

Friends of The Durning Library

NEWSLETTER

No 65, February 2015

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 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 March 16: Waterloo Survivor. Stephen Bull lives in Waterloo and has a passion for the techniques of Georgian house building. Now he and his apprentices are using traditional skills and original materials to return a client's 18th century house in Kennington to how it was built. Gradually, stripped of unsympathetic renovations but discreetly retaining the necessities of a practical family home, the house reveals its history.

Monday 20 April: Annual General Meeting Speaker to be confirmed

Monday 18 May: The Iron Necklace

What happens when an idealistic German architect marries an English artist? Local author Giles Waterfield introduces his sweeping tale – just published - of love and courage amid the chaos of the First World War, depicting two families united by marriage but torn apart by conflict. Part of Lambeth Readers and Writers Festival.

Monday 15 June: Summer Party Watch this space

Diary dates: 20 July, No August, 21 Sep, 19 Oct, 16 Nov, 7 Dec (Christmas Party).

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 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: Darndell@lambeth.gov.uk.

Future Dates 24 March, 28 April, 25 May, 23 June, 28 July, No Aug, 22 Sept, 27 Oct

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

2015 dates: 13 & 27 Mar, 10 & 24 Apr, 8 & 22 May, 12 & 26 Jun, 10 & 24 Jul, No Aug, 11 & 25 Sep, 9 & 23 Oct, 13 & 27 Nov, 11 & 18 Dec.

Older Persons Group. Every 3rd Wednesday from 3.00 – 4.00pm.

2015 dates: 18 Mar, 15 Apr, 20 May, 17 Jun, 15 Jul, 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
17 Mar, 21 Apr, 19 May, 16 Jun, 21 Jul, No Aug, 15 Sep, 20 Oct, 17 Nov, 15 Dec.

Friends of the Durning Library is a voluntary organisation which exists to promote and support our local library. Annual subscriptions (£3) are due at the AGM. See Val Parker, Membership Secretary.

For Membership enquires, subscriptions and to receive the Newsletter by email, please contact the Membership Secretary on friendsofdurning@gmail.com.

A petition in response to Lambeth's future plans for local libraries is at www.change.org/p/london-borough-of-lambeth-save-lambeth-libraries.

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)

Friends' Committee

Priscilla Baines *Chairman*
Kay Coombs *Secretary*
Jeremy Orme *Treasurer*
Elizabeth Barrott
Ruth Briant
Anne Burt
Veronica Ledwith
Val Parker
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

Chairman's News

Many of you already know about the bombshell that fell on 30 January when Lambeth published their proposals for dealing with the impact of further expenditure cuts on the borough's Cultural Services (ie mainly parks, sports and libraries). Lambeth's website gives a link to the document, *Cultural Services 2020*; hard copies are available in the Durning. The proposals include ceasing, in the near future, to run the Durning as a council-funded and council-operated library. Instead, the building would be transferred to a new community trust or similar organisation, with limited council support to maintain a library (together with other 'community' uses of the building).

These proposals mean that unless 'the community' is prepared to take over management of the library with minimal funding from a new Community Library Fund, we face (again) the possibility of closure of the Durning as well as the Carnegie in Herne Hill and Upper Norwood Joint Library. The council will remain responsible for five larger 'town centre' libraries, mainly in the south of the borough, while two libraries in the north (Waterloo and the Minet) will be decommissioned and their buildings sold. The overall result will be a much reduced library service and a large gap in library provision in the north of the borough.

This is a real blow, given the commitments as recently as 2012 that no Lambeth libraries would be closed. Since then, the service has been improved in numerous ways. Library buildings have at last had much-needed repairs, and Lambeth has funded options appraisals (including the Durning's) to examine how individual libraries could be developed. All that hard work and progress are now at risk.

Through the Friends of Lambeth Libraries we have been challenging the proposals, including the scale of the funding cuts, the closures and the assumption that 'the community' will step in to manage three local libraries. We are of course particularly concerned at the implications for the Durning and the importance of maintaining library services in the north of the borough.

Committee members have already met Councillor Jane Edbrooke, Cabinet member for Cultural Services, who repeated that libraries have to bear their share of the financial pain but that the council will consider financially viable alternative solutions. We have also met Kate Hoey, our MP, and are arranging meetings with our ward councillors (Jo Simpson and David Amos). We will be consulting our membership about how to respond: our local community needs a good, accessible library, and we need your views on best how to achieve that.

Please, everyone, complete Lambeth's questionnaire which is available on-line or in the middle of the document, *Cultural Services 2020* which is available in the Library. The deadline for responses is 23 April.

Our previous Newsletter reported good progress with the Durning's options appraisal: the report from the consultants, Dow Jones, is due for publication soon. It will provide practical ideas for the future and detailed information about how the Durning building could be used to generate revenue to help the library.

By the time you read this, the public consultations about the removal of the tree of heaven growing in the foundations at the back of the Durning building will be over. We hope you responded to the consultations and we await Lambeth's decision.

Priscilla Baines

Recent Events

Monday 19 January: "Johan Zoffany RA and 'The Sayer Family' - a masterpiece of conversation"

Local writer and historian **Dr David Wilson** FSA entertained us with an account of the many disciplines – history, geography, sociology, architecture, economics and sleuthing - which an art historian must bring to bear on his subject and spoke sorrowfully about the dangers of demolishing a significant house without appropriate research.

Monday 16 February: " 'A Centre of Vice': Prostitution in Lambeth in the First World War". Professor Jerry White presented a picture of competing aspirations, from those who thought we were fighting to restore Victorian values and Lord Kitchener's exhortations to celibacy, to the girls who had a taste of freedom and were on the streets looking for larks not money. As ever, the statistics need to be examined: for while there were more men in war-time London than ever before, convictions for brothel keeping and street walking fell.
