

Alsager Book Emporium Newsletter September 23



THE LITTLE GIRL AND THE SPIDER

One Saturday morning, a little girl (around 5) came in looking for a book on spiders. We were able to provide her with one, and her face lit up.

"This is the bestest book I've ever had", she said, as she delighted in the pictures of spiders of all shapes and sizes: some blown up to double an triple the size. She loved spiders and she said she was going to take it home and scare her 10 year old older sister, who didn't like spiders!

Well, if it makes a little girl happy!!!!

WHAT IS OUR MOST VALUABLE BOOK?

We are often asked what is our most valuable book? Most of our books sell for between £1-£3. But sometimes a real gem comes in. A book called Night Thoughts which was illustrated by William Blake. It was produced by the Folio Society some twenty years ago as a Ltd Edition and sold for £450. It wasn't just a coffee table book - it was the size of a Coffee Table! Certainly the largest book we have ever had and beautifully illustrated. It was sold to a member of the William Blake Society in London for £600 and he was very pleased to receive the book. It took us quite a time to pack the book and make sure it was packed carefully to avoid any damage.



They climbed Everest 70 Years ago this year

I don't look inside every book that comes to Hassall Rd. But if it looks it could be signed then I always check. A book came in by John Hunt written about the 1953 Everest Exhibition. Not a rare book and we would normally sell it for £3-5. The dust wrapper was clean and when I looked inside I was surprised to see to signatures. One of Sir Edmund Hilary and the other of George Evans, who was also on the expedition and reached the summit camp. We sold the book for £75 to one of our customers.

Also from the same source a book about the 1960's folk group The Spinners. -This too was signed by all the group. - offers around £21.

Never judge a book -just by its cover.
Rev Malcolm Lorimer



More News

OUR BIGGEST DONATION OF BOOKS CAME FROM:

Recently, we had our largest donation of books. It took Keith and a few helpers 15 car-loads to bring them to the shop. Thankfully, they were local and we would like to thank the family and friends of Andor Gomme for the donation. The donation filled the middle shed and we are still going through the collection.

Andor Gomme was a British scholar of English literature and architectural history. He was a frequent reviewer for the Times Literary Supplement, an author of books on both literary criticism and architectural history, and Chair of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain, whose journal, Architectural History, he edited for many years.

It certainly was a fantastic collection with books on artists and art history, from all periods both old and modern. A very good architectural section with lots of interesting books.

Then there is the literature, All the major figures of English figure with many books on writers such as D.H.Lawrence, George Elliott, Dickens, Hardy and others.

A superb collection of books by and about Edward Lear.

What didn't he collect? A very interesting collection which will take us a few months to get through and put out on the shelves.

And then we found the records!!!! We finished collecting the books and someone said –“Do you want the records?” Thinking there would be the usual 40 or 50 L’P’s we said yes. Two car loads later with over 500 classical records we filled another shed!!!

What a collection... then we had another donation form a minister in York!!!

CHANGES IN THE BOOKSHOP

I am sorry if you have been in the bookshop and can't find the subject as it was moved. We have been doing a major re-organisation in the church room.

Thanks to Duncan the biographies are in alphabetical order and we have moved the POETRY- DRAMA -SHAKESPEARE-CLASSICS to the shelves just inside the foyer of the second entrance.

Barbara is working on a map -which should be useful (for the volunteers trying to place books) as well as for customers finding there way round.



Thanks to Derek & Brenda.

Two of our most regular volunteers have retired. Derek who came from Stafford and looked after the religious section. He was always willing to welcome and talk to customers and we will miss him. Also, Brenda who came from Congleton. A Londoner who always proud of coming from there she was there on a Saturday and helped

Anna & Annia

If you see two girls scurrying around on a Saturday carrying huge piles of books we would like to thank Annia and Anna who came on work placements from college and have stayed with us -they love books so much. We are always on the look out for new volunteers. If you love books and would like to volunteer -have a word with us. If you can spare a Friday or Saturday one or twice a month we would love to see you.

REFRESHMENTS

The bookshop is more than just a second-hand bookshop. We aim to create a welcoming atmosphere and a place where people feel at home, have a chat and enjoy the ambiance. Thanks especially to Leona for making all those cups of coffee and tea and all the biscuits and cakes. Thanks to those customers who bring in biscuits for us. We don't charge for refreshments -we just ask for a donation.

FILL A CARRIER BAG FOR £2.

Hope you have noticed our new addition. Outside the Office in the small yard a set of bookshelves where you can fill a carrier bag full for £2. The books are added to each week so worth a look. Thanks to Alex who has constructed it and we can recommend him if you want any joinery doing. It is waterproof with its special cover and we hope to have it open most of the year.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO PLAYS IRISH MUSIC?

We have a box full of Irish music scores. Ideal for someone who plays the music.

We have a lot of C.D's and DVD's which are not on show but we hope we can display them somewhere this summer.

ALSAGER'S BEST KEPT SECRET

I am always amazed when new customers come in and say "We didn't know it was here."

We have been here for nearly ten years and still people are just finding us. If you can tell your friends and book lovers we are here and what a wonderful place it is.



The GOOD experience (this, by the way, is the experience when visiting the Alsager Book Emporium):

- Plenty of warm welcoming volunteer staff
- Easy to navigate sections
- Loads of very modestly priced books on ALL subjects (sometimes fill a bag for just £2!)
- People to chat with (only if you choose to, of course)
- Free tea, coffee, soft drink, biscuits (donations gratefully received)
- Background music
- Signposted toilet for customers' use.
- Knowing that sales go to a charitable cause
- Easy free parking on the street outside.



ONE OF OUR STRANGEST SALES

One of our strangest sales came from a man bought a book which was in very poor condition, yet he was overjoyed. You see he was trying to find out if there were taxes on the items Charles Darwin brought back from his expedition on the Beagle in 1832. The internet had met with a fruitless search.

The Eureka!!! He came into the books and rummaged in the older books and came up with a copy of Ellis's British Tariffs in 1835. This lists all items on foreign goods on which taxes had then to be paid.

He left one very happy customer!

Alsager Book Emporium on Hassall Road
Opening Times:

Friday and Saturday 10 am to 2pm

Open Most Bank Holidays too - see our Facebook page for details:

