

Friends of The Durning Library

NEWSLETTER

No 67, August 2015

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

e-mail: friendsofdurning@gmail.com



Future Monday Events

Normally the third Monday 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.

Monday 21 September: Beneath the water and the mud by Dr Fiona Haughey

Archaeologists spend their lives uncovering secrets, some hidden deliberately and others by chance and nature. The Lambeth foreshore of the Thames acts as a self-excavating trench. Structures and artefacts dating back to prehistoric life have been uncovered along the Thames, helping to expand our knowledge of Lambeth's heritage. This talk is part of **Lambeth Heritage Festival: for the full month-long programme go to the library or to <http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-libraries/libraries/lambeth-heritage-festival-2015>**. Look overleaf for two interesting local heritage walks in September.

Monday 19 October: Meet Allan Wilmot

Allan is a 90 year old Caribbean author and Lambeth resident who volunteered for the Royal Navy and RAF in World War II and then had a unique career as an entertainer in the rhythm and blues group The Southlanders. In conversation with Mr Arthur Torrington of the Equiano Society and Windrush Foundation, Allan will give an illustrated talk on his new book 'Now You Know'. Part of the **Celebrating Age Festival and Black History month**.

Monday 16 November: The Duchy of Cornwall's estate in Kennington

Nicholas Long, author of the Kennington chapter in the book celebrating the Duchy's 650th anniversary, gives an illustrated talk on the Duchy's involvement in The Manor of Kennington Estate, particularly the architecture of buildings by Adshead & Ramsey, John Duke Coleridge and Louis de Soissons.

Diary dates: 7 Dec (Winter Party), 18 Jan 2016, 15 Feb, 21 Mar, 18 Apr.

FORTHCOMING LIBRARY 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 of the month in a very informal atmosphere over wine and nibbles. A contribution of £1.50 towards refreshments is suggested. For further information contact Dale Arndell on 020 7926 8682 or e-mail: Dardell@lambeth.gov.uk.

Future Dates: No Aug, 22 Sept, 27 Oct, 24 Nov, 22 Dec, 26 Jan 2016.

Silver Surfers. Every other Friday, 10 -12.00. Please pre-book at the Library.

2015 dates: No Aug, 11 & 25 Sep, 9 & 23 Oct, 13 & 27 Nov, 11 & 18 Dec.

Over 50s Group. Every 3rd Wednesday from 3.00 – 4.00pm.

No Aug, 16 Sep, 21 Oct, 18 Nov, 16 Dec.

Tea & coffee Mornings: a cuppa, a chat and some books...

Tuesdays, 10.30 – 11.30. No Aug, 15 Sep, 20 Oct, 17 Nov, 15 Dec.

Annual subscriptions (£3) were due 20 April. If you have not yet paid your 2015-16 membership subscription, please leave it in a sealed envelope in the Friends' Box in the Durning Library or bring it with you on 21 September. Contact Val Parker, Membership Secretary daval100@yahoo.co.uk for any membership enquiries and to receive the newsletter by email.

**167 KENNINGTON LANE
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Friends' Committee

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

Elizabeth Barrott
Ruth Briant
Veronica Ledwith
Val Parker
Laura Swaffield
David Tisdall

Enquiries: Kay Coombs
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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

Lambeth Heritage Festival Events:

Tuesday 1 September, 12.30 Guided History Walk "Pleasures of Vauxhall" by David Coke for Vauxhall Society. 1-1 ½ hour walk, wear comfortable shoes. Free, but booking essential as places limited. BOOK NOW at vauxhallcs@gmail.com

Wednesday 2 September, 11.00-13.00: Archaeological Walk on the Vauxhall foreshore An active 2 hour walk exploring London's prehistoric past with Dr Fiona Haughey and Mike Webber and to view the results of modern sea-level change. Very muddy: wear suitable clothing and footwear. Places limited, £8.Meet at 10.45. BOOK NOW at <http://totallythames.org/events>

Fundraising for the Friends of the Durning Library. Cathy Preece is kindly selling unwanted books, CDs, DVDs, Blue Rays and Amazon games to help raise funds for us. Please bring your donations to the blue bin in the Library or deliver to Cathy direct (KenningtonCompanions@gmail.com)

Chairman's News

Lambeth's original timetable for the next stage of *Cultural Services by 2020* was for a paper to be published in early July for consideration by the Cabinet on 13 July. That timetable was always pretty ambitious and has slipped: the promised paper is now to be published on 7 September in time for a Cabinet meeting on 14 September. When Friends' committee members met Councillor Edbrooke, the Cabinet member with responsibility for cultural services, on 2 July, she said that the consultation process had produced many responses and ideas for libraries that were having to be considered, so more time was needed. She also said in her blog on 8 July that:

'We want to really thoroughly look at all these options and see if they are financially viable before we make important decisions about the future of our cultural services. ... Instead of slicing away at the budget we've decided to look at redesigning the whole area through Culture 2020 so we can best meet community needs.'

The uncertainty about the future therefore continues. Local authorities face unrelenting financial constraints and libraries everywhere are under threat. In the meantime, the Durning's options appraisal was finally published in late June and is said to be 'feeding into the discussions' about the future library service in north Lambeth. Copies are available in the library. Please continue to keep up the pressure on local councillors - David Amos (damos@lambeth.gov.uk), Vaila McClure (VMcClure@lambeth.gov.uk) and Joanne Simpson (jsimpson2@lambeth.gov.uk) in Prince's Ward - and on Councillor Edbrooke (jedbrooke@lambeth.gov.uk), Cabinet member for cultural services, and the council leader, Lib Peck (lpeck@lambeth.gov.uk). They all need to be reminded of the importance and value of libraries to the communities they serve.

We heard in mid-July that Councillor Edbrooke, to whom the decision about the Tree of Heaven at the back of the library had been delegated, had accepted officials' advice that the tree should be removed, although not until after 4 August.

We hope you all have a good summer break and look forward to seeing everyone at the next talk on 21 September.

Priscilla Baines

(Editors' note: As we go to press, there have been no developments).

Go to www.change.org/p/london-borough-of-lambeth-save-lambeth-libraries to monitor the progress of the petition started in Spring 2015 in response to Lambeth's future plans for local libraries.

Recent Events

The changing fortunes of Brunswick House. At the summer party Stefan Loret of LASSCO recounted the lively history of Brunswick House from the late 17th Century to the height of the Victorian railway boom at Vauxhall Cross and to its present incarnation as a home for architectural salvage and a wonderful café.

Painting Paradise: The Art of the Garden. David Wheeler, Senior Conservator at the Royal Collection and local resident, introduced the latest exhibition at The Queen's Gallery. Whether a sacred sanctuary, a place for scientific study, a haven for the solitary thinker or a space for pure delight, gardens have been celebrated in art and artefacts across the centuries. We were shown exquisite images of objects from the Royal Collection ranging from a Persian manuscript of 1492 to early depictions of Adam and Eve, Leonardo da Vinci's botanical drawings and informal sketches by Queen Victoria. Some of the items reflected the status and wealth of the monarch, including embroidered chairs and Versailles-influenced imposing furniture, and delicate Fabergé flowers. Do go and see the exhibition before 11 October at The Queen's Gallery, if only to find the 5 Senses represented in a 16th Century fantasy painting of a garden complete with a water maze, or to spot, if possible, David Wheeler's restored flowers on an ornate French 18th Century porcelain clock!
