

CRIME

IN THE

LIBRARY

CRIME SCENE DO NOT ENTER

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COVER: Crime is rife in the Library, but fortunately it is contained within the covers of our books. Crime based television series such as Inspector Morse, Foyles War, and A Touch of Frost are amongst our most popular DVDs and authors such as Ruth Rendell, P.D. James, Ian Rankin and Tess Gerritsen are amongst our best issuing authors. The reasons for the popularity are varied but there is plenty to satisfy all tastes available from Masterton Library - a hotbed of crime and proudly so.

Compiled by Jon Adams, Masterton District Library

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Getting to know your Library staff in ten questions...



What is your name?

Sandra Green.

Where were you born?

Motueka in the Nelson province.

Favourite book from your Childhood?

The Children of the New Forest by Frederick Marryat.

What is your position at Masterton Library?

Archives and Library Manager.

Have you had any previous, non-librarian jobs?

Many and varied from working in a bar to dressmaking and working in a fabric shop, which led to doing plans and quotes for carpet laying.

Name the book and author you are reading at the moment

Silent Scream by Angela Marston - a police procedure crime novel, I like to try out some of the newer authors so I can recommend them, or not!

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

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins.

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

Life and Leisure then I can read about all the things I can do when I finish work and have a life and can indulge in leisure activities.

Favourite place to read...

In bed at night before I go to sleep (these days though I seem to spend more time re-reading what I thought I had read the night before but had fallen asleep).

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

The Source by James Michener. I read this a long time ago and it is one of my favourites. It is a long book with lots of detail. I can't think of a non-fiction book that would assist me to survive so would rely on being able to invent solutions to problems myself.

From your Library...

Library Manager, Sandy Green

Crime fiction is a genre encompasses many different sub-genres. These include:

Cosy crime are very popular with a crime (without graphic description or gruesome details), which is solved by the police, a private detective or an amateur sleuth. Once the crime is solved everyone involved goes back to their normal lives.

Courtroom crime focusses on the courtroom procedure. Of course the reader knows the main suspects and the details of the crime are revealed as the court case proceeds.

Legal crime is not conducted wholly in the courtroom and the main focus of the detective work falls to the legal team.

Spy crime features a spy working for an intelligence agency.

Police Procedural focus on the work of the police to identify the perpetrator of the crime and includes detail of crime detection, interview and forensic techniques.

Of course then there are the **true crime** books, which often read like fiction.

I am an unashamed reader of crime novels in their many different guises. For me the police procedurals are my favourite, and the Library has lists of authors who write these to guide you in your reading. I also enjoy the Scandinavian crime novel (Scandi or Nordic Noir) which is a relatively new, but very popular, genre. They bring a grittiness to the police procedures and have characters that are very human with flaws and complications. For those of you who, like me, enjoy a crime novel, don't forget the author lists or ask staff who are able to assist you with information about series, authors, genre etc.

Is crime the most popular genre and do crime writers earn the most money? No - the most popular genre is Romance/Erotica with \$1.44 billion of author earnings, followed by Crime/Mystery with \$728.2 million. You could still say that crime pays, but romance triumphs over everything.

"There are two kinds of people who sit around all day thinking about killing people... mystery writers and serial killers. I'm the kind that pays better." – Richard Castle



**Like us on Facebook for the latest
Library news, events, and some
random fun stuff.**



Agatha Christie: the Queen of Crime

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was born in Torquay, in the south west of England, on the 15th of September 1890. She was the youngest of three children, with a ten year gap between her and her closest sibling. Her mother Clara Boehmer, a keen storyteller, was born in Belfast, and her father Frederick Miller, who was responsible for Agatha's home schooling, was an American stockbroker. She was a voracious reader as a child, having taught herself to read at the age of five. By the age of 18 she had started writing short stories, more for her own amusement than serious intent, and in 1910 spent a three month 'season' at the Gezira Palace Hotel in Cairo.

