

Truffles from the Invisible Library.

There is more to our bookstock than meets the eye. Besides the volumes on our open shelves, we also maintain a store of older titles in the basement of Twickenham Library. They may no longer be so physically attractive, but they will have proved their worth over the years. Often they were famous, infamous, or outrageously popular when new, and they have been sought by readers ever since. Or they may perhaps be the only book on their subject. And some will be of local interest. Whatever the reason for their enduring usefulness, we endeavour to retain these titles for some time (often many years) after the peak of their popularity has passed.

You will find them all listed on our catalogue, but their home is unfortunately not suitable for public access and browsing. Therefore each month we will present on these pages a small selection of titles. They may have some current resonance, or simply a quirky appeal which may tickle your fancy.

Should you wish to borrow any of them, please enquire at your usual library.

So, in no particular order, we present:

Joseph McALEER *Passions's Fortune: the story of Mills & Boon.* (1999)
How did what began as a general publishing house become a synonym for romantic fiction?

Dorothy HARTLEY *Water In England* (1978)
From water meadows to hot water bottles, canal to holy wells, the English way of life has always been entwined with our abundance of water.

Daniel C DENNETT *Darwin's Dangerous Idea: evolution and the meaning of life.* (1995)
Explores the ways in which the theory of evolution has permeated our thinking and transformed our ideas in so many areas.

Peter MARREN *Britain's Rare Flowers.* (1999)
What they look like, how they grow and what is happening to their habitats and their chances of survival.

Arthur ORD-HUME *Perpetual Motion, the history of an obsession.* (1977)
Unfortunately the laws of physics say it is impossible, but that hasn't stopped many trying to prove otherwise down the centuries.

Ian NIALL *The New Poacher's Handbook.* (1960)
Could your diet benefit from a little surreptitious variety in these straitened times?

Robin EMMERSON British Teapots and Tea Drinking. (1992)

Charts the rise of our national habit and draws on the resources of the Twining Teapot Gallery – (yes, it's in Norwich) – to depict over 550 examples of the potter's art.

Marjorie ROSEN Popcorn Venus: women, movies and the American Dream. (1975)

Study of women in film from the very start of the industry which looks at how they have been portrayed and how that in turn has affected their lives.

Petros GAROUFALIAS Pyrrhus, King of Epirus. (1979)

Detailed life of a would-be successor to Alexander the Great whose victories proved his undoing, and whose name has become an adjectival byword.

Rodney MACE Trafalgar Square, emblem of Empire. (1976)

How London's most famous public space came to be, and how it took its familiar form.