

Recent Biographies Added to Isle of Wight Libraries

Rowan's rule : the biography of the Archbishop

The official biography of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, this title presents both the public and private man.

Into danger : risking your life for work / Kate Adie.

Best-selling author, and the most famous woman in a flak jacket, Kate Adie sets out on a fascinating journey to discover just who is attracted to living dangerously - and why.

John Newton : from disgrace to Amazing grace / Jonathan Aitken.

John Newton is one of the most important and influential men of the 18th century. His famous conversion during a storm at sea led to his new role as a social reformer and key figure in the abolition of slavery. In this book, Jonathan Aitken discovers the man, his motivation and beliefs.

Things I overheard while talking to myself / Alan Alda.

Alan Alda has written a shrewd and funny account of some impossible questions he's asked himself over the years - what do I value? what, exactly, is the good life? He listens in on things he's heard himself saying at critical points in his life from the turbulence of the sixties, right through to the ache of September 11. Previous ed.: London: Hutc.

Belonging / Sameem Ali and Humphrey Price and Terie Garrison.

'Belonging' is the shocking true story of Sameem's struggle to break free from her past and fight back against her upbringing.

Home : a memoir of my early years / Julie Andrews.

The heroine of Mary Poppins and The Sound of Music tells her life story, from the music halls of London to Hollywood stardom.

Entirely up to you, darling / Richard Attenborough and Diana Hawkins.

Richard Attenborough and Diana Hawkins have been friends and colleagues for nearly 50 years. They have now teamed up to write this frank and funny account of their unlikely partnership and his extraordinary life.

Love and war in the Pyrenees : a story of courage, fear and hope, 1939-1944 / Rosemary Bailey.

Blending history and travel, Rosemary Bailey tells a story of collaboration and resistance, fear and heroism, of pacifism and sacrifice all set against the backdrop of the Pyrenees. Bailey is a long-time resident of the region.

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Just Biggins : my story / Christopher Biggins.

For the first time, in his own words, Christopher Biggins talks about his life in showbusiness, his marriage to actress Beatrice Norbury and his recent civil partnership with Neil Twimaps.

Arthur Miller : 1915-1962 / C.W.E. Bigsby.

The definitive biography of one of the greatest of modern playwrights, Arthur Miller (1915-2005).

Speaking for myself : the autobiography / Cherie Blair.

Cherie Blair's autobiography takes the reader from a childhood in working-class Liverpool to the heart of the British legal system and then, as the wife of the Prime Minister, to 10 Downing Street. It has been an astonishing journey for a woman whose childhood was full of drama, and who grew up with a fierce sense of justice.

Pigs might fly : the inside story of Pink Floyd / Mark Editor Blake.

Including the Live 8 reunion and the death of Syd Barrett, this biography of Pink Floyd also contains interviews with the band's friends, road crew, former housemates, university colleagues and musical contemporaries like Pete Townshend and Alice Cooper. Originally published: 2007.

A taste of my life / Raymond Blanc and James Steen.

Raymond Blanc knows more about food and cooking than pretty much anyone else. Now, for the first time Raymond shares the fruits of all that hard work and experimentation, and reveals the secrets of his gastronomy.

Florence Nightingale : the woman and her legend / Mark Bostridge.

In this book, the first major biography of Florence Nightingale in over 50 years, Mark Bostridge draws on a wealth of unpublished material, including previously unseen family papers, to throw significant new light on this extraordinary woman's life and character.

My Judy Garland life / Susie Boyt.

This is a mixture of memoir, biography, cultural analysis, experiment and hero-worship about one person's enduring obsession with Judy Garland. Boyt's journey takes in a dueting breakfast with Mickey Rooney, a Munchkin luncheon and a breathless, semi-sacred encounter with Liza Minnelli.

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The crafty cockney : the autobiography / Eric Bristow.

Eric Bristow MBE is considered to be the greatest darts player of all time and one who pioneered the games move from the pub onto the nations TV screens. He was an unmistakable figure on the oche during his 1980s heyday, with his trademark blonde highlights and red Crafty Cockney t-shirt. This is his autobiography.

Fern : my story / Fern Britton.

Television presenter Fern Britton tells her story. Life as a child was not always easy, and she faced private and public challenges with her personal life, appearance and her career as she climbed the ladder to fame. Now a full-time working mum, with a happy second marriage to celebrity chef Phil Vickery, she is at the top of her game.

Paths of glory : the life and death of General James Wolfe / Stephen Brumwell.

Stephen Brumwell provides a major re-examination of the actual records of Wolfe's career and character. He draws upon extensive research to offer a boldly argued reassessment of a soldier whose short but dramatic life unquestionably altered the course of world history. Originally published: 2006.

A lucky child : a memoir of surviving Auschwitz as a young boy / Thomas Buergenthal.

Thomas Buergenthal is unique. He is a judge at the International Court in The Hague who was rescued from the death camps of Auschwitz at the age of 11. In his funny and heartfelt memoirs, he tells the story of his extraordinary journey - from the horrors of Nazism to an investigation of modern day genocide.

