

# Shelf Life



MASTERTON  
LIBRARY  
DISTRICT

LIBRARIES  
AOTEAROA

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# CONTENTS

Getting to Know Your Library Staff.....	2
From Your Library.....	3
Winter Is Coming - Game of Thrones.....	4-5
Jigsaw Puzzles.....	6
From the Wairarapa Archive.....	7
What's On.....	8
Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.....	9
2016s Most Wanted (so far).....	10
Featured Author: Nicky Pellegrino.....	11
Learn with Lynda.....	12

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**COVER:** We often associate winter with cold weather and grey days, and it does lead to more time being spent indoors than out. Fortunately the library has plenty to keep us all occupied, entertained, even educated during the winter months. The idea of time spent with your feet up in front of the fire, with a book to read and the beverage of your choice close at hand, is actually a very appealing one.

Compiled by Jon Adams, Masterton District Library

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## Getting to know your Archive staff in ten questions...



### What is your name?

Gareth Winter.

### Where were you born?

Masterton.

### Favourite book from your childhood?

Rupert the Bear is the first I remember - I loved this series.

### What is your position at Wairarapa Archive?

District Archivist.

### Have you had any previous, non-librarian, jobs?

Hospital Porter, Builder's Labourer, Tailing-out assistant in a saw mill, Clerk, Retail Assistant, and Nurseryman.

### Name the book you are reading at the moment

*Man and the Natural World: Changing Attitudes in England 1500-1800* / Keith Thomas.

### Name a book you haven't read but know you should:

I'm so old now that I have had time to read all the books I think I should read. There's a few I have read that I shouldn't have!

### If you had one magazine subscription it would be for...

*The Garden* - an English horticulture magazine.

### Favourite place to read

By the fire in the lounge.

### If you were stranded on a desert island, what one book would you want with you?

*Wairarapa : an Historical Excursion*, by A.G. Bagnall. The go-to book for Wairarapa history, and although it was published forty years ago, it remains one of the best regional histories ever produced in New Zealand.



## From your Library...

*Library Manager, Sandy Green*

Winter is finally here, it seems, after an extra month of amazing weather for June. The weather certainly has an impact on the number of books borrowed from the library. Our highest month for issues is January, due to the summer holidays, and the next month is July, due of course to the weather and the amount of time we spend indoors. We have just unpacked many boxes of new books that will be available on the shelves for July so watch out for them and enjoy reading them in your favourite place to read in the winter – mine is in bed at night with the electric blanket still on low.

If you have fines on your card or know of someone who is not using the library because they have charges, make sure that you take advantage of our cans/food for fines offer and support the Food Bank. You can also bring a can to borrow a DVD for a week. This promotion was very successful during June and will continue till the end of July.

We have just been planning the new **Stepping Up** computer courses that we will be running next school term. Talk to the staff, check the Website or Facebook if you are interested in learning Computer Basics, how to use Gmail, Introduction to Tablets, making the most of your Smartphone, Using Word and formatting your documents, Searching tips and tricks for using Google, Home Finance management and getting set up and using RealMe - we will be offering all these courses during the term. It doesn't matter whether you have experience or none at all, there will be a course to get you started or help you to Step Up. The **Stepping Up** courses are made available through the 2020 Trust and Public Libraries of New Zealand.

2020

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# WINTER IS COMING...

The television fantasy series ***Game of Thrones*** premiered on HBO in April 2011 and has gone on to become one of the most talked about shows on television, receiving 26 Emmy Awards and being watched by millions of viewers worldwide. The series of books it is based upon, ***Song of Ice and Fire*** by American author George R. R. Martin, has sold in excess of 60 million copies worldwide and been translated into at least 45 different languages. Together they have become a popular culture phenomenon and Masterton Library has books, DVDs and graphic novels available for fans or anyone wanting to discover what it's all about.

George R. R. Martin was born in Bayonne New Jersey in 1948 and began writing at an early age, selling monster stories to neighbourhood children. In 1971 he graduated with a Masters degree in Journalism from Northwestern University and after several varied jobs became a full time writer in 1979. He has written primarily in the genres of fantasy, horror, and sci-fi, including short stories, and also spent 10 years as a writer/producer in Hollywood. He has been awarded numerous writing prizes and was named in Time magazine's list of the most important people of 2011.

