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Contemporary poetry is widely reported to be flourishing, yet the general reader still remains elusive. Carol Rumens argues that it is time to reassess the role of poetry and cherish its diversity



## 16

Libraries are among the most likely places for hauntings, as Andrew Martin discovered during his recent research into British ghostliness. He relates his findings, as well as his own sighting of a ghost in the London Library



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Antony Beevor has an exceptional ability to relate historical events through the eyes of the individual. He explains his research techniques, and offers his views on historical fiction, to Erica Wagner



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From peaks and avalanches to the recipe for Mummy's Blood, novelist Rosie Thomas finds plenty of fascinating reading material for the armchair mountaineer in the Library's bookshelves

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