Darcey Bussell : a celebration / Clive Burton.

Each page a living piece of ballet history, this lavish and lovingly-produced tribute to Darcey Bussell captures forever the special moments - on and off stage - in the life of this very special dancer. Originally published: 2007.

Look who it is! : my story / Alan Carr.

The brilliantly funny and inimitable Alan Carr tells his life story in his own words, from growing up in a football-mad family in Northampton to his rise to become one of Britain's best-loved comedians.

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Manic : a woman in pain. a life in chaos. the courage to fight a secret madness / Terri Cheney.

A harrowing memoir of life with manic depression. All In My Head reveals the terrible reality of the condition and its devastating impact on the life of a young woman. 'When I'm manic all I remember is the moment. When I'm depressed all I remember is the pain.' Terri Cheney Terri Cheney's story starts with her rape. Occuring at the height of her mania, Terri had spun out of control on many an occasion, but never had she been hurt as brutally or as badly as the night she was raped by a complete stranger. Graphically telling the account of that night is the beginning of Terri's journey, from beautiful, well-educated and successful lawyer based in LA to multiple suicide attempts, nights in jail, her eating disorder, broken jobs, ruined friendships and finally electroshock treatment. In this painfully honest account of a life lived in extremes, one minute Terri, the competent, professional lawyer would be crouched beneath her desk at work, paralyzed by depression; the next she'd be flying kites off the edge of a cliff in a violent thunderstorm. One minute she's euphoric from a successful date with a cute guy, the next she's eating remains of food left on her pillowcase, too depressed to get out of bed. From her early 20s Terri struggled with manic depression and there seemed to be no treatment, no help. Rounds of medication and even electroshock therapy -- this a mere ten years ago -- proved useless. Only the shock of a brutal rape and subsequent suicide attempt would finally lead Terri to the help she so desperately wanted and needed. All in my head is a startling and moving account of Terri's battle with manic depression, a battle she continues to fight.

The Richard Beckinsale story / David Clayton.

The first biography of much-loved 70s actor Richard Beckinsale, who died on 19 March 1979 at the age of 31. It looks back at one of the biggest stars of that decade through the eyes of family, friends and colleagues.

Kate Moss : the complete picture / Laura Collins.

In this book, Laura Collins provides an insightful and fascinating biography of fashion icon and supermodel Kate Moss.

American prince / Tony Curtis.

At the height of Hollywood's golden age, Tony Curtis starred in 'Houdini' and 'Spartacus', made comedy history with Jack Lemmon in the unforgettable 'Some Like It Hot', was friends with Frank Sinatra, Cary Grant and James Dean, and romanced screen sirens such as Marilyn Monroe, Janet Leigh and Natalie Wood. This is his story.

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Ettie : the inimitable life and dauntless spirit of Lady Desborough / R.P.T. Davenport-Hines.

The life and world of Lady Desborough - beautiful heiress, aristocratic hostess, unfaithful wife, tragic mother, Edwardian icon.

A girl called Dusty : an intimate portrait of Dusty Springfield / Sharon Davis.

Dusty Springfield is a pop-music legend. Goddess of the sixties, reluctant recluse of the seventies, enigmatic icon of the eighties and nineties, she attracted a passionate following that has remained loyal to this day. This biography tackles many unanswered questions about Springfield's life.

Eminem : the way I am / Eminem and Sacha Jenkins.

Eminem reflects on the people, places and events that have made him who he is today. He shares some stories about a childhood bouncing from school to school, his struggles to support his young family on Detroit's East Side, the challenges of learning the rap game, and what his daily life is like now.

Julie Christie : the biography / Tim Ewbank and Stafford Hildred.

After winning the Best Actress Oscar in 1965, Julie Christie went on to repeated success in films such as 'Doctor Zhivago'. This insightful biography charts her remarkable life, from her birth in India to her current status as screen icon. Previous ed.: 2000.

Wishful drinking / Carrie Fisher.

An uproarious look at bestselling author Carrie Fisher's Hollywood hangover, adapted from the sold-out one-woman show of the same name which the Los Angeles Times called a 'Beverly Hills yard sale of juicy anecdotes'.

Tony Hancock : the definitive biography / John Fisher.

Regarded as the best radio and TV comic of his era, Tony Hancock was a man whose star burned brightly in the eyes and ears of millions before his untimely death in 1968. Now, 40 years on, critically acclaimed biographer John Fisher brings a fully authorised account of his life.

Dear Fatty / Dawn French.

Dawn French is one of the greatest comedy actresses of our time, with a career that has spanned nearly three decades, encompassing a vast and brilliant array of characters. Here she describes the journey that would eventually establish her as a perhaps unlikely, but nevertheless genuine, national treasure.

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Music & men : the life and loves of Harriet Cohen / Helen P. Fry.

Helen Fry tells for the first time the remarkable story of pianist & femme fatale Harriet Cohen. The book tells of her friendships, & relationships, with leading figures from every walk of life, from George Bernard Shaw to D.H. Lawrence and H.G. Wells, to Sir Edward Elgar, Albert Einstein, Arnold Bennett, & Vaughan Williams.

