

Friends of The Durning Library

NEWSLETTER

No 64, November 2014

167 Kennington Lane SE114HF

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 8 December: Christmas party and "Visions of Vauxhall"

Our usual extras (more food, good raffle). And did you know there was a fireworks tower on the site of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens? 150 years ago it burned down, and a very fine church rose up: St Peter's, Vauxhall. An eclectic bunch of locals, from teenagers to 97-year-olds and nuns to cabaret artists, have written a book to celebrate. **Vicar Alison Kennedy** and **Tim Clifford** tell how.

Monday 19 January: "Johan Zoffany RA and 'The Sayer Family' - a masterpiece of conversation". Local writer and historian **David Wilson** FSA introduces his ground-breaking new book about a leading Richmond family of the latter 18th century. He tells their story through one of the finest 'conversation pieces' by the great Georgian painter Johan Zoffany. This is a story of artistic supremacy and commercial success, family dynasty, topographical and architectural splendour, and two British kings. Signed copies at a special price.

Monday 16 February: " 'A Centre of Vice': Prostitution in Lambeth in the First World War". **Professor Jerry White** talks on one of the great anxieties of the military and civilian authorities in London during the First World War: the apparent sudden rise in the number of prostitutes in London battering on soldiers from Britain and the colonies. Much concern centred on the Waterloo Road area, long a byword for street prostitution in London. Were these anxieties real or imagined?

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.

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.

Silver Surfers. Every other Friday, 10 -12.00. Please pre-book at the Library. Next dates: 5 & 19 December. For 2015 dates, ask at the Library.

Older Persons Group. Every 3rd Wednesday from 3.00 – 4.00pm. Next dates: 17 Dec, NO Jan, 18 Feb, 18 Mar. Ask in the library for details.

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER – FUN/CONSULTATION DAY

Do come and/or make your views known. See flyer.



Friends' Committee

Priscilla Baines	<i>Chairman</i>
Kay Coombs	<i>Secretary</i>
Jeremy Orme	<i>Treasurer</i>
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

The Friends have continued to work closely with the architects, Dow Jones, on the options appraisal of the Durning. The planned event on 6 December will be a good opportunity for library users to make their input, so please come if you can. The appraisal should be finished by the end of the year. We hope to learn from the Carnegie Library where the options appraisal has finished and public consultations are already happening.

We have just heard that a further round of public consultations about the removal of the tree of heaven which is growing in the foundations at the back of the Durning building should start on 25 November. Please do respond!

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 if you wish to do that or have any questions.

SECRET SANTA

Please give if you can! The library is a collection point for Kennington Association's annual Secret Santa scheme. Groceries vouchers are given to families who need help. These are nominated by local early years professionals, and we are not told who they are - hence Secret Santa. Donations large or small welcomed, by cash or cheque [made out to Kennington Association (Secret Santa)].

Recent Events

Tues 2 Sept: **Happy Birthday Royal Vauxhall Tavern** – an extra event under the Lambeth Heritage Festival banner. In an exciting new-style event for us, Friends joined forces with RVT regulars for an historical walk from the RVT to the Durning, led by **Amy Lane**. There they found welcome refreshments, a fascinating drawing of the area with historical buildings superimposed (a “work in progress” by **Robin Whitmore**), Vauxhall memorabilia, and a poignant film highlighting what the RVT meant to so many over the years. This was all part of an ongoing project led by **Tim Brunson** and funded by Heritage Lottery.

Mon 15 Sept: In our second contribution to the Lambeth Heritage Festival **Marietta Crichton Stuart** impressed another large audience with her detailed and sympathetic research into the history of Kennington's own battalion, the 24th Londons (The Queen's). The personal details of many of the men who died during WWI made the story all the more poignant. A selection of memorabilia, supplied by her and Gordon Johnston, added to the story, and a display of fabric works commemorating the war, made by students of Morley College, was inspiring.

Mon 20 Oct: With his usual skill **Paddy Ashdown** kept us enthralled with his tales of the French Resistance at **Vercors**, the subject of his latest book “**The Cruel Victory**”. He told of how a raggle-taggle band of mainly youngsters fleeing German forced labour or worse formed themselves into a strong Resistance group, supported by the UK and other allies. In July 1944 there was a massive German attempt to annihilate everyone, including civilians, living on this plateau, which formed a natural fortress. The Allies finally landed in mid-August and drove the Germans into an ambush by the Vercors survivors. The Vercors maquis enabled the French to turn the tide of the German advance.

Mon 17 Nov: The senior curator in charge of the WWI exhibition at the **Imperial War Museum**, historian **James Taylor**, gave us fascinating insights into how the curators and exhibition designers worked to transform the museum's galleries in order to display most tellingly all aspects of WWI. Genuine artifacts were mixed with models, audio-visual and inter-active displays to give the widest possible impressions of life both at home and abroad during this terrible period.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

After James Taylor's fascinating talk on 17 November, we were shocked to learn that government cuts to IWM could mean 80 job losses, curtailing schools visits and - incredibly - dismantling the library. For information, and a petition to sign, go to http://bit.ly/save_IWM

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. This is for FODL members only.