



---

*Welcome to the second issue of the Berners Review; your bi-weekly round up of library and learning news.*

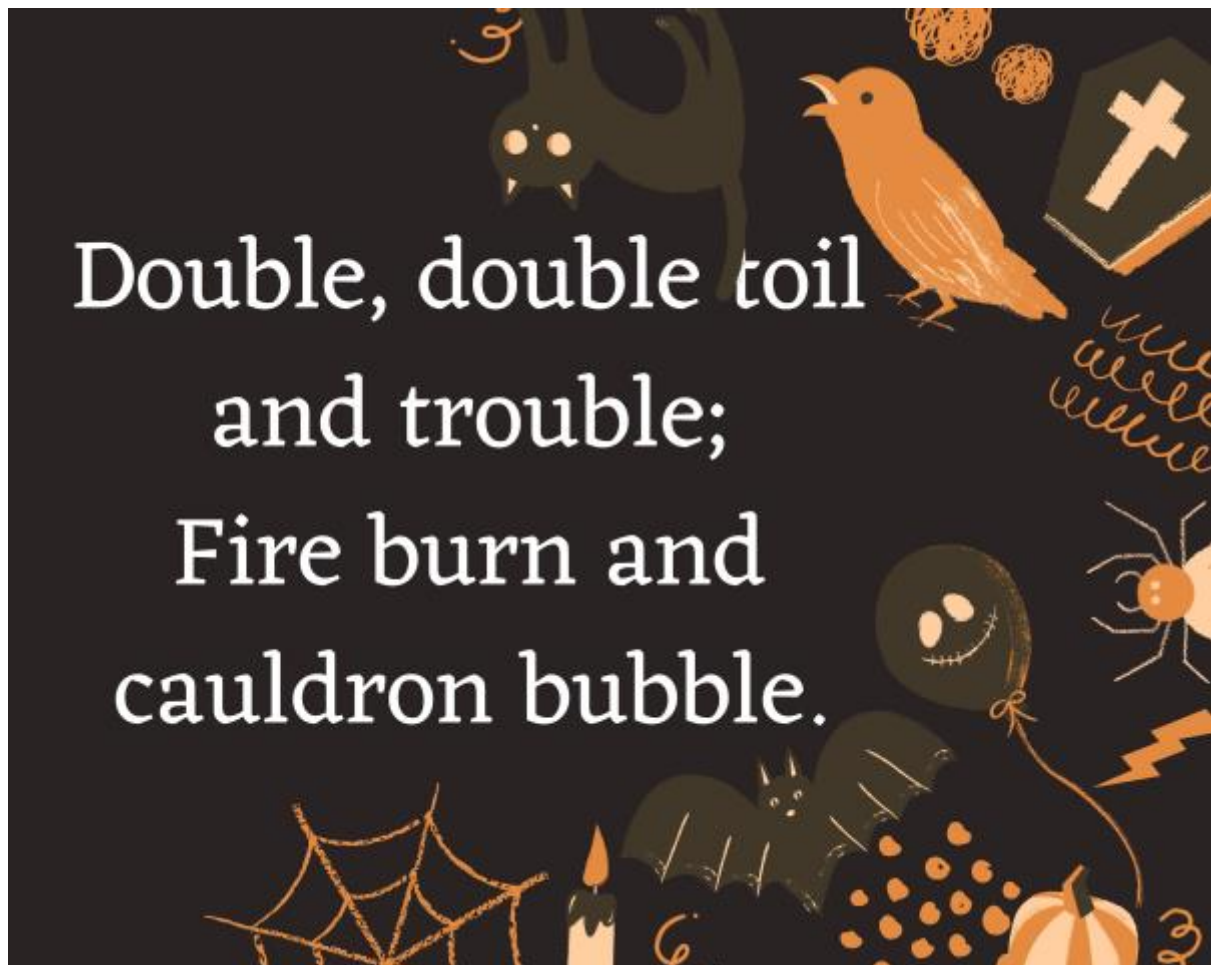
*As we prepare for a spooktacular half term, let's explore the supernatural in Shakespeare's Macbeth, learn how to write a bestselling horror story from Stephen King, and discover Suffolk's paranormal past with Horrible Histories.*

---

## Supernatural Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

**Superstitions** ran high in Shakespeare's day and, following years of the **Bubonic Plague** and other mysterious deaths and illnesses, many would blame **witches** for their bout of bad luck. As a result, there existed an atmosphere of both repugnance and fascination toward witchcraft and the powers of evil were believed to be an ever-looming threat to the Elizabethan soul. These beliefs were so far ingrained into the popular imagination that, in 1542, Parliament passed **the Witchcraft Act** which made it a crime punishable by death.

Three witches play a pivotal role in **Shakespeare's *Macbeth*** wherein we follow the rise and fall of a once virtuous Scotsman and his power-hungry wife who are willing to do anything to secure the throne. The Witches prophesize the future of Macbeth which heightens the play's feeling of **suspense**.



