

Friends of The Durning Library

NEWSLETTER

No 62, May 2014

167 Kennington Lane SE11 4HF

Tel: 020 7926 8682

Check out our website: www.durninglibraryfriends.org.uk

e-mail: friendsofdurning@gmail.com

Future Monday Events

Normally the third Monday evening in the month **6.45 for 7.15pm** at the Durning Library

Light refreshments. Everyone welcome. No admission charge, but a £2 donation towards costs is invited.

Mon 16 June: Summer Party with "Sheila, The Australian Ingénue who bewitched British Society." To complement our usual fine fare and raffle, local author **Robert Wainwright** will tell us about the vivacious Australian, Sheila Chisholm, who blazed a trail through London society, amassing friendships which ran the gamut from Buckingham Palace and Downing Street to Hollywood and the Kennedys. She married three times and attracted a remarkable string of suitors, among them the young Prince Bertie (later George VI) and Rudolph Valentino. Who was this remarkable woman who was so warmly welcomed into the palaces, mansions and clubs of the elite? Filled with scandalous revelations, Sheila is essential reading. Copies available on the night.

Mon 21 July: Transforming the Imperial War Museum. Two days after reopening with "Truth and Memory", the largest exhibition of British WWI art for almost 100 years, IWM London tell us how they have transformed the museum to mark the start of the WWI centenary. There are brand new, ground-breaking First World War galleries, a dramatic new central atrium to display their iconic large objects, a park-side café and much else.

August: Summer break.

Mon 15 September: "For the King, the Country, the Queen's and Kennington". The Great War story of Kennington's own battalion, the 24th Londons (The Queen's), on the 90th anniversary of the unveiling in Kennington Park of its war memorial commemorating over 800 men. An illustrated talk by **Marietta Crichton Stuart**.

Mon 20 October: "The Cruel Victory: The French Resistance and the Battle for the Vercors 1944". **Paddy Ashdown** tells of the uprising and subsequent massacre on the Vercors massif. As the Allied troops stormed the D-Day beaches, the Vercors rose up to fight the Nazis in a planned rearguard action. It was the largest French Resistance action of the entire war, and the most brutal crushing of resistance forces in Western Europe. The story, long overlooked by English language histories, resonates still in France's daily life and politics. Copies available.

2014 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE – PLEASE BRING YOUR £3 WITH YOU

!!!! FUNDRAISING FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE DURNING LIBRARY !!!!

The next **TABLE TOP SALE**, outside **The Dog House PH** on **Saturday 14 June** from **10am to 3pm**, is in aid of the Friends of the Durning Library, so we hope to see you there!

Tables cost £10, which is donated to the Friends. To book yours, please text Liam on 07841 42455 or email lwjwalsh@hotmail.co.uk.

We'll have our own table selling books and CDs, and Kennington Companions will be selling bric-a-brac, all in support of the Friends. Donations for either table will be gladly accepted from 9am on the day, or you could deposit them in the blue bin in the Library as usual.

Please contact Cathy on KenningtonCompanions@gmail.com if you have any questions. We look forward to swapping bargains for your cash on the day!



Friends' Committee

Priscilla Baines *Chairman*
Kay Coombs *Secretary*
Jeremy Orme *Treasurer*

Elizabeth Barrott
Anne Burt
Veronica Ledwith
Laura Swaffield
David Tisdall
Lucy Wells

Enquiries: Kay Coombs
Telephone: 020 7735 3651
Email: kcoombsuk@yahoo.co.uk

Opening Hours

Monday	1.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Tuesday	10.00 am – 6.00 pm
Wednesday	10.00 am – 8.00 pm
Thursday	closed
Friday	10.00 am – 6.00 pm
Saturday	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Sunday	closed

Library Staff

Michel Merson *Area Library Manager*
Dale Arndell *Durning Manager*
Audrey Hudson *Library Service Manager*

Friends of the Durning Library is a voluntary organisation which exists to promote and support our local library.
Annual subscriptions £3.00 to Anne Burt, Membership Secretary, 50 Vanbrugh Court, Wincott Street, London SE11 4NR

Chairman's News

Thanks as usual to the faithful Friends who came to our AGM on 14 April and who elected the officers and committee. It was very encouraging to see so many of our core supporters. Unfortunately, illness prevented Susanna Barnes, head of Lambeth's library service, from giving the planned talk so we took advantage of the opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion (reported elsewhere) of what members wanted from the library in future. The willingness to think positively and, most important, long-term was very welcome. Your contributions will feed into the options appraisal process for the library and the building that is expected to start shortly. Part of that process will be user consultations in which we know that we can rely on members of the Friends to play a full part.