The enormous following for crime-based fiction is clearly demonstrated in the popularity of Agatha Christie, the English author dubbed the Queen of Crime. Agatha Christie is, quite simply, the best-selling novelist of all time, and has been outsold only by the works of Shakespeare and the Bible. Her books have sold over a billion copies in the English language, and another billion in translation (in 44 different languages). Her characters Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot are household names and her stories adapted into countless films and television series. Her play, *The Mousetrap*, which Christie predicted would run for eight months, has been running continuously in London's West End since opening in 1952, passing 25,000 performances in 2012.

In 1912 Agatha met Archie Christie, an aviator who had recently applied to join the Royal Flying Corps, and the pair were married on Christmas Eve 1914. Their lives were necessarily affected by the war, Archie as a pilot in France and Agatha working in a dispensary in a Red Cross Hospital in Torquay, and Agatha felt that their married life didn't really begin until 1918 when Archie was posted to London. In 1919 the Christies welcomed their first and only child Rosalind Margaret Clarissa to the world. It was also in this year that Agatha had her first book, ***The Mysterious Affair at Styles***, accepted for publication.

Christie had begun writing the novel partly to fill in time while working in the dispensary, and partly in response to a challenge from her sister that she couldn't write a good detective story. The story features the introduction of Hercule Poirot, the inimitable Belgian detective who went on to feature in 33 novels including ***Murder on the Orient Express*** and ***The Murder of Roger Ackroyd***, one play, and more than 50 short stories. She was also able to draw on the knowledge of poisons she had gained working in the hospital dispensary and the book was, unusually, reviewed in a pharmaceutical journal.



Hercule Poirot as played by David Suchet

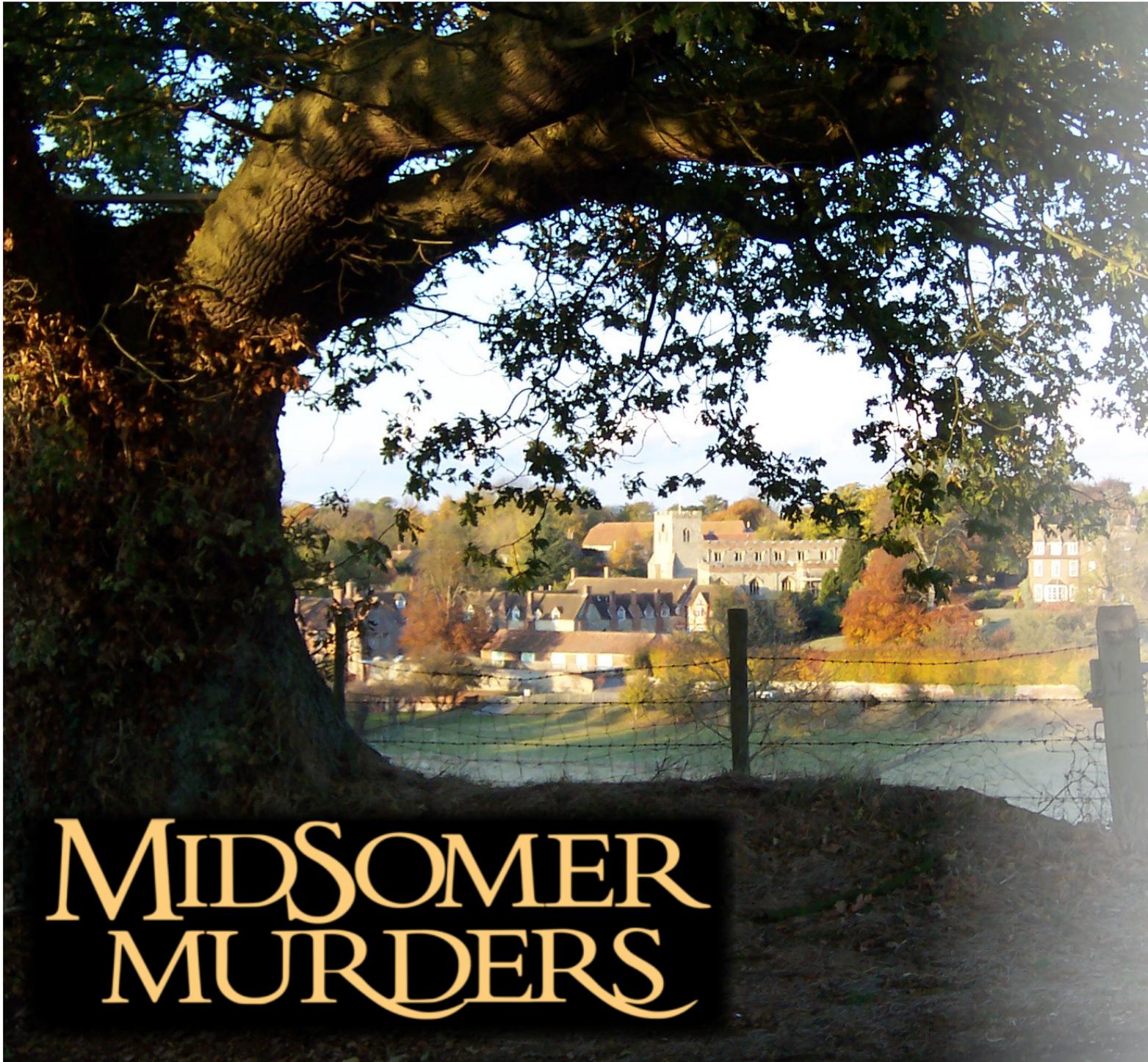
In 1922 Christie published her second novel ***The Secret Adversary*** which featured detective couple Tommy and Tuppence around whom Christie wrote three more novels and a short story collection. Life, unfortunately, was not all idyllic for Christie and in late 1926 her husband asked her for a divorce, having fallen in love with another woman. Following an argument, and shortly after the death of her mother, Agatha left their house, sparking a nationwide hunt when her abandoned car was found several miles away. Agatha was eventually discovered 10 days later in a hotel in Harrogate, registered under a false name. Although she was diagnosed with amnesia, speculation remains over