Act 4, Scene 1: The 'Weird Sisters' gather around a cauldron; into it they throw all manner of foul and evil objects and cast a spell, chanting the infamous 'Song of the Witches'. Read an extract below:

---

*Fillet of a fenny snake,*

*In the cauldron boil and bake;*

*Eye of newt and toe of frog,*

*Wool of bat and tongue of dog,*

*Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,*

*Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,  
For a charm of powerful trouble,  
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.*

*Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.*

---



## The King of Horror



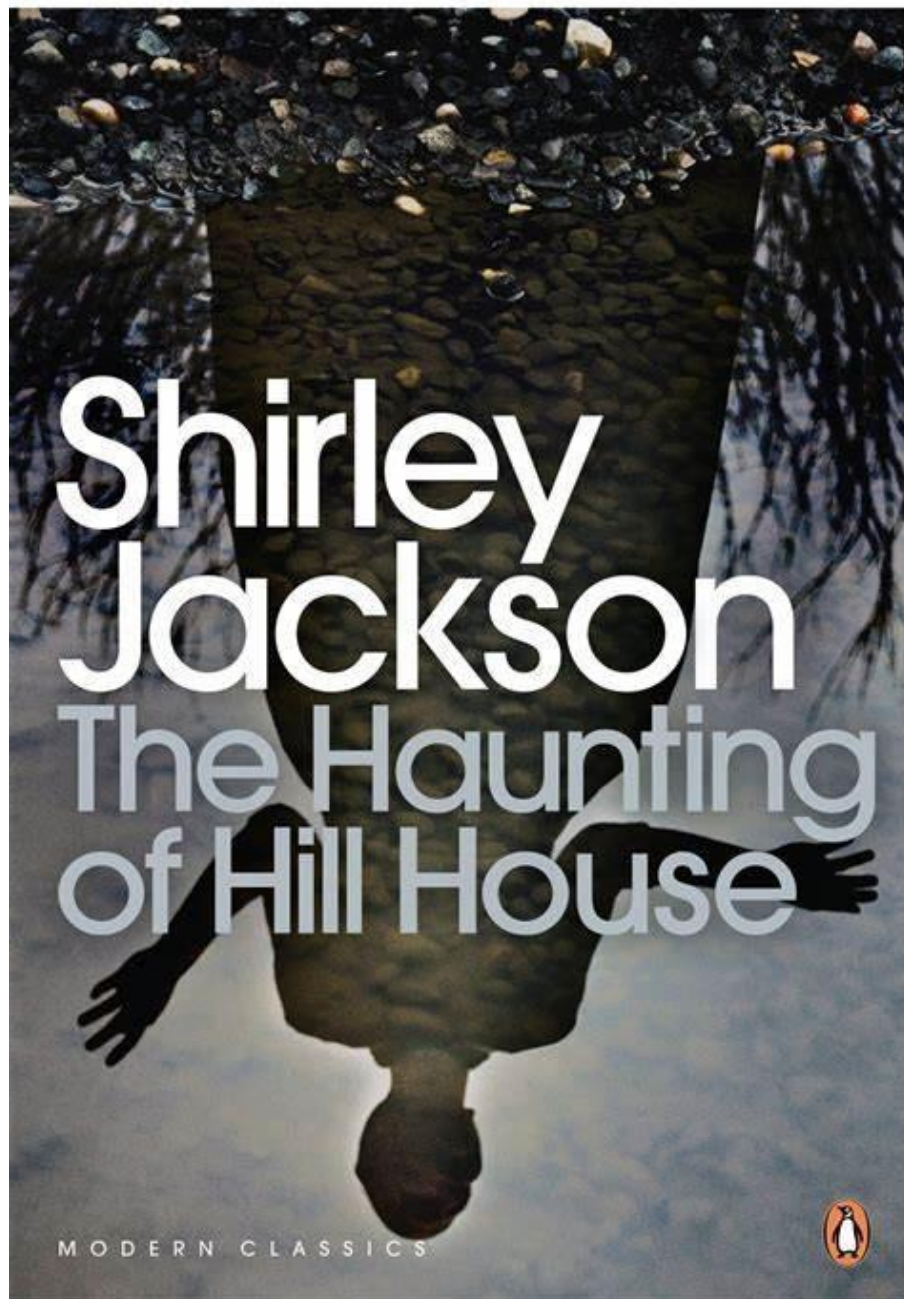
Stephen King is an American bestselling author of horror, crime, and fantasy novels. He is best known for his chilling works such as *The Shining*, *Pet Cemetery*, and *IT* which have all been adapted for the big screen along with many of his other books.

Originally broadcast in 2000, the following interview sees King reflect on his writing career in the wake of a near-death accident during his daily walk.

You can find King's fascinating memoir *On Writing* on display in the library. An essential read for any budding writer.

Embed://<iframe src="https://www.npr.org/player/embed/128239303/128264667" width="100%" height="290" frameborder="0" scrolling="no" title="NPR embedded audio player"></iframe>

**Spotlight Book:** *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson



**AS SEEN ON**  
**NETFLIX**



---

*As seen on Netflix, **The Haunting of Hill House** is an eerie modern classic guaranteed to send a chill down your spine. Find this and more gothic horror on display in the Berners Library.*

---

"Alone in the world, Eleanor is delighted to take up Mr Montague's invitation to spend a summer in the mysterious Hill House. Joining them are Theadora, an artistic sensitive, and Luke, heir o the house. But what begins as a light-hearted experiment is swiftly proven to be a trip into their darkest nightmares, and an investigation that one of their number may not survive."

**Shirley Jackson © 1959**

## Horrible Histories Spooky Special

Do you know the chilling legend of the Green Children of Woolpit? Find out about Suffolk's haunting history and more in this *Horrible Histories Spooky Special*.



## What's on?

- [Halloween Film Making Workshop](#) at Chantry Library. Free to attend. Saturday 23rd to Sunday 31st October.
- [Avid Crime Readers book club](#) at Bury St Edmunds Library. Free to attend. Tuesday 26th October. 14:30-16:30.
- [London Literature Festival](#) on the South Bank. Free to attend with some paid events. Thursday 21st to Sunday 31st October 2021.

## Your voice. Your learning. Your library.

The Berners Library has great potential to become a welcoming space for learning and relaxation alike. This step forward starts with you. Fill out [this form](#) to let us know what you want to see and do here.