autumn

*Girls Gone By* publishers have announced their next title in the Romney Marsh series of books by Monica Edwards.

Fifty years after its first publication, the eleventh book in her series of books set around Westling should appear in September or October this year.

The book starts with a tragedy for *Jim* in Rye, which sets in motion another summer of activity and excitement for *Tamzin*, *Rissa*, *Roger* and *Meryon*.

The story is set earlier on in the series than its published position. It takes place immediately before '*Hidden in a Dream*' published five years earlier (and re-issued last year by *Girls Gone By*).

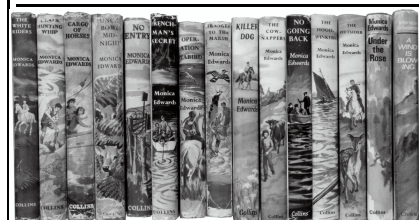
### Full text

Like the other *Girls Gone By* reprints, this will be the full original text and illustrations. It will also have an article by *Shelley Edwards*, Monica's daughter and the inspiration for *Tamzin*, with photographs. There will also be an article by *Joy Wotton* and a publishing history of the book.

### Order now

This book can be ordered now from *Girls Gone By* via their website at [www.ggbp.co.uk](http://www.ggbp.co.uk) for the postage included cost of £10.99 or by post from

*Girls Gone By*,  
4, Rock Terrace,  
COLEFORD,  
Bath,  
Somerset BA3 5NF



Spot the Children's Book Club editions ?

**EDITORIAL**

The site has been constantly in receipt of emails frustrated with the lack of a venue to share comments, opinions and appreciation of Monica Edwards' work, following the failure of the old 'From the Punchbowl' society. So I'm delighted to welcome this New Society and

wish it well from its launch and for a happy and successful voyage. Like Westling's lifeboat it will go well if we all pull together !!

Finally I must stress that this is a completely new venture and has no connection whatever with the previous Monica Edwards Society. J A

The Romney Marsh Companion  
by Brian Parks  
Girls Gone By

**Next Issue—Number 4**  
Autumn 2007 all being well—reserve your copy now !

**The Martello membership form**

Please fill in the following details

Title:

\*Forename:

\*Surname:

\*Address:

Phone No:

E-mail:

\* Necessary details

If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see featured in the magazine, please say here. Also, we would very much like to hear your suggestions/ideas for any special society events or activities, and please let us know if you would like to participate in any way with the running of the society...

Sue, Joyce and Henrietta

Please choose an option:-

I would like to subscribe to **The Martello (Monica Edwards Appreciation Society)** and a cheque for £7.00 made payable to **Joyce Bailey** is enclosed.

Or

I am a non UK resident and enclose a sterling cheque or the local equivalent as follows-

Euros 11    US \$18    Au \$22    NZ \$22

(Please indicate which applies)

Send to:

**The Martello, 71 Brownrigg Crescent, Bracknell  
Berkshire RG12 2PY**

Subscriptions will be acknowledged with a receipt/membership card

News-sheet available by downloading from the site [www.monicaedwards.co.uk](http://www.monicaedwards.co.uk) or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope labelled 'ME' in the top left hand corner and a loose first class stamp to:  
**John Allsup, Garden Cottage—Park House, Finghall, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 5ND**