

Friends of The Durning Library

NEWSLETTER

No 70, June 2016

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 20 June: Summer Party & Two Fingers Brewing Co. Matt Sadler, co-founder and Kennington resident, talks about launching and running the only beer brand that gives back to the guys that drink it, by giving all profits to **Prostate Cancer UK**. Of course, at this party, the brewery's Aurelio will be available, with summery light refreshments and a short raffle!

Monday 18 July: Alice in Wonderland and her lost boys – from Oxford and the rabbit hole to the Somme and beyond. Marietta Crichton Stuart tells the story of Alice Liddell, the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's stories. We will hear about a royal romance, marriage, the loss of two sons in the Great War and life in a changed world.

Monday 19 September: North Lambeth: People & Legacy. Michael Keane celebrates people from Romans to the present day who have left a lasting legacy locally and further afield. Chaplin, Tate, Ashmole, Tradescant, Sharwood, Claudia Jones, Henry Fawcett, Marjorie Porter and William Blake, Eric Gill, Laurence Pomeroy. **Part of Lambeth Heritage Festival**

2016 Diary dates: August break, 17 Oct, 21 Nov, 12 Dec.

FORTHCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

Reading Group. The Durning Library Reading Group normally meets in the library on the 3rd or 4th Wednesday of the month from 7- 8.30pm. The book of the month is available to borrow free from the Library. It is discussed in a very informal atmosphere over wine and nibbles. A contribution of £2.00 towards refreshments is suggested. **Future Dates: 15 June**
For further information and to confirm dates, contact Dale Arndell on 020 7926 8682 or e-mail: Darndell@lambeth.gov.uk.

Junior Chess and Board Games. Free, Chess and board games available on Saturdays 2.30-4.30pm. Volunteers needed - if you remember playing chess as a youngster and would like to revive your skills and help the next generation learn how to enjoy chess, do come along on Saturdays to work with the children and encourage them to play chess.

Parent and Toddler Story & Rhyme time group for Under 5s. Every Wed 10.30-11.30.

Nursery story time Every Tuesday, 2.00-3.00. Both Free. Just turn up.

Basic Literacy Class Wednesdays, 10.00-11.00. **Homework club** Wednesdays, 4.00-5.30
Councillor's Surgery Wednesday 22 June, 20 July, 6-7.00pm (future dates tbc).

ESOL class 10.00- 12.00, Tuesdays.

Computer workshop Every Friday, 10 -12.00. Please pre-book at the Library.

CV Workshop. Every Wed, 12.30-1.30. Free advice and help with writing, updating and formatting your CV and covering letter, on-line job searches, attaching CVs to online applications.

Book a Librarian for help with using computers, the library, your lap-top or your mobile phone.

Money Champion sessions helpful advice on managing finance. Ask at the Library desk.

Older persons tea/coffee afternoon. Every 3rd Wednesday from 3.00 – 4.00pm. Free. 22 June, 20 July, no meeting in August, 21 September.

Annual subscriptions (£3) were due in April. If you have not yet renewed you can do so at the Summer Party or put payment in an envelope and hand to a member of Library staff. Any queries, please contact Val Parker Membership Secretary daval100@yahoo.co.uk. May we encourage you to ask 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
David Tisdall

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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

Chairman's News

Thanks to those of you who came to the AGM. It was very good to see that Susanna Barnes remains so enthusiastic about libraries, despite what has happened to Lambeth's library service during the past eighteen months. Our last newsletter reported the good news of the council's decision that the Durning and Tate South Lambeth libraries should jointly become the town centre libraries for the north of the borough. That was a very welcome development after the long period of uncertainty about the future, although it has since been confirmed that there will be further funding cuts in 2018 which mean that nothing after that is guaranteed.

For the time being, we are concentrating on working with Susanna and her colleagues, especially Dale and Audrey at the Durning, on developing the service at the Durning and urging Lambeth to get on with the promised refurbishment of the building. We have been told that at least some of the money is still there but that has not been confirmed so we have to keep up the pressure.

Many of you will have seen from websites, social media, the local and even the national press that the Friends of Lambeth Libraries' 'Defend the Ten' campaign is carrying on. Waterloo library's move to the Oasis Centre by Lambeth North station has been delayed until July but is supposed to be going ahead. Both the Minet and Carnegie libraries have closed, despite strenuous opposition from many quarters, with occupations followed by legal proceedings to remove the occupiers at the Carnegie. The archives are still at the Minet, with no decision about where they might go, and the Carnegie is supposed to be reopening in 2017 with a gym in the basement and an unstaffed collection of books (not a proper library) in the main building. In the meantime we must do for the Durning what Friends' groups like ourselves are there to do: support and encourage our local library as much as we can. That way we can help to ensure its survival. We hope our members will take every opportunity to remind our councillors how highly we value our libraries and the importance of ensuring that they can provide a good service for the community.

And we look forward to seeing many of you at the Summer Party on 20 June.

Priscilla Baines

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

Monday 18 April: AGM and Talk by Susanna Barnes, Head of Lambeth Libraries. During Susanna's talk "*Here are found the inspiration and the facts*" - Durning Library, a central role in the local community, she maintained her commitment to and enthusiasm for Libraries, despite the turmoil of the recent months. Susanna Barnes outlined the work of the Independent Library Report, a public consultation called "Ambition" continuing until June 2016, looking at the future of libraries, which are not dying despite new technology – 224.6 million people visit libraries p.a., which is more than the total of attendees at football matches and cinema and church! She was optimistic about the roles that the Durning could fill – libraries meet people's needs at different stages in their lives, contribute to people's well-being and health, thus saving the NHS money, and offer 26 million hours of internet access pa. She encouraged us to think about ways the Durning could become more proactive and offer more services, such as knitting club, stop smoking support, creative writing classes, Yoga sessions, debating groups, provision for ESL, under 5s and carers, using the meeting room more for local groups and exploring ways of generating income.

Monday 16 May: Making Candy Floss from Pillows. The charity Bag Books prepares and publishes a range of simple but appealing stories aimed specifically at people with Severe or Profound & Multiple Learning Disabilities. Dean Casswell explained how each story book is accompanied by props designed to stimulate all five senses. Users may respond positively when interacting with the Bag Books – with anticipation, independent action (reaching towards a prop) or smiling – which is hugely important to them, their teachers and their families. Bag Books operates a small work-shop in south London and also visits schools and day centres to demonstrate how the resources should be used. Volunteers make props, such as knitted ice-cream