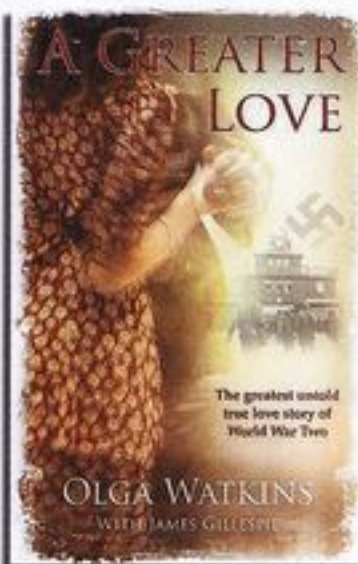


BOOK LIFE

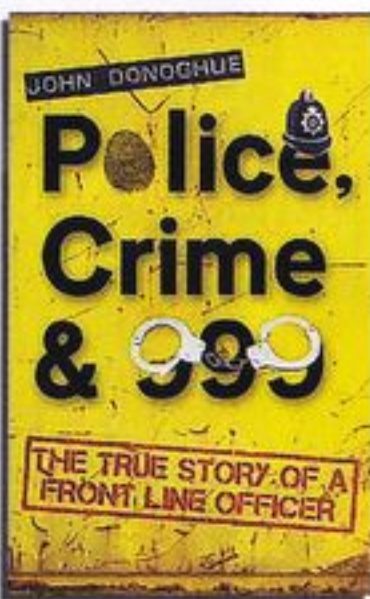


Risking it all for love

A Greater Love offers a moving account of a World War Two love story set against the backdrop of chaos and fear in Europe as the Third Reich collapses. It is the true story of 20-year-old Olga who travels through Nazi Germany to find the man she loves. Born in Yugoslavia, and living in Zagreb, Olga fell in love with Hungarian diplomat Julius Koreny in 1943. But he was arrested by the Nazi-supporting Hungarian regime as a political prisoner. Determined to be reunited with her fiancé, Olga set off on an extraordinary journey of more than 2,000 miles which took her into the heart of the Third Reich – even

getting a job inside Dachau concentration camp and eventually tracing Julius to another camp. The happy ending comes as the couple eventually marry but sadly more heartache is to follow as the couple are parted once more. This book by East Barnet author Olga Watkins, now aged 88, is a first person account of how a great love can overcome incredible obstacles.

A Greater Love by Olga Watkins (with James Gillespie); published by Splendid Books; priced £7.99; ISBN 9780955891670

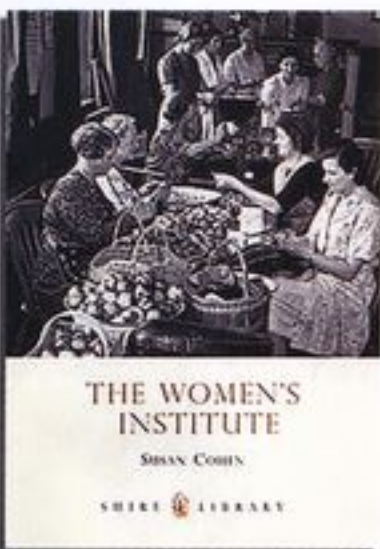


Cop shop true stories

What really happens behind the scenes in the police? A new book by a police officer living on the Hertfordshire border could hold the answers. After a career as a Commissioned Officer in the Armed Forces and then a decade in business, John Donoghue was bored. So, in his mid 40s he left his high paid job and started all over again by joining the police. His book *Police, Crime & 999 – The True Story of a Front Line Office*, is based on a year in his life as a front line officer and offers humorous insights and intriguing episodes that shed new light on the police force. Unfortunately John can not reveal which force his observations are based on but this is a fun book

that will bring a smile to your face as you realise some of the things you thought might happen, actually do happen.

Police, Crime & 999 by John Donoghue; published by Matador; priced £9.99; ISBN 9781848766853



Much more than jam and Jerusalem

The Women's Institute has come in for plenty of jokes in its history but the joke is on everyone else as the WI is due to celebrate 100 years in 2015 with around 205,000 members. A new book charts the changing face of this very British institution and gives some fascinating insights into an early example of the 'Big Society'. When the first WI was formed in the Anglesey village of Llanfair in 1915, the organisation was startlingly modern – the lady of the manor's vote and opinion counted just the same as her chamber maid or the local farmer's wife. Membership gave women the opportunity to learn new

skills, support one another and make a positive impact in their local communities, irrespective of their social status. This book by historian Susan Cohen includes stories and anecdotes from WI members through the years, including several from Hertfordshire, as well as many historic images.

The Women's Institute by Susan Cohen; published by Shire Books; priced £6.99; ISBN 9780747810469

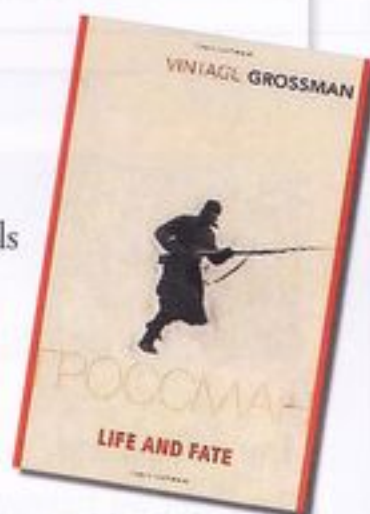
What I've been READING Andrew Beale



Andrew Beale, Managing Director of Beales Hotel, Hatfield, shares his latest three good reads

Life and Fate by Vasily Grossman

This epic autobiographical Russian novel details life in the Red Army at Stalingrad and Berlin, and ends with the main Jewish character being persecuted by Stalin in the 1950's Soviet Union. A harrowing read.



The Cello Suites: In Search of a Baroque Masterpiece by Eric Soblin

I am currently playing the Bach suites for unaccompanied cello – this book intertwines the story of this amazing music, with the life of the Spanish cellist Pablo Casals. Highly recommended.

West: A Journey through the Landscapes of Loss by Jim Perrin

Here is an ode to Jim Perrin's lost partner and son, written in a period of extreme grief. A controversial book, as his late partner's family have refuted much of his version of events.

For more Hertfordshire reviews, visit hertfordshire.greatbritishlife.co.uk