The series ***Song of Ice and Fire*** began with the book ***A Game of Thrones*** in 1996, followed by ***A Clash of Kings*** (1998), ***A Storm of Swords*** (2000), ***A Feast for Crows*** (2004), and ***A Dance with Dragons*** (2011). Martin is currently writing the sixth book, titled ***The Winds of War***, and a seventh novel, ***A Dream of Spring***, is expected to conclude the series. Series Six of ***Game of Thrones*** marks the first time that the television



series has outpaced events described in the books, and Martin has conceded that it is unlikely that he will have finished writing the series before the last season of the show is aired.

The plot of ***Game of Thrones*** and ***Song of Ice and Fire*** revolves around the dynastic power struggle amongst several families for control of the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos; the ambition of the deposed king's exiled daughter to assume the Iron Throne; and a rising supernatural threat from the North. Inspired by the War of the Roses and Ivanhoe, the stories are noted for their use of disparate and subjective points of view, and their diverse portrayal of

loyalty, pride, ambition, human sexuality, greed, piety, violence and religion. They are also renowned for their unflinching, often violent story-lines where no character, however popular, remains safe.

The **Game of Thrones** television series, while sometimes criticised for its frequent portrayal of sex and violence, has generally received widespread critical acclaim. The shows which are filmed in a Belfast studio and locations ranging from Iceland to Morocco, have won praise for their enthralling plot lines and characters, high production values, and the performances of actors including Charles Dance, Peter Dinklage, and then 14-year-old Maisie Williams. Martin has defended the sometimes graphic episodes saying that to omit them would be to deny that “...the true horrors of human history derive not from orcs and Dark Lords, but from ourselves”.

The popularity of the **Song of Ice and Fire** series of books provided an established audience for **Game of Thrones** and the subsequent success of the television series has sparked new interest in the books. Together they have (along with Peter Jackson’s Lord of the Rings and Hobbit movies) created a greater appreciation and acceptance for epic Fantasy and notable fans of the show include U.S. President Barack Obama, British Prime Minister David Cameron, writer Stephen King and singer Ed Sheeran. There are numerous internet sites devoted to the novels and shows and even the mainstream media discusses new episodes at length. The greatest criticism levelled at Martin by fans seems to be at how long it takes him to produce new books!

“Winter is coming” is the motto of the House Stark, a warning that the pleasant days of summer will not last and one must always be prepared and vigilant for the inevitable coming of Winter. As we have now reached July it is probably reasonable to say that Winter is here, along with the accompanying frosty mornings and biting Southerlies. Masterton Library has all the **Song of Ice and Fire** books and all the **Game of Thrones** television programmes released to date. Settling down in a warm place to read the stories or binge watch the shows could provide an excellent antidote to the Winter weather.