Moab is my washpot [paperback]

Most people are familiar with Stephen's talents as a writer and actor. What few people know is the private Fry, the man behind the public face. His autobiography is incredibly frank - and frankly incredible.

This is not about me / Janice Galloway.

One of Scotland's greatest contemporary writers turns her focus, in luminous prose, to her Ayrshire childhood in the fifties and sixties.

Nobody came : the appalling true story of brothers cruelly abused in a Jersey care home / Robbie Garner and Toni Maguire.

'Nobody Came' is a harrowing account by one of the survivors of the Haut de la Garenne children's home in Jersey.

Better late than never / Len Goodman.

'Better Late Than Never' is the extraordinary story of how a man born into poverty in London's East End went on to find stardom late in life when he was chosen to be head judge on BBC One's 'Strictly Come Dancing'.

All his jazz : the life and death of Bob Fosse / Martin Gottfried.

Bob Fosse (1927-1987) was the director and choreographer of 'Chicago' and 'Sweet Charity'. This is the less-publicized side of his story - his surprising ascent from the world of sleazy Chicago strip joints to the glitter of Broadway.

Coda / Simon Gray.

'Coda' is Simon Gray's powerful account of the year in which he struggles to come to terms with terminal lung cancer. From heartbreaking reflections on his own mortality to outrageous asides Gray's self-proclaimed 'last written words on the subject of myself' records his extraordinary emotional journey.

Shakespeare's wife / Germaine Greer.

This is a biography of Ann Hathaway and a social history of Shakespeare's time by the redoubtable Germaine Greer. Originally published: 2007.

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Not fade away : the life and music of Buddy Holly / John Gribbin.

Buddy Holly was killed at 22 when the plane he was travelling in crashed on 3rd February 1959. John Gribbin presents this biography as a celebration of Holly's all too brief life, and as an introduction, for all those not around in 1959, to the man and his astonishing musical legacy.

On The Edge: My Story [hardback] / Richard Hammond.

In 'My Life', Richard Hammond describes his childhood and adolescence and the emergence of the adrenalin junkie, the first ridiculous stunts on his tricycle, and an increasing and near obsessive attraction to speed and the smell of petrol.

Just me / Sheila Hancock.

In 'The Two of Us' Sheila relived her life with John Thaw - years packed with love and family, delight and despair. And then she looked ahead. What next? 'Live adventurously', a Quaker advice, was hovering around her brain. Putting her and John's much-loved house in France on the market she embarked on a series of journeys.

An eagle in the airing cupboard : more true tales from an animal sanctuary / Rex Harper.

'An Eagle in the Airing Cupboard' picks up where Rex Harper's first book, 'An Otter on the Aga', left off. It follows the fortunes of the Cornish RSPCA centre through one of its most testing 12 months. Once more it is a mixture of funny, touching, and sometimes moving animal stories.

Zola : the thrilling inside story of football's numero uno / Harry Harris.

Harris chronicles Gianfranco Zola's life and career from his humble beginnings in the backwater clubs of his remote village in Sardinia to his position as heir to Maradona at Napoli, and examines the enormous impact his arrival has had on Chelsea.

Fairway to hell : a hacker's return to a ruinous sport / Carl Hiaasen and Carl Hiaasen.

In 2005, Carl Hiaasen picked up a golf club again for the first time in 32 years. Over the course of the next 18 months, Carl's game got better, then worse, then better again. On the way to summoning up the courage to compete in a tournament, Carl details the hilarious consequences of his misguided belief that he can actually play golf. Originally.

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A strange eventful history : the dramatic lives of Ellen Terry, Henry Irving and their remarkable families / Michael Holroyd.

Ellen Terry was a natural actress who filled the theatre with a magical radiance. The child-bride of G.F. Watts, she eloped with a friend of Oscar Wilde at 21 and gave birth to two illegitimate children. But her greatest partnership was on-stage, with legendary actor-manager and tragedian Henry Irving.

All balls and glitter : my life / Craig Revel Horwood and Alison Maloney.

Craig's autobiography spills the beans on his personal life and his journey to the top, as well as offering an exclusive insight into the behind-the-scenes action in 'Strictly Come Dancing'.

Next to you [hardback]

Caron Keating battled privately with breast cancer for seven years and died from the disease in 2004. In this heart-wrenching book, Gloria Hunniford talks about her daughter's illness, her battle to survive and the grief that Gloria and her family are now learning to live with.

Time to say hello / Katherine Jenkins.

From singing for Cherie and Tony Blair to performing for the troops, Katherine is much loved both at home and abroad. Now, she opens her heart to reveal how she made her dream a reality as she went from trainee teacher to one of the most famous classical singers in the world. Originally published: 2008.

The best day of my life : true stories to inspire, move and entertain - told by a cross-section of the UK's celebrities and courageous everyday people / compiled by Giles Vickers Jones and Humfrey Hunter.