the missing 10 days, including that she deliberately staged the episode to embarrass her husband. The couple divorced in 1928.

In 1927, a third recurring Christie character, Miss Marple, made her first appearance in a short story entitled ***The Tuesday Night Club***. Christie never expected the quiet, unassuming spinster from the village of St Mary Mead to attain the popularity of Poirot, but from her first full length novel ***The Murder in the Vicarage*** (1930) readers were hooked. Miss Marple's acute observation of human behaviour made her a highly effective detective and she went on to feature in twenty short stories and twelve novels including ***4.50 from Paddington***, ***Nemesis***, and ***The Body in the Library***. She has also been the subject of numerous television and film adaptations.

In 1930 Agatha married archaeologist Sir Max Mallowan, who she had met on an archaeological dig - archaeology proved an inspiration for a number of Christie's books including ***Appointment With Death*** and ***Murder in Mesopotamia***. They remained happily married for the rest of their lives, although Christie did retain her first husband's surname for her writing. Agatha Christie died peacefully on 12 January 1976.

The appeal of Agatha Christie shows no sign of abating - an adaptation of ***And Then There Were None*** was recently broadcast on our television screens; Glenn Close is working on an adaptation of ***The Crooked House*** (with screenplay by Julian Fellowes of *Downton Abbey* fame) and Kenneth Branagh is reportedly working on a remake of ***Murder on the Orient Express*** which he will star in and direct (alongside Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer and Judi Dench). The Library has a huge range of Agatha's books, several biographies and numerous adaptations of her works on DVD all available for borrowing, ensuring her reign as the Queen of Crime will continue for many years to come.



