

# Friends of The Durning Library

NEWSLETTER

No 66, May 2015

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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 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 15 June: Summer Party.** "Changing fortunes, or how a semi-rural idyll has survived." Stefan Lorett of LASSCO talks about Brunswick House at Vauxhall. Come and enjoy the talk, light refreshments and the raffle!

**Monday 20 July: Painting Paradise: The Art of the Garden.** 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. David Wheeler, Senior Conservator at the Royal Collection and local resident, introduces the latest exhibition at the Queen's Gallery.

**Diary dates:** 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](mailto:Darndell@lambeth.gov.uk).

**Future Dates:** 23 June, 28 July, No Aug, 22 Sept, 27 Oct

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

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

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

**2015 dates:** 17 Jun, 15 Jul, No Aug, 16 Sep, 21 Oct, 18 Nov, 16 Dec.

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**Tea & coffee Mornings: a cuppa, a chat and some books.....** Tuesdays, 10.30 – 11.30  
16 Jun, 21 Jul, No Aug, 15 Sep, 20 Oct, 17 Nov, 15 Dec.

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**Friends of the Durning Library is a voluntary organisation which exists to promote and support our local library.**

Annual subscriptions (£3) were due 20 April. If you have not yet paid your 2015-16 membership subscription, please either send it to the Membership Secretary, bring it with you to the Summer Party on 15 June, or leave in a sealed envelope in the Friends' Box in the Durning Library.

Contact Val Parker, Membership Secretary [daval100@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:daval100@yahoo.co.uk) for any membership enquiries and to receive the newsletter by email.

Go to [www.change.org/p/london-borough-of-lambeth-save-lambeth-libraries](http://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.

**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](mailto:KenningtonCompanions@gmail.com))



## Friends' Committee

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

Thanks to the 60+ members who came to the AGM on 20 April, as well as to the 30 or so non-members who came to hear Susanna Barnes' talk (reported elsewhere). That is probably a record turnout for an AGM and a measure of the concern local people feel about the future of their library.

After last year's optimism and the work and expense invested in the options appraisal, plus the recent improvement in the performance of Lambeth's libraries reported by Susanna, we are deeply dismayed that once again the Durning is at risk, as are most of Lambeth's other local libraries, particularly in the north of the borough. Local authorities may have to make savings but our response to *Cultural Services by 2020* underlines that we do not think that Lambeth's proposed solution of libraries run by 'community-led' trusts will work. The result could well be that there are no publicly-run libraries in the north of the borough.

We now await the response to the consultations and can only hope that we, and others, have persuaded Lambeth to think again. We know through the Friends of Lambeth Libraries that there has been near-universal opposition to the proposals for libraries. Like other Friends' groups, we have said many times that we do not want to manage the Durning but we are still very willing to discuss ways of keeping it open.

According to the promised timetable, a paper will be published in early July to be considered by the Cabinet at the meeting scheduled for 13 July. In the meantime, please keep up the pressure on local councillors - David Amos ([damos@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:damos@lambeth.gov.uk)), Vaila McClure ([VMcClure@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:VMcClure@lambeth.gov.uk)) and Joanne Simpson ([jsimpson2@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:jsimpson2@lambeth.gov.uk)) in Prince's Ward - and on Councillor Jane Edbrooke ([jedbrooke@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:jedbrooke@lambeth.gov.uk)), Cabinet member for cultural services, and the council leader, Lib Peck ([lpeck@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:lpeck@lambeth.gov.uk)). They all need to be reminded of the importance and value of libraries to the communities they serve.

Priscilla Baines

## Recent Events

Stephen Bull is an expert and an enthusiastic advocate for his subject which is Georgian architecture from 1710 to 1826, roughly the period from Bach to Beethoven. He told us about his working practices and his experience of restoring domestic buildings including 56 in Roupell St. and others in Crosby Row SE1 and near the Durning on Kennington Road. Mr Bull has long associations with the Georgian Group and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, which offer much relevant advice and information.

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At the AGM Susanna Barnes, Service Manager at Lambeth Libraries and Archives at Lambeth Council, reported on the success of the Lambeth Libraries during the last year (April 2014- March 2015). Nationally book borrowing is dropping, but in Lambeth issues have increased by 2.5%, and at the Durning there was a 13.9% increase. During the long summer months, children's reading usually drops but the Summer Reading Project had a 25% increase in participating children. Lambeth Libraries had been commended for their success in improving access for visually impaired. Like libraries elsewhere, Lambeth Libraries now had collections of books about dementia, chosen by Medical Professionals.

Self-service has been implemented and a stock management system introduced to improve inter-library book movement. Broadband speed had been increased while ebooks and emagazines were proving popular.

They were looking at new ways to deliver the service following an analysis of the most popular types of book issued (study books). Susanna referred to the continued success of Reading Groups, English conversation classes, board games clubs and Living Well cafes, a book service for housebound people, Festivals and National Libraries Day. Future developments might include students using libraries to meet during an online course.

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Giles Waterfield gave us an entertaining account of the process of producing his novel "The Iron Necklace". Drawing on his family's sentiments and his own interest in Germany, he has written a tale of a mixed marriage in the first third of the last century, which one of our members described as a "real page-turner".

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