'The Best Day of My Life' is full of personal stories - ranging from the frivolous to the deadly serious - painting a picture of humanity at its most upbeat.

George Michael : the biography / Rob Jovanovic.

Rob Jovanovic's biography of George Michael tackles the issues that formed the superstar today and defined his position as a cultural icon. It also analyses Michael's musical output and groundbreaking videos, right up to his triumphant 2006 tour. Originally published: 2007.

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Somebody : the reckless life and remarkable career of Marlon Brando / Stefan Kanfer.

Marlon Brando was one of those rare artists whose work forever altered the landscape of his craft. Stefan Kanfer expertly examines the films that make up Brando's oeuvre, revealing the depths & heights of Brando's artistic achievements.

Casanova : actor, spy, lover, priest / Ian Kelly.

Giacomo Casanova was one of the most beguiling & controversial individuals of his or any age. His memoirs recorded his affairs & sexual encounters with dozens of women & a handful of men - & have bought him two centuries of notoriety. Ian Kelly reveals previously unpublished documents which give new insights into his life and his world.

Lorraine : the autobiography / Lorraine Kelly.

TV personality Lorraine Kelly opens up about her eventful life and tells her story in her own words: from her working-class childhood in one of the toughest areas of Glasgow, through her early journalistic career to her current position as star of morning TV.

Churchill : the greatest Briton unmasked / Nigel Knight.

In his brand new assessment of Winston Churchill's political career Nigel Knight challenges the popular image of the great wartime leader and argues that Churchill's impact on Great Britain was, in fact, consistently negative as a result of his many (now forgiven) momentous mistakes.

Driving Miss Smith / Warren Lakin.

In the vein of Sheila Hancock's 'The Two of Us', this is a touching, funny, personal memoir of a much-loved comedian and national treasure. In 2006 Linda Smith died from ovarian cancer. Here, her partner for 23 years tells her life story. Originally published: London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2007.

Nella Last's peace : the post-war diaries of Housewife, 49 / Nella Last ; edited by Patricia E. Malcolmson and Robert W. Malcolmson.

Picking up where 'Nella Last's War' left off, this moving and often comic diary tells the story of her post-war struggles and describes what ordinary people felt during those years of privation, hope and rebuilding - and whether 'peace' really meant 'peace' for everyone.

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True Grace : the life and times of an American princess / Wendy Leigh.

Grace Kelly's story is the quintessential America saga - the story of a beautiful girl born of immigrants - the daughter of a self-made millionaire - who grew up to become the wife of a Prince of royal blood, the mother of two princesses, and a son who is the ruler of the glittering yet sinister principality that is Monaco. Originally published: 20.

Killing my own snakes : a memoir / Ann Leslie.

Multi-award-winning journalist Ann Leslie has reported from over 70 countries, sauntering confidently through wars and civil disorders - clad in full make-up and false eyelashes and wielding a vast handbag. Here she writes candidly about her life.

Past-it notes / Maureen Lipman.

In her inimitable, stylish, witty way, Maureen Lipman entertains us with stories from her personal and professional life over the last 25 years.

Ma, I'm getting meself a new Mammy : the heartbreaking true story of a little girl who just wanted to be loved / Martha Long.

In the sequel to 'Ma, He Sold Me for a Few Cigarettes', the once irrepressible Martha continues her story of her upbringing.

Joan Collins : the biography of an icon / Graham Lord.

A revelatory and affectionate biography of Joan Collins, a true icon since the 1950s, written by the experienced and bestselling biographer Graham Lord. Originally published: 2007.

The Mitford girls : the biography of an extraordinary family [paperback] / Mary S. Lovell.

The Mitford Girls tells the true story behind the gaiety and frivolity of the six Mitford daughters - and the facts are sensational as any novel.

My life as a wife : life, liquor and what to do about the other women / Elisabeth Luard.

Triumph & tragedy, happiness & despair, joy & sorrow - through love & death & life lived to the full with a man who loved both alcohol & other women - for food-writer Elisabeth Luard, marriage to writer & sometime king of satire Nicholas Luard was never going to be easy. In this book she tells her story.

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Pride of Britain / Kirsteen Lupton and Jeff Hudson.

Kirsteen Lupton seems like any other teenage girl. But she was born with a rare medical condition: her bladder was on the outside of her body. This is the story of Kirsteen's extraordinary life and her work to raise funds for the Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Last chorus : an autobiographical medley / Humphrey Lyttelton.

Humphrey Lyttelton's last book is a sparkling kaleidoscope of memories, anecdotes and entertaining stories from his colourful life, from his childhood as the son of a famous Eton house master to his role as the chairman of 'I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue'.

Fathers & sons / Richard Madeley.

This is a remarkably honest and moving account of fatherhood as seen through the eyes of four generations of fathers and sons.

Daniel Craig : the biography / Sarah Marshall.

An in-depth look into the life of Daniel Craig, this title reveals everything about the actor: how he endured poverty-stricken years when he was first struggling to make it as an actor in London, how he rejected the 'trivial' publicity that came when he started to make a name for himself, his relationships, and more. Originally published: 2007.