MIDSOMER MURDERS

Midsomer Murders is one of the UK's most successful television programmes and has been broadcast in more than 200 countries around the world including Australia, Denmark, the United States, Germany, Italy, and of course here in New Zealand. Set in modern-day England, the show revolves around the efforts of DCI Tom Barnaby, and more recently DCI John Barnaby (with the assistance of several different sergeants), to solve mysteries around the fictional town of Causton within the equally fictional county of Midsomer. The show is based upon the Chief Inspector Barnaby series of books written by Caroline Graham and to date 18 series of the show, consisting of 110 episodes, have been produced. A 19th season, due to be broadcast in 2017, is currently in production.

Midsomer Murders was first broadcast in England on the 23rd of March 1997, with John Nettles in the role of Inspector Barnaby. Nettles left the show at the end of the 13th series, and the position of the show's leading investigator was taken up by Neil Dudgeon, playing Tom Barnaby's younger cousin John. Filming of the show has mostly been around Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and the beautiful English countryside and charming villages are certainly part of the show's appeal.

The show features a cast of eccentric locals and Barnaby, as played by Nettles, was a laconic, down-to-earth character. Midsomer Murders is a traditional, almost old-fashioned, detective series without the gritty, sometimes graphic, realism of other contemporary crime dramas that rely on a great deal of shouting and shooting. It does have a strong element of humour to it, sometimes quite black, and the very high body-count experienced in this otherwise seemingly idyllic rural environment has been commented upon. In 2011 it was calculated that there had been some 200 murders in Midsomer including 12 poisonings, (one from a tropical frog), nine drownings (one in a vat of soup), six people burned to death, four villagers had been killed by bow and arrow, and one unfortunate woman was killed with a wheel of cheese.

Most of the Midsomer Murders programmes can be borrowed from Masterton Library on DVD and more are available from the other SMART libraries.

What's on in the Library this month...

Story-Go-Round Pre-School Programme

Wednesday the 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th of November, 10:30am

Book Bugs Book Club (ages 10-13)

Wednesday the 2nd and 30th of November, 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Puanga Kohanga Te Reo Pre-School Programme

Thursday the 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th of November, 10:30am

Library Yarners - those who knit, crochet & craft

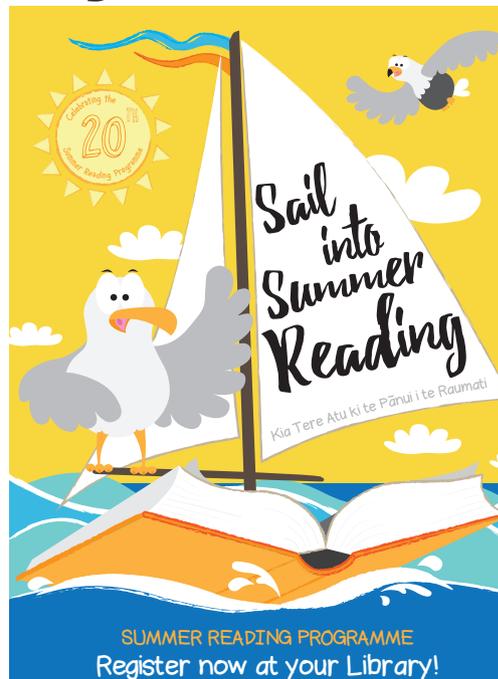
Friday the 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th of November, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Masterton Library Book Group

Monday the 28th of November, 1:00pm

Seniors Celebrate

Tuesday the 22nd of November, 2:00pm



**2016/17
Summer
Reading
Programme**

Registration from the 22nd of November (also available online from the library EVENTS page). The Programme runs 05.12.2016 - 20.01.2017



