

Nicola Cornick - Media Kit - 2026

Author and Historian

Following a career in academia, Nicola Cornick became a full-time author and has written a number of bestselling, highly-acclaimed dual-time novels in addition to over 35 award-winning historical romances. Nicola's novels are inspired by the history, legends and landscapes of the Oxfordshire/Berkshire/Wiltshire borderlands, where she has lived for over twenty years.

Her first dual time novel, *House of Shadows*, was based on the research she undertook at Ashdown House, a 17th century National Trust hunting lodge in Oxfordshire. In 2020 the book was named one of the best romantic novels of the last 60 years in the RNA Diamond Anniversary awards.

Nicola holds a BA in History from London University and a MA with Distinction from Ruskin College, Oxford, in Public History. Her current research is focused on the history of the Craven family and Ashdown House, with a non-fiction narrative history of Ashdown currently in preparation. In 2025 she co-curated an exhibition on Jane Austen in West Berkshire at the Uffington Museum.

Nicola has wide ranging experience of media work, both in print and broadcast. In print she has provided interviews, reviews, Q&As and articles for both news and magazine publications such as *Countryfile Magazine* and *The Daily Telegraph*. She has also done both live and recorded broadcast media work for both local and national channels, including BBC Radio 4 Today Programme and History Extra. Nicola has spoken at a range of literary festivals and live events over the years, including Oxford and Sharjah festivals, London Book and Film Week, and events for the National Trust and other heritage organizations, the WI and community groups.

She is a member of the Society of Authors and the Historical Writers Association. She also works as a bookseller at the independent Wantage Bookshop.

Talks:

Nicola offers a variety of talks about the history of Ashdown House and the Craven family:

Ashdown House and the Craven Family – The “Dolls-house of the Berkshire Downs” and the family who owned it through 350 years of history.

The 1st Earl of Craven and the Winter Queen of Bohemia – William Craven was renowned for his devotion to Elizabeth the Winter Queen, daughter of King James I. But what is the real history behind the story of Craven's unwavering loyalty?

The Craven Collection – The fascinating history behind the Winter Queen's portrait collection.

“Jane Austen Ruined My Reputation: The “Cruel” Mrs Craven.” How did one member of the Craven family achieve such notoriety fifty years after her death? You can blame it on her connection to Jane Austen... A literary detective story!

Untold Stories – The Women of the Craven Family. The Craven family included many formidable 17th, 18th and 19th century women whose stories have been overlooked by history. Here are the stories of Lady Craven, moneylender to the court of James I, Elizabeth Craven's 17th century recipe book, Arabella Craven and her encounter with pirates, and Louisa, the former actress who enjoyed some drama in real life too!