

WHAT'S ON

NOVEL ABOUT
IMAGINARY
MEETING OF
FAMOUS
CANTABRIGIANS
IS LAUNCHED

When Pink Floyd met EM Forster...

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A CAMBRIDGE event will mark the launch of a new book about two of the city's biggest names. 'The Ballad of Syd & Morgan,' is a fictional tale about a meeting between Pink Floyd's Syd Barrett and novelist EM Forster.

The book, written by Haydn Middleton, celebrates the lives and creative talents of the pair.

It is a tale set in Cambridge in 1968, that speculates what could have happened if the two men from opposite ends of the 20th century ever met.

To mark the launch, publisher Propolis Books, has organised a book tour across four cities in the country.

The final stop will be in Cambridge on November 29 at the Anglia Ruskin Gallery.

The event is free and attendees will hear the writer give a reading of the book and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Haydn said: "I'm looking forward to doing the event in Cambridge because really it's the most important and relevant city to the book.

"I'm hoping that members of Syd Barrett's family will be there. They've read it and approve of it, which I'm really pleased about.

"The story is counterfactual really. Of course it's fictional as they never met as far as we know, but I've based the story on truths about them both.

"Everything about their life stories is accurate as far as I can ascertain."

The book, which was published on October 26, tells the story of a young Barrett who is at a loose end as he's struggling to find his creative flair.

He heads to King's College where he finds Forster and asks him to give him a painting that he hopes will be the key to finding his creative impulse again.

The story follows the men as they develop a unique companionship based on their need for artistic expression.

Haydn said: "I was inspired to write this book by my life-long admiration for both men and their work. It was one Saturday in Autumn 2015 when I was reading 'A Room with a View' by EM Forster



Author Haydn Middleton at one of the launch events for his book

and I had my music on shuffle when *Interstellar Overdrive* by Pink Floyd came on.

"I put the two together and wondered if the pair had ever

crossed paths and if they had met what would've happened?"

The Cambridge launch event will be at the Anglia Ruskin Gallery on November 29, at 6.30pm-9.30pm.