Register online or in-person at the Library

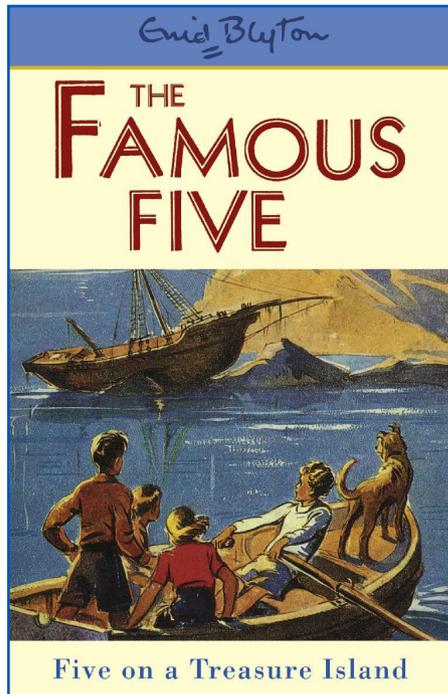


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|----------------|----------------------|---|
| Tuesday | 1st November | - Google Internet and Drive |
| Monday | 7th November | - Introduction to Social Media, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest |
| Tuesday | 8th November | - Email, getting the best out of your web-mail |
| Monday | 14th November | - Tablets - an introduction as well as tips & tricks |
| Tuesday | 15th November | - RealMe |
| Monday | 21st November | - Smartphones - an introduction as well as tips & tricks |
| Tuesday | 29th November | - Ancestry.com |

Lashings of lemonade - Enid Blyton's crime writing

Crime is as popular a subject in children's fiction as it is in adult writing. Although it may avoid the darker subject matter of adult crime fiction, the denouement of the criminal(s) is just as satisfying in fiction written for children and series such as the Hardy Boys by Frank W. Dixon, and Nancy Drew by Carolyn Keene, are very well known. One of the most read writers of children's books is Enid Blyton, and among her most popular works are the crime-solving adventures of the Famous Five and the Secret Seven.

The Famous Five consists of brothers Julian and Dick, their sister Jane, cousin Georgia (known as George), and her dog Timmy, and their first story, ***Five on a Treasure Island***, was published in 1942. Typically their adventures would take place during school holidays and involve the discovery of a mystery and the thwarting of crimes such as smuggling, kidnapping, and robbery. Enid Blyton originally intended to write only six to eight books in the series, but their great success prompted her to write 21 Famous Five adventures in all, and today more than two million copies of the books are sold each year.



The Secret Seven are a group of child detectives consisting of Peter (the group's leader), Janet (his sister), Jack, Barbara, George, Pam and Colin. Blyton first introduced Peter and Janet in a short story entitled ***At Seaside Cottage*** and another short story, ***The Secret of the Old Mill***, described how the society was formed. Their first full adventure, entitled ***The Secret Seven*** was published in 1949 and Blyton went on to write a further 14 Secret Seven adventures. As with the Famous Five, the Secret Seven's adventures generally involve the discovery of a mystery and the thwarting of crimes, although unlike the Five, the Seven's adventures generally take place in their own neighbourhoods.

The Famous Five and the Secret Seven books have their critics, part of a general criticism of Blyton's work that she wrote simplistically and often conveyed negative, even xenophobic, stereotypes, and for a period there was an unofficial 'ban' on her books in schools and libraries. Blyton has, however, never been out of print and her works, including the Secret Seven and Famous Five, continue to issue regularly here at the Library. The Famous Five books in particular created a world of endless Summer holidays set in the countryside with adventures, picnics, and lashings of lemonade. Both series allowed the children to be the agents and heroes of the stories, to use the resources they had available to them - shadowing suspects and looking for clues - to solve mysteries and right wrongs.

From The Wairarapa Archive...