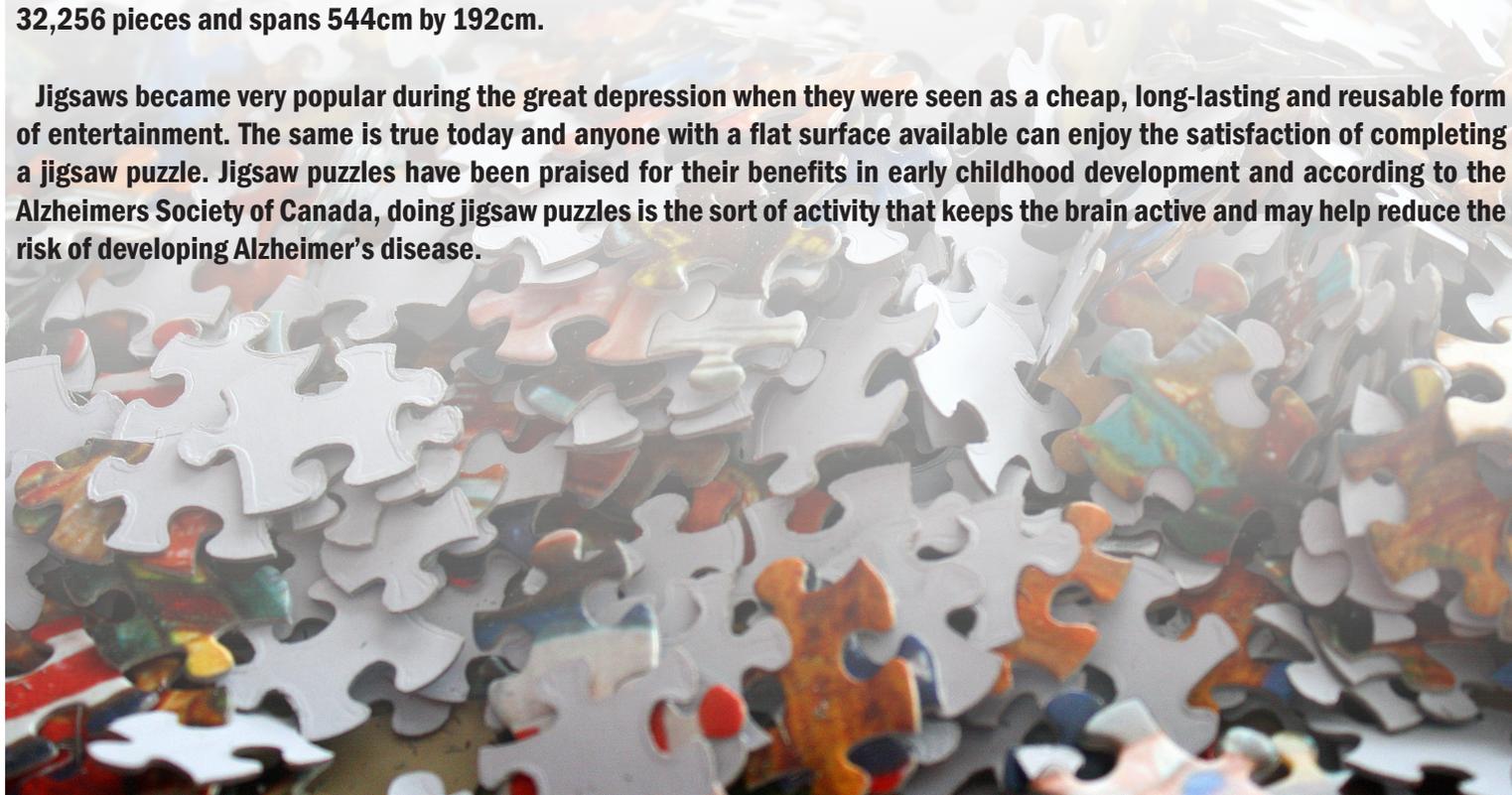
# Solving the Puzzle

The winter weather often forces us to spend more time inside, and if you're puzzling over what to do, why not try a jigsaw puzzle? Masterton Library has a wide range of jigsaw puzzles available for borrowing and they cover a range of subjects and levels of difficulty. Jigsaw puzzles are free to borrow and are issued for three weeks.

Engraver and cartographer John Spilsbury is generally credited with producing the first jigsaw puzzle in London around 1760. Early jigsaws were known as 'dissections' and featured maps mounted on sheets of hardwood. The puzzles were cut up along national boundaries and reassembling them was thought to be a useful tool for the teaching of geography. The name jigsaw came into use around 1880 when fretsaws became the widely used tool for cutting out the pieces.

Cardboard jigsaw puzzles appeared in the late 1800s. Initially wooden puzzles remained the preferred choice but today most puzzles are made out of paper-board which is easier and cheaper to mass-produce. The size (number of pieces) of a jigsaw puzzle can vary greatly, but the general range is between 300 and 5,000 pieces. The largest commercially available puzzle has 32,256 pieces and spans 544cm by 192cm.

