

Trevor Norton

Writer - Non-fiction

Trevor Norton is a marine biologist and was Professor of Marine Biology at Liverpool University until his retirement. He was also Director of the Marine Laboratory there. Trevor's last book, [IMAGINATION AND A PILE OF JUNK](#), was published by Hodder and Stoughton in January 2014. He passed away in February 2021.



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Publications

Non-Fiction

Publication Details

Notes

**IMAGINATION AND A PILE
OF JUNK: A DROLL
HISTORY OF INVENTORS
AND INVENTIONS**

2014

Hodder & Stoughton

A celebration of the extraordinary people who created the modern world, spiced with anecdotes and wit. Trevor Norton weaves an entertaining history with a seductive mix of eureka moments, disasters and dirty tricks.

Although inventors were often scientists or engineers, many were not: Samuel Morse (Morse code) was a painter, Lazlow Biro (ballpoint) was a sculptor and hypnotist, and Logie Baird (TV) sold boot polish. The inventor of the automatic telephone switchboard was an undertaker who believed the operator was diverting his calls to rival morticians so he decided to make all telephone operators redundant.

Inventors are mavericks indifferent to conventional wisdom so critics were dismissive of even their best ideas: radio had 'no future,' electric light was 'an idiotic idea' and X-rays were 'a hoax. The head of the General Post Office rejected telephones as unnecessary as there were 'plenty of small boys to run messages.'

Inventomania is a magical place where eccentrics are always in season and their stories are usually unbelievable - but rest assured, nothing has been invented.

**SMOKING EARS AND
SCREAMING TEETH**

2010

Cornerstone

Many have followed the advice of the great Victorian scientist Jack Haldane to 'never experiment on an animal if a man will do' and 'never ask anyone to do anything you wouldn't do yourself.' This book celebrates the great eccentrics who have performed dangerous experiments on themselves for the benefit of humankind.

**UNDERWATER TO GET
OUT OF THE RAIN**

2006

Century

This is the beautifully told tale of Norton's growing love of the sea, from family holidays in Whitley Bay as a boy, to his first over zealous attempts at diving.

**REFLECTIONS ON A
SUMMER SEA**

2002

Century

The funny and touching story of a menagerie of eccentric and talented ecologists who spent forty summers at Lough Ine,

STARS BENEATH THE SEA

2000

Century

The story of a bunch of intrepid and inspired men who pioneered the exploration of the last great unknown: the deeps of the sea.