Tom Long - The Hangman

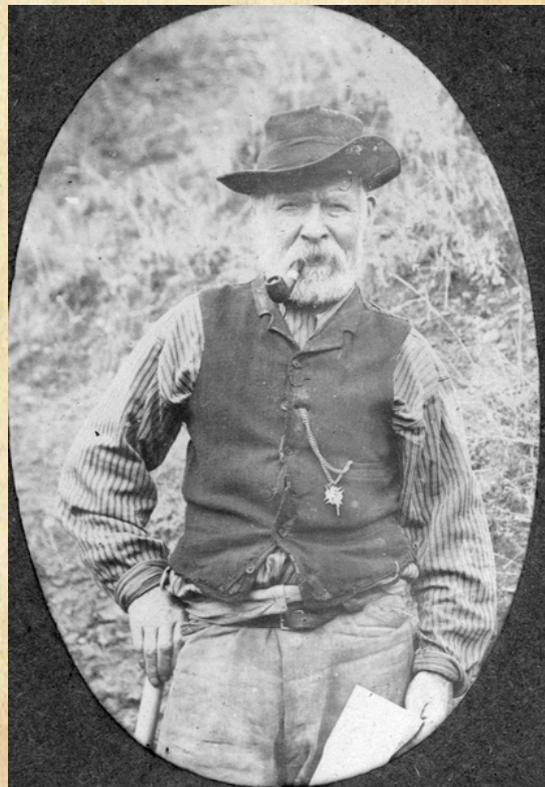
The Wairarapa has had its share of criminals but none has approached the notoriety of Tom Long. Long was reportedly convicted on over 200 occasions, his specialities were drunkenness, disorderly behaviour and vagrancy. He was a habitual criminal, but was better known for a more sinister reason – he was the government’s hangman.

His first New Zealand execution can be dated to Picton in early 1877, when he hanged William Woodgate for murdering a child he had fathered with his 14-year-old niece Susan. His most famous case was the hanging of Williamina “Minnie” Dean, who had been convicted of killing the baby Dorothy Carter, and was suspected of having killed other young illegitimate children. Although there was widespread revulsion at Dean’s crimes there was also general disquiet at her execution.

In his time he was a celebrity, known the length and breadth of New Zealand and newspapers regularly reported his antics in detail. During the 1890s Tom Long was a swagger, living in lower North Island where he became a well-known, if not well-liked, figure. He spent many sojourns in Wairarapa, where he was frequently arrested. The only known photograph of him comes from an album in the hands of a Wairarapa coastal farming family.

At least twice, he came close to meeting the traditional fate of hangmen – being hanged. The second of his close brushes took place at the Tauherenikau Hotel just north of Featherston. After losing money at the races, Long tried to auction Minnie Dean’s boots and hotel patrons had a noose around his neck when he was rescued by the publican. Long’s last victim was James Ellis, also known as John McKenzie, who had killed Leonard Collinson at Te Awaiti Station. He was found guilty, and hanged in Wellington’s The Terrace gaol in 1905.

Tom Long, New Zealand’s Irish-born hangman, died in December 1908 while bush-felling at Kuangaroa near Wanganui. A tree fell on him and his death was ruled as accidental, but those who knew him and his reputation were sceptical, thinking the death was planned, the tree being deliberately felled.



Tom Long d. 1908
from the Cameron Family Collection

Gareth Winter

REAL CRIME IN THE LIBRARY



Actual crimes in the Library are generally contained to lost and overdue books. In September it was revealed Wellington City Libraries are owed close to \$700,000 in overdue charges, with the most overdue book being ***Life Deals the Cards, You Play the Hand*** by Boyd Gunn, which was due in July 2010. Here at Masterton Library we issue our books for three weeks, and so long as nobody else has reserved it, borrowers can renew books two additional times. Despite this we do still have a few books going overdue, often when people think they have returned a book, only to find it under a car seat or inside a school bag. Sometimes these can be quite overdue, but nothing to match this list of 10 very overdue (but eventually returned) library books.

10. The Real Book About Snakes by Jane Sherman: borrowed from Champaign County Library in Urbana, Ohio, and returned 41 years later with a cheque for \$299.30 (calculated at 2 cents a day).

09. Days and Deeds: a book of verse for Children's Reading and Speaking by Burton E. Stevenson: borrowed from Kewanee Public Library in Illinois and returned 47 years later and the fee of \$345.14 is believed to be the highest library fine ever paid for a single book.