Driven : my story / James Martin.

Whether skateboarding across the kitchen as a child, or taking part in the world's most prestigious vintage road race, TV chef James Martin has never been one to sit still. In this text, he reveals how his two passions - cooking and cars - have fuelled his hopes, dreams and successes and made him the household name he is today.

Heroes, rascals & rogues / Rupert Matthews and John Birdsall.

A fascinating look at some of the most colourful characters in history - from ancient times right up to the present day. Discover why Caligula was mad, what made Napoleon seek to conquer, and who really was the most outlawed cowboy in the West.

Bounder! : the biography of Terry-Thomas / Graham McCann.

This biography celebrates the life and career of Terry-Thomas and includes his influences on modern entertainers and comedians. It tells of his upbringing and how he went on to carve out a long and lucrative career in America.

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Bearded tit / Rory McGrath.

'Bearded Tit' is Rory McGrath's story of life among birds. From a Cornish boyhood wandering gorse-tipped cliffs listening to the song of the yellowhammer with his imaginary girlfriend, or drawing gravity-defying jackdaws in class when he should have been applying himself to physics, Rory recalls his life as a card-carrying birdwatcher. Originally p.

Outlaw journalist : the life and times of Hunter S. Thompson / William McKeen.

This biography is a meticulously researched portrait of the inventor and pioneer of Gonzo journalism. A serious writer, revolutionary stylist, and an artist who broke down barriers between fact and fiction, Hunter S. Thompson changed the way we think about journalism.

Will Young : the biography / Erica McPhee.

In February 2002, a star was born. Will Young was crowned the first ever Pop Idol, voted for by 4.6 million people and watched by nearly 10 million more. It was the start of a music career which has since been astonishing, both in its critical acclaim and consistent popular appeal. Will is not only successful because of his unique and outstanding voice it is also the charisma and elegance of the man which has captivated his millions of fans worldwide. His inimitable sound, an extraordinary mix of soul, blues, jazz, and pop, has forged him a reputation as one of the most talented and original mainstream British artists for decades, and cemented his position at the top of the music industry.

We bought a zoo : the amazing true story of a broken-down zoo, and the 200 animals that changed a family forever / Benjamin Mee.

Chuck it all in and buy a zoo? Why not thought Benjamin Mee, unaware of the grim living conditions, creditors and escaped big cat that lay in wait. This is his funny, touching and ultimately tragic story of how the Mee family adapted to life in the zoo. Originally published: London: HarperCollins, 2008.

Ellen Terry / Joy Melville.

Ellen Terry rose to fame as an actress in the 19th century, when her stage partnership with Henry Irving at London's Lyceum Theatre drew capacity crowds. She was notorious for flaunting the moral code of her day, marrying three times - first, at the age of 17. This book tells her story.

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Dirty deeds done cheap : the incredible story of my life from the SBS to a hired gun in Iraq / Peter Mercer.

Working in groups alongside the US Army, men from all corners of the globe volunteered to risk their lives fighting someone else's war. One of these men was Pete Mercer - an ex-Royal Marine & former member of the navy's elite SBS. In this book, Pete takes us on a journey through the dangerous backstreets of 21st-century Iraq.

Kristofferson : the wild American / Stephen Miller.

This biography tells the story of Kris Kristofferson's triumphant pursuit of a career that baffled his family as he left a distinguished military career to sweep floors in Nashville and pitch his songs to his musical heroes and finally become a star himself.

In the frame : my life in words and pictures / Helen Mirren.

Helen Mirren has been an internationally acclaimed actress and the recipient of many awards, transferring without obvious effort from stage, cinema and television for over 40 years. This illustrated memoir is an account of an extraordinary talent, and a life well lived. Originally published: London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2007.

My word is my bond / Roger Moore and Gareth Owen.

The quintessential suave hero, Roger Moore has had an extraordinary acting career that has spanned seven decades. Here, Roger shares his recollections of playing some of the world's most famous roles alongside a host of legendary stars.

Wedlock / Wendy Moore.

'Wedlock' tells the story of the Countess of Strathmore and her marriage to Andrew Robinson Stoney, the origin behind the phrase 'ston(e)y broke'. Stoney married the Countess for her wealth and, once they were married, he subjected her to years of ill treatment.

A life of contrasts : the autobiography of Diana Mosley / Diana Mosley.

This is the autobiography of Diana Mitford, who grew up with the Churchills and married the British Fascist leader, Sir Oswald Mosley. This ed. originally published: 2002.

Memoirs / Nana Mouskouri and Lionel Duroy.

For more than 40 years Nana Mouskouri has been a global singing sensation. In 'Memoirs' she describes her beginnings in the nightclubs of Athens to her triumphs on the world's most glittering stages. This translation originally published: London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2007.

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Richard Burton : prince of players / Michael Munn.

Here is the full story of Richard Burton's life and remarkable career, revealed by a writer who knew him from 1968 up to the time they were together on Burton's last film in 1984. Originally published: 2008.

