

# COUNTRY LIFE

EVERY WEEK

MAY 14, 2025

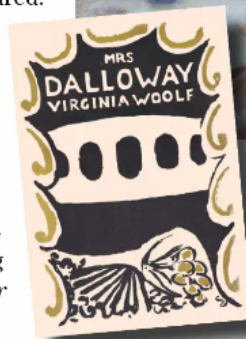
## One day in Mayfair

CLARISSA DALLOWAY is 100 today, but she won't receive a congratulatory Cmissive from The King. For this Mrs Dalloway is the creation of Virginia Woolf, in her much-lauded novel of the same name. Consequently, the centenarian's celebrations take a different form, not least an exhibition that coincides with both the month and the part of London in which much of the story is set.

The book unfolds over a single June day in Mayfair, offering an intimate portrait of a woman's inner life and the shifting society of post-war Britain. It is regarded as a masterpiece of literary modernism.

For David Simon of Somerset-based David Simon Contemporary, it was not the words alone that captivated him, but the vivid imagery they conjured. 'I found it a very visual book,' he explains. 'When I heard the centenary was coming, I thought it would make a good subject for an exhibition.' The result is 'For There She Was'—a title drawn from the text—featuring work by 12 contemporary visual artists. It runs from June 3–8 at 54 The Gallery, Shepherd Market, London W1, before transferring to Castle Cary, Somerset (June 14–July 12; [www.davidsimoncontemporary.com](http://www.davidsimoncontemporary.com)).

A highlight will be July 3, when Woolf scholar Prof Mark Hussey speaks on his new book, *Mrs Dalloway: Biography of a Novel*. To mark the occasion, Penguin imprint Vintage Classics has released a new edition featuring the 1925 Hogarth Press cover by Vanessa Bell. *Melanie Cable-Alexander*



Paintings by artists such as Victoria Jinivizian (above) and a reissue with the original cover (left) will mark 100 years of Virginia Woolf's celebrated novel *Mrs Dalloway* →