08. The Fire of Francis Xavier by Arthur R McGratty: anonymously posted to the New York Public Library in 2013, 55 years after it was borrowed.

07. The Adventures of Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi: borrowed from Rugby Library in Warwick, England and returned 63 years later during a fines amnesty, saving the borrower £4,000.

06. The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde: returned 78 years overdue to The Chicago Public Library by Harlean Hoffman Vision who found it amongst her late mother's belongings.

05. Master of Men by E. Phillips Oppenheim: returned to Leicester County Council 79 years overdue - the branch library it was originally borrowed from having closed down several decades earlier.

04. Facts I Ought to Know About the Government of my Country by William H. Bartlett: returned by Stanley Dudek to the New Bedford Library in Massachusetts, 99 years after his mother borrowed it.

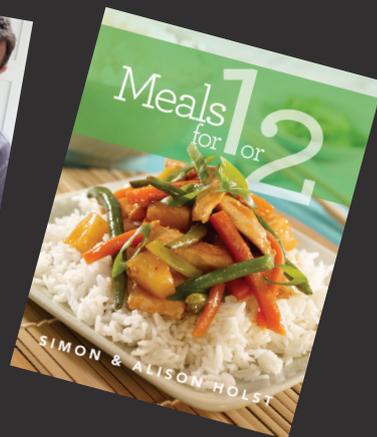
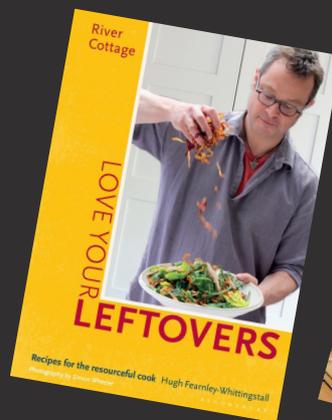
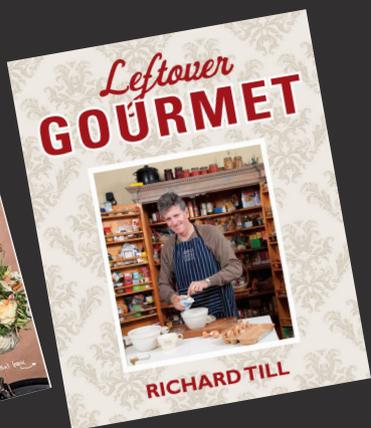
03. Insectivorous Plants by Charles Darwin: borrowed from the Camben School of Arts Lending Library in 1889, and was returned 122 years later on 22 July, 2011.

02. The Ancient History of the Egyptians, Carthaginians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Medes and Persians, Macedonians, and Grecians Vol. 2 by Charles Rollin: discovered in 2013 and borrowed from the Grace Doherty Library in Kentucky an estimated 150 years ago - the library has no records for that period.

01. The Law of Nations by Emmerich De Vattel: borrowed from The New York Society Library in 1789 and returned 221 years later. The borrower - George Washington.

One of the most unnecessary crimes in our community is food wastage. Every year NZers throw away \$872 million dollars worth of uneaten food, including \$100 million dollars worth of leftovers. This November Masterton Library is joining in with Love Food Hate Waste's 'Love Your Leftovers' campaign to try and reduce food wastage.

If you don't like eating leftovers then the first step to avoid food wastage is to try and cook only as much as you need for each meal. If you do have leftovers, take them for lunch the next day or, with a bit of creativity, turn them into something delicious for the next meal. The Library has many books available to provide inspiration on using leftovers to create delicious meals and more advice and recipes can be found on the Love Food Hate Waste website www.lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz



Remember the 2 - 2 - 2 rule for leftovers: get them in the fridge within 2 hours; you should eat them within 2 days (either cold from the fridge or piping hot); and they will last 2 months in the freezer - label to avoid UFOs (Unidentified Frozen Objects).