Anne's song / Anne Nolan and Richard Barber.

As the eldest of the Nolan Sisters, Anne Nolan's life appeared from the outside to be one of boundless excitement and glamour. Yet, behind the fame and glitz lay hidden a dark family secret that has, until now, never been told. Anne's story tells of this other life - one has cast a terrible shadow over her entire life. Originally published: London:

Clips from a life / Denis Norden.

This is the story of comic legend Denis Norden, told in momentary snapshots by the master British comedian himself. Containing reminiscences of a career stretching back to the golden age of the radio, through the heyday of cinema and the early pioneering days of TV comedy, this text showcases Norden's creative genius at its best.

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Acedia & me : a marriage, monks, and a writer's life / Kathleen Norris.

Kathleen Norris's masterpiece: a personal and moving memoir that resurrects the ancient term *acedia*, or soul-weariness, and brilliantly explores its relevancy to the modern individual and culture. Kathleen Norris had written several much loved books, yet she couldn't drag herself out of bed in the morning, couldn't summon the energy for daily tasks. Even as she struggled, Norris recognized her familiar battle with *acedia*. She had discovered the word in an early Church text when she was in her thirties. Having endured times of deep soul-weariness since she was a teenager, she immediately recognized that this passage described her affliction: sinking into a state of being unable to care. Fascinated by this noonday demon, so familiar to those in the early and medieval Church, Norris read intensively and knew she must restore this forgotten but utterly relevant and important concept to the modern world's vernacular. Like Norris's bestselling *The Cloister Walk*, *Acedia & me* is part memoir and part meditation. As in her bestselling *Amazing Grace*, here Norris explicates and demystifies a spiritual concept, exploring *acedia* through the geography of her life as a writer; her marriage and the challenges of commitment in the midst of grave illness; and her keen interest in the monastic tradition. Unlike her earlier books, this one features a poignant narrative throughout of Norris's and her husband's bouts with *acedia* and its clinical cousin, depression. Moreover, her analysis of *acedia* reveals its burden not just on individuals but on whole societies and that the restless boredom, frantic escapism, commitment phobia, and enervating despair that we struggle with today are the ancient demon of *acedia* in modern dress. An examination of *acedia* in the light of theology, psychology, monastic spirituality, the healing powers of religious practice, and Norris's own experience, *Acedia & me* is both intimate and historically sweeping, brimming with exasperation and reverence, sometimes funny, often provocative, and always important.

One flew into the cuckoo's egg : my autobiography / Bill Oddie.

This is national treasure Bill Oddie's unconventional autobiography, in which he shares his many highs as a comedian and wildlife presenter and explores the crippling lows he has suffered as a result of his severe clinical depression.

Catherine Tate : the unauthorised biography / Tina Ogle.

Catherine Tate leads a very private life along with her partner, stage manager Twig Clark, and their young daughter, Erin. This is the first major biography of Catherine, drawing on interviews with many of those who have worked most closely with her over the years to build a true and complete portrait of this hugely talented actress.

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At my mother's knee - and other low joints / Paul O'Grady.

In his own uniquely acid tongue, Paul O'Grady traces the hilarious tales of life in Irish Catholic Birkenhead that took him from a virtuous altar-boy to Britain's best loved entertainer.

The Bolter : Idina Sackville, the woman who scandalised 1920s society and became White Mischief's infamous seductress / Frances Osborne.

Idina Sackville first met scandal when she left her very rich husband and two small children for a penniless army officer in 1918. She went on to marry and divorce a total of five times and be the founder and 'high priestess' of White Mischief's scandalous Happy Valley of Kenyan settlers. Here, her great- granddaughter tells her story. Originally p.

"Now then lad" : tales of a country bobby / Mike Pannett.

Mike Pannett has just taken up a new posting in rural North Yorkshire. It's quite a change from the Met, where he dealt with riots on the streets, drug gangs in Battersea and gun crime in Croydon. His first year is described here and as well as a memoir the book is a celebration of North Yorkshire - its landscape and character.

Parky : my autobiography / Michael Parkinson.

From prize-winning journalist to chat show king, Michael Parkinson's career spans over four decades. Now an international celebrity himself, the man from a humble Yorkshire mining family at last tells his own story.

Against medical advice : one family's struggle with an agonizing medical mystery / James Patterson.

Cory Friedman woke up one morning when he was five years old with the uncontrollable urge to twitch his neck. From that day forward his life became a hell of irrepressible tics and involuntary utterances, and Cory embarked on an excruciating journey from specialist to specialist to discover the cause of his disease. Soon it became unclear what tics were symptoms of his disease and what were side effects of the countless combinations of drugs. The only certainty is that it kept getting worse. Simply put: Cory Friedman's life was a living hell. AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE is the true story of Cory and his family's decades-long battle for survival in the face of extraordinary difficulties and a maddening medical establishment. It is a heart-rending story of struggle and triumph with a climax as dramatic as any James Patterson thriller. (2008)

Recent Biographies Added to Isle of Wight Libraries

No limits : the will to succeed / Michael Phelps and Alan Abrahamson.