Jigsaws became very popular during the great depression when they were seen as a cheap, long-lasting and reusable form of entertainment. The same is true today and anyone with a flat surface available can enjoy the satisfaction of completing a jigsaw puzzle. Jigsaw puzzles have been praised for their benefits in early childhood development and according to the Alzheimers Society of Canada, doing jigsaw puzzles is the sort of activity that keeps the brain active and may help reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.



# From the Wairarapa Archive...

## Winter...

Among the many photographs we have in the Wairarapa Archive there are hundreds showing the roads through the main towns of the Wairarapa. But almost without fail they are taken in the middle of summer, when the roads were hard and dry, albeit a little dusty. In winter there was a completely different story to be told. For example, a writer to the 'Wairarapa Daily' in 1879 complained about Featherston's roads saying he wished the Roads Board would make the roads "a little more presentable, and form a few paths so we may walk in winter through our main thoroughfare without getting over our knees in mud."

Two years later Mastertonians were complaining about Church Street, said to be a mix of boulders, mud and water in winter, and again asking for a footpath to be made. The newspaper said it was due to the practice of making roads as cheaply as possible, then finding they were always needing repairs.

Things did not become any better with the arrival of the motor car. Enthusiastic motorists wanted to take their vehicles into the countryside, but they quickly discovered that the new machines did not take well to mud deeper than their axles. It was potentially dangerous too – in 1914 Dr Archer Hosking's car got stuck in the mud on the "Big Saddle" between Tinui and Whakataki, and he had to be rescued in a buggy. The car was retrieved the following day.

Gareth Winter



# What's on in the Library...

## July School Holiday Programme

The School Holidays run from the 11th to the 22nd of July and Masterton Library will be a busy place over the two weeks. As well as having the Winter Warmers Reading Programme running we have organised some activities for the holiday break:



- **12 July at 1:00pm** we will be hosting '**What is a Zine?**' with Murtle Chickpea, a zine making workshop suitable for children of all ages who will learn how to make their very own zine.

- **15 and 20 July** we will be running craft sessions where participants will be making a mosaic and a dream-catcher. Both sessions will start at **10:30am**.

We do of course also have our usual huge selection of books, magazines, graphic novels, audio books and DVDs to keep children and their careers entertained over the holiday period.



## Term 3 Code Club Registration.

Would you like to learn how to create computer games, animations, and websites? Masterton Library has been running an after-school Code Club for Masterton children aged 9 -12, and we are now taking registrations for the third term. Starting at a beginner level, participants develop the skills and confidence to create computer code through fun, game-based activities, over a 10 week period, each session lasting about one hour. Spaces are limited but you can enter your registration for term 3 through the Events link on the Library website, or for more information talk with Angela in person at the Library or email [angelam@library.mstn.govt.nz](mailto:angelam@library.mstn.govt.nz)

All our usual programmes will be running this month including **Story-Go-Round Pre-School Programme** on Wed. 6 & 27 July; **Puanga Kohanga Te Reo Pre-School Programme** on Thur. 7 & 28 July, **Masterton District Library Book Club** on Mon. 25 July; and **Seniors Celebrate** on Tue. 26 July.

There are lots of events and activities happening in the Library and in the Wairarapa. Check the Library notice board or visit the **Events** link on the Library website <https://masterton.spydus.co.nz/events>

# Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

**Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week) has been celebrated in Aotearoa every year since 1975 with the aim of promoting usage of the Māori language. Māori Language Week 2016 runs from July 4 to 10 and this year's kaupapa or theme is ākina te reo - behind you all the way, which is about using te reo Māori to support people, to inspire, and cheer on. It will show New Zealanders that te reo can be used to encourage others in stadiums, on sports fields, in the news and on social media.**

**Masterton Library will be celebrating Te Wiki o te Reo Māori 2016 with a te reo display, special sessions of our pre-school programmes, and at 3:30pm on Wednesday the 6th of July we will be running bingo games using phrases in te reo. The Library also supports te reo throughout the year with Puanga Kohanga, our te reo preschool programme, which is held every Thursday during the school term at 10:30am, and hundreds of resources including books and CDs, designed to help those learning to speak Māori.**

**Te Wiki o te Reo Māori aims to encourage the use of te reo amongst all New Zealanders, helping to secure its future as a living, dynamic, and rich language. Te reo Māori is unique to Aotearoa and one of our three official languages. Māori Language Week is an opportunity for us all to celebrate and learn this special taonga.**



# 2016 - the most reserved books so far

Half-way into 2016 seems a good time to look at what have been the most popular books so far this year. Below are the top-ten most reserved Fiction titles across the SMART Network.