The AGM also allowed us to welcome Dale Arndell, the new manager, who has come from Waterloo and started at the Durning in April. There are still several familiar faces around, which is good news. We have been told that work will start shortly on dealing with the dry rot in the flat and above the entrance porch and hope that it will prove not to be too extensive.

One announcement at the AGM was that I shall be standing down from the chair in 2015. By then I shall have completed ten years in that position and it is more than time for a change. So far there is no successor but if any of you are interested, or know someone else who is, please tell one of the committee members.

As usual, there is a full programme of talks for the year and like everyone else we will be marking the outbreak of the First World War, with particular emphasis on the impact in our immediate area. We look forward to seeing you there – and please encourage everyone who is interested to attend. You and your friends are all welcome.

Priscilla Baines

Would you be willing to receive **the Newsletter by e-mail**? If so, please notify our e-mail address, friendsofdurning@gmail.com. This will save our costs and time.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Mythical Maze – 4 -11 yrs

Wednesdays from 2.15 – 3.15pm

23 July Decorate your Library.

30 July Make a story book about a Mythical Creature.

6 Aug Mask making.

Recent Events

After discussion at the April AGM, general consensus was that we should keep this column but reduce the length of the reports. This is partly to leave more space for other news (and perhaps larger print) but also to reduce the work. Feedback on the new format would be welcome, addressed to Kay Coombs either c/o the Durning (full address at the top of the front page) or to friendsofdurning@gmail.com

17 Mar: **Yvonne Craig Inskip**, well supported with readings by her husband **Richard Craig**, recounted how and why she wrote her book **Things my MotherS never told me**. It told of her upbringing by 2 women, whom she regarded as her mothers, and the eventual discovery of her father's identity.

Correction to last newsletter: Richard was part of the North Lambeth parish team, based at Lambeth Mission and St Mary's, not St Anselm's.

14 April: A well-attended **AGM**, preceded by a lively discussion on the future of the Durning. Although Susanna Barnes, the newly appointed Head of Lambeth's library services, was unable to be with us as previously advertised, we were pleased to welcome **Sarah Coyte**, part of Lambeth's Adult and Community Services. She had undertaken to report back on our discussion to those overseeing the options appraisal. It was very encouraging to see widespread acknowledgement of the fact that future generations of library users will have very different expectations from today's norm.

The minutes of the AGM and a summary of the discussion are being circulated with this newsletter.

19 May: As part of Lambeth's Readers and Writers Festival **Paula Coston**, very ably supported by her mother's readings, took us through a variety of novels located at least in part in SE London (**Fictions of our South London**). These included Somerset Maugham's "Liza of Lambeth", Norman Collins "London Belongs to Me", Ian McEwan's "Atonement" and Roma Teame's "Brixton Beach". Her own book "**On the Far Side there's a Boy**" was based in Kennington, Stockwell and Sri Lanka. The audience enjoyed sharing their own knowledge of locally based novels and writers, and Paula's competition prize was won by Dilys and Chris Cossey – a meal in a Sri Lankan restaurant in Tooting.

FORTHCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

Reading Group. The Durning Library Reading Group normally meets in the library on the last Tuesday of the month from 7- 8.30pm. All adults are welcome to discuss the book for the month in a very informal atmosphere over wine and nibbles. The group suggest a £1.50 contribution towards refreshments from everyone attending. The next events will be on **Tues 24 June** (The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller) and 29 July. For further information contact **Dale Arndell** on 020 7926 8682 or dardell@lambeth.gov.uk (Michael has now retired).

Silver Surfers. Every other Friday, 10.00 -12.00. Please pre-book at the Library. Next dates: 13 & 27 June, 11 and 25 July, August break, 12 and 26 September.

Older Persons Group: Every third Wednesday from 2.00 – 3.45 pm. Next dates: 18 June, 16 July, August break, 17 September. Ask in the library for details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH FOOD (costs refundable).

Contact Sylvia Goodman on 020 7582 5138

With more volunteers this becomes a very light "burden" – please offer your help.

13 Aug Make your own Mythical Creation.

20 Aug Mythological Monster Trivia Quiz.

27 Aug Mythological Party.