

# Friends of The Durning Library

NEWSLETTER

No 63, August 2014

167 Kennington Lane SE11 4HF  
Tel: 020 7926 8682

Check out our website: [www.durninglibraryfriends.org.uk](http://www.durninglibraryfriends.org.uk)  
e-mail: [friendsofdurning@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### EXTRA – LAMBETH HERITAGE FESTIVAL - EXTRA

**Tuesday 2 September:** Walk and film - Happy 150th Birthday RVT (Royal Vauxhall Tavern)  
**Venue** (for the energetic): Meet outside the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, 372 Kennington Lane, SE11 5HY at **6.30pm, otherwise 6.45 for 7.15 in the Durning as usual.**

**Happy Birthday RVT** is a creative research project celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Royal Vauxhall Tavern and its historic importance as a site for LGBT culture, innovation in entertainment and influence on wider British popular culture. The guided walk, led by Amy Lamé, kicks off at the RVT taking in the Durning Library, where a 3D RVT display, created by artist Robin Whitmore, will be exhibited and a reminiscence film screened.

[www.happybirthdayrvt.com](http://www.happybirthdayrvt.com). Entrance free, thanks to RVT.

**Monday 15 September:** "For the King, the Country, the Queen's and Kennington". **Marietta Crichton Stuart** on 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. Also part of Lambeth Heritage Festival.

**Monday 20 October:** "The Cruel Victory: The French Resistance and the Battle for the Vercors 1944".

**Paddy Ashdown** on the uprising and subsequent massacre on the Vercors massif.

**Monday 17 November:** The new **First World War Galleries at IWM London.**

**James Taylor**, lead curator, will talk about how, over four years, the Imperial War Museum transformed its First World War displays for the 2014 Centenary of the outbreak of war.

[This talk replaces the one scheduled for 21 July.]

**Monday 8 December: Christmas Party.** There will be our usual extras (more food, good raffle). And did you know there was a fireworks tower on the site of the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens? It burned down - and a very fine church was built on the site: St. Peter's, Vauxhall. Now a new book shares the rest of the St Peter's story, and the North Lambeth team will tell us how they wrote it.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Reading Group.** The Durning Library Reading Group normally meets in the library on the fourth 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. For further information contact Dale Arndell on 020 7926 8682 or e-mail: [darnedell@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:darnedell@lambeth.gov.uk). Next meeting 22 Sept

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**Silver Surfers.** Every other Friday, 10 -12.00. Please pre-book at the Library.  
Next dates: 12 & 26 September, 10 & 24 October, 14 & 28 November and 5 & 19 December.

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**Older Persons Group** Every 3rd Wednesday from 2.00 – 3.45 pm.  
Next dates: 17 Sept, 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 17 Dec. Ask in the library for details.

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## 2014 SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you haven't paid your 2014 subscription by October, this is likely to be your last newsletter!

Please pay Anne (see below) as soon as possible and help us support the Durning.



### 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](mailto: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*

## Chairman's News

You will have seen the scaffolding on the front of the library building for several weeks in June/July, part of Lambeth's borough-wide library refurbishment programme which has resulted in much-needed improvements to the Durning's lavatory, staff office and kitchen. The roof has been made watertight (we hope) and the internal walls treated where damp had penetrated. Preliminary steps have been taken to deal with the dry rot in the balcony. All this is very welcome.

Members of the Friends committee have also been working closely with a firm of consultants, Dow Jones, who are conducting an options appraisal for the future development of the library. They are in the process of consulting users and considering possibilities for other uses for the parts of the building not needed by the library. They have been delayed by the building repairs but are making good progress and hope to finish by the end of October.

Priscilla Baines

## FUNDRAISING FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE DURNING LIBRARY

After the very successful Table Top Sale on 14 June, where we raised over £250, thanks mainly to Cathy Preece and the Kennington Companions, Cathy has kindly offered to continue selling unwanted books, CDs, DVDs, Blue Rays and Amazon games to help raise funds for us. Please make every effort to support this, either by bringing your donations to the blue bin in the Library or delivering to Cathy direct. Please contact [KenningtonCompanions@gmail.com](mailto:KenningtonCompanions@gmail.com) if you wish to do that or have any questions.

## 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 or to [friendsofdurning@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdurning@gmail.com).*

*16 June:* Local author **Robert Wainright** kept our Summer Party suitably entertained with his tales of the life and loves of Sheila Chisholm, Australian playgirl extraordinaire. Her marriages and affairs were legendary in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, involving royalty, politicians and playboys on both sides of the Atlantic. Our thanks to all the food teams and committee for producing such excellent fare, and to Betty Severn for running the raffle.

*21 July:* The last-minute cancellation by our Imperial War Museum speaker, owing to illness, showed once again how inventive we can be. Priscilla led the way with Sir Edward Grey's speech announcing the outbreak of WWI, followed by Gordon Johnston's reminiscences of his father's experiences as an infantry soldier. Dale Arnedell gave details of the library's WWI promotion in August and then Jeremy Orme spoke of the "thankful villages" (who lost no-one in the war), before moderating contributions from the floor. The improvised evening was a great success and our thanks go to all who contributed.

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