- 1. Cometh the Hour**  
**Jeffrey Archer**
- 2. The Girl on the Train**  
**Paula Hawkins**
- 3. All the Light We Cannot See**  
**Anthony Doerr**
- 4. The Widow**  
**Fiona Barton**
- 5. Me Before You**  
**JoJo Moyes**
- 6. Predator**  
**Wilbur Smith**
- 7. Coffin Road**  
**Peter May**
- 8. Under Italian Skies**  
**Nicky Pellegrino**
- 9. A Summer at Sea**  
**Katie Fforde**
- 10. The Girl Who Came Back**  
**Susan Lewis**

It is interesting to see the list contains a mix of established authors such as Jeffrey Archer, Wilbur Smith, and Peter May, and writers such as Paula Hawkins, Anthony Doerr and Fiona Barton who are early in their careers. It is also nice to see New Zealand author Nicky Pellegrino in the list, and there is a profile of Nicky on the opposite page. The most reserved Non-Fiction title so far this year is a perennial favourite - *The Official New Zealand Road Code 2015/16*, followed by Marie Kondo's *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: the Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing*. The most reserved Junior Fiction title is *Old School* by Jeff Kinney followed by five books from the 'Treehouse' series by Andy Griffiths.

# Featured Author: Nicky Pellegrino

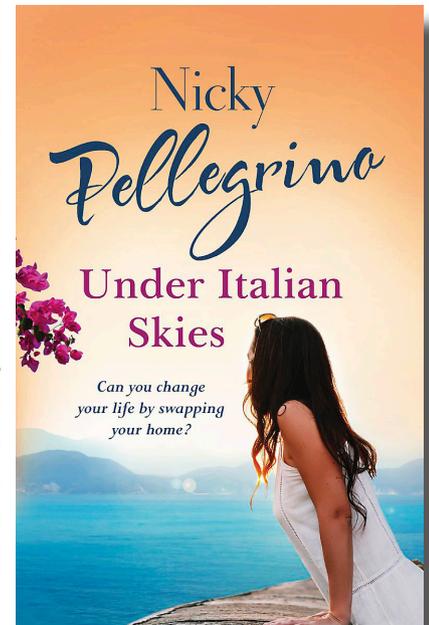
Nicky Pellegrino was born in Liverpool in 1964 into a family of Italian origin. About 23 years ago she came to New Zealand on holiday when she met her future husband at a wedding. They now live in Auckland close to a beach and with two dogs and two horses. Pellegrino says she spends most of her time writing, riding, growing veges in her garden, cooking, trying to get other people to cook for her, eating and reading.

Pellegrino's first novel ***Delicious*** was published in 2005 and she has gone on to write a further eight novels, the latest ***Under Italian Skies*** published earlier this year. These novels have been distributed in the UK and Australia, and she has been translated into 12 languages. A former magazine editor, Pellegrino continues to work as a freelance journalist, writing features for the ***Listener*** and occasional book reviews. She has also written one non-fiction title, ***Angela***, a biography of Angela D'Audney which she co-wrote with the broadcaster and journalist in 2001.



As a child Pellegrino spent many childhood summers staying with family in Southern Italy. Feeling that she never quite fitted in with her more exuberant Italian cousins, she had a tendency to stay quiet and observe things. These observations have fuelled her memories of Italy and have provided a rich repository for her to draw from when she began writing fiction. Her stories are noted for having a preoccupation with good food, a strong sense of family and inter-generational tension, and usually a dash of romance.

All of Nicky Pellegrino's novels are available for borrowing from the Masterton Library. Set in the warmth and light of Southern Italy, they are the ideal escape from the cold and dark of a Wairarapa winter.





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