Fresh from his triumphant and extraordinary achievement at the Olympic Games in Beijing, Michael Phelps shows the secrets to his remarkable success - from training to execution.

Jordan : pushed to the limit / Katie Price.

Katie Price has led a rollercoaster life and the excitement, glamour and emotional twists and turns show no signs of slowing down. Picking up where 'Jordan: A Whole New World' left off, this title is a fascinating, up-front and intensely personal account of life in front of, and behind the cameras. Originally published: London: Century, 2008.

Here's one I wrote earlier... : the autobiography / Peter Purves.

Peter Purves is perhaps best known for his 10 year stint as part of the Blue Peter 'Dream Team' with Valerie Singleton and John Noakes. Following his departure from Blue Peter he famously presented another kids favourite 'Kickstart' and 'Junior Kickstart'. Here he looks back at his career and fascinating life.

I found my horn : one man's struggle with the orchestra's most difficult instrument / Jasper Rees.

At 39, Jasper Rees decided to fish out his old French horn. Despite severely limited ability he decided that he was going to play a Mozart concerto to a paying audience within a year. Jasper's story is of a midlife crisis spent not on a Harley Davidson but on 16 feet of wrapped brass tubing. Originally published: London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2008.

Gareth Gates : talking point / Gavin Reeve.

Following on from "Right From the Start", which told Gareth's story from family roots in Bradford to recording his album "What My Heart Wants to Say", this volume continues the story as Gareth reflects on his first two nationwide tours and how his life has moved on since the start of his career.

Love junkie : a memoir / Rachel Resnick.

This work tells of Rachel Resnick's dangerous addiction to sex and love. An addiction that has cost her in horrible ways throughout the course of her life, from the time she rear-ended a van on the freeway because she was speed-dialing her lover's phone to when she blew the deadline on her first major newspaper assignment.

Recent Biographies Added to Isle of Wight Libraries

My life, my way / Cliff Richard.

Sir Cliff Richard is the biggest-selling artist of all time, selling over 250 million records around the world since he burst onto the music scene in 1958. Now, working with the highly acclaimed biographer & journalist, Penny Junor, Cliff is going to talk freely & frankly about what it is like to be Cliff.

Kevin Keegan : an intimate portrait of football's last romantic / Ian Ridley.

There can be few football managers who have divided public opinion as much as Kevin Keegan has. A legendary player, he never intended to go into management, yet defied his own and others expectations when he first took the managerial reins at Newcastle United in 1992. Ian Ridley here offers an insight into the mind of Keegan.

Hard as nails : the Graham Roberts story / Graham Roberts and Colin Duncan.

Utterly uncompromising both on and off the pitch for Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea and Rangers, Graham Roberts had a talent which was the envy of many. Now he tells the full story of his incredible career and also of the high profile court cases which he took on and won.

Rush : the autobiography / Ian Rush.

In 2006, Liverpool fans voted Ian Rush among the top three all-time greatest players in the history of the club. Ian Rush is Liverpool's greatest goalscorer &, along with Jimmy Greaves & Denis Law, one of the finest natural penalty-box predators the game has ever seen. This book tells his story.

Ant and Dec : the story so far / Gwen Russell.

This is an intimate, affectionate portrait of Ant and Dec. It charts their career from the early days as PJ and Duncan in the children's drama 'Byker Grove', through to hit shows such as 'Pop Idol', 'I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here' and 'Saturday Night Take Away'.

Cheryl Cole : the unauthorized biography / Gerard Sanderson.

Cheryl Cole has risen from humble beginnings in Newcastle to become part of Britain's hottest female pop group, Girls Aloud. In this book Gerard Sanderson profiles her rise to fame, as well as detailing her debut as an X-Factor judge and her high-profile marriage to footballer Ashley Cole.

Recent Biographies Added to Isle of Wight Libraries

To cap it all : my story / Kenny Sansom and Rita Wright.

Kenny Sansom enjoyed a glittering football career with Crystal Palace, Arsenal and England. However, away from the pitch, Kenny struggled with addictions to alcohol and gambling. In this book, he tells the story of both these sides of his life.

Beethoven as I knew him / Schindler.

Wonderfully intimate biography by Beethoven's pupil, secretary and factotum. Extensively annotated by Beethoven scholar Donald MacArdle, it not only offers Schindler's personal view of the composer's music, personality, deafness, irascible behavior, etc. but incorporates 100 years of subsequent research. Revised 3rd edition. Editor's Notes. Introduction. Includes 7 illustrations.

Runaway / Skye Sinclair.

A life lived on the run from shocking neglect and cruelty leads one little girl to glamorous and gruesome adventures and eventual peace working to help street kids in Southeast Asia. Originally published: London: Hodder & Stoughton.

Slash : the autobiography / Slash.

Slash is everything the man, the myth, the legend inspires: it's funny, honest, jaw-dropping and in a word...excessive.

Just one of seven : the autobiography of Denis Smith / Denis Smith.

Denis Smith's autobiography reveals his tough upbringing amidst the gangs of Stoke-on-Trent, how he helped save Sir Alex Ferguson's job, the stories behind encounters with the likes of Ian Botham, Clive Lloyd, Geoff Hurst, Frank Williams and how he nearly changed the course of former England coach Steve McClaren's career.

The Great Western Beach : a memoir of a Cornish childhood between the wars / Emma Smith.

This memoir of a 1923 to 1935 childhood pulsates with life. Newquay - its eccentric residents and exotic holiday-makers, its tennis tournaments and bathing parties, invigorating walks and teas at the Rose Cafe - is the Hallsmith children's entire world - a world observed and remembered in meticulous detail by young Elspeth.

Child C : surviving a foster mother's reign of terror [book] / by Christopher Spry.

The horrific true story of cruel Gloucestershire foster mother Eunice Spry's 20-year reign of abuse over the children in her care, as told by one of the victims in the case that shocked the UK in early 2007.

Recent Biographies Added to Isle of Wight Libraries

The weight of a mustard seed / Wendell Steavenson.

Wendell Steavenson presents this story of one family's struggle to survive the iniquities of Saddam Hussein's savage dictatorship.

His bright light : the story of my son, Nick Traina / Danielle Steel.

From the day he was born, Nick Traina was his mother's joy. By 19, he was dead. This is Danielle Steel's powerful personal story of the son she lost to manic depression and the lessons she learned during his courageous battle against darkness.

The Queen of Whale Cay / Kate Summerscale.

Summerscale presents a biography of 'Joe' Carstairs, the woman champion motorboat racer of the 1920s who, in the 30s, bought and became 'ruler' of the island Whale Cay, in the British West Indies, before moving to Florida where she settled for 40 years, running a steamship freightline and setting up a chain of airports. Originally published: London.

Swanny : confessions of a lower-league legend / Peter Swan.

Peter Swan played over 500 games & worked for some of the biggest names in football, including Howard Wilkinson & Peter Shilton. This book tells the remarkable story of the highs & lows of Swan's 16-year-career - from Wembley joy to the chronic knee condition that forced him out of the game & could see him confined to a wheelchair.

A swim-on part in the goldfish bowl : a memoir / Carol Thatcher.

Carol Thatcher has one of the most famous surnames in the world. But whatever anyone might feel about her mother, she is one of the best-loved people in the country. When she won I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here! it was positive proof that she had touched the nation's hearts. In this book, she tells her story.

Big Mal : the high life and hard times of Malcolm Allison, football legend / David Tossell.

Malcolm Allison is one of the most controversial figures of the last half-century of English football. Leader of the famed West Ham Academy, his playing career was cut short by the loss of a lung to tuberculosis. Disillusioned, he became a professional gambler before acknowledging that football was his calling. This book tells his story.

Grumpy old rock star and other wondrous stories / Rick Wakeman.

Around about September 1948, Mr and Mrs Cyril Wakeman had an early night and some time later, at Perivale in Middlesex, Mrs Wakeman produced a bonny baby son. They named him Richard, but he quickly became known as Rick. Later he joined a popular music group called Yes and became a legend.

Recent Biographies Added to Isle of Wight Libraries

Osbournes confidential : an insider's chronicle / Mick Wall.

A sensational, darkly comedic and occasionally disturbing look at the very odd life of the Osbournes, written by an insider.

When giants walked the Earth : a biography of Led Zeppelin / Mick Wall.

They released no singles; most of their albums have no lettering or titles of any description; they spent their early years touring in America - but all that aside, Led Zeppelin remain probably the greatest, biggest-selling heavy rock band of all time. This book tells their story.

Criminal / Caspar Walsh.

This is the story of a wild childhood marked by violence and abuse and the frequent absences of a father in prison. It is the story of how Caspar Walsh became part of his father's world - dealing drugs, doing drugs, doing time.

That's another story : the autobiography / Julie Walters.

Julie Walters has been described as the nation's most popular actress and comedienne. She has been delighting us on screen and on stage for over 25 years and we have taken her to our hearts. Now she tells us her own story, in her own words.

James Whale : a lifetime of night-time / James Whale and Shaun Hutson.

This is the no-holds-barred autobiography of radio megastar James Whale, a man who, for over 30 years, has never been afraid to say the unsayable. The text charts James's rise to the top, from his Surrey childhood, through his humble beginnings in local radio, to his status as late-night king of the airwaves. Previous ed.: 2007.

Marriage, mitres and being myself / Jane Williams.

Jane Williams knows a thing or two hundred about being married to a bishop - and an archbishop. In this text, she pulls together the experiences of a unique band of diverse individuals whose common bond is an attachment to the higher echelons of the Anglican Communion.

Sixty years a fisherman : the autobiography of fishing legend John Wilson / John Wilson.

In this honest, sometimes even raunchy and controversial autobiography, fishing legend John Wilson documents the 60 years he has loved going fishing. Previous ed.: published as *Fifty years a fisherman*. London: Boxtree, 1999.