



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE LA SPEZIA & SARZANA



Ordinary people, ordinary lives

Most of us have photographs of our grandparents, but how many of us know what their lives were like, the sort of people they were in their youth? The glimpses rare diaries give us are frustratingly incomplete, family anecdotes only half remembered. And what will our grandchildren know about us? We often intend to write things down, but never get round to it. We may leave videos rather than photographs, but the images will remain two-dimensional.

Hannah Smith has come up with an answer: she writes other people's autobiographies, producing a hardback book of at least 20,000 words – with illustrations if required – a chronicle not of the famous, but of the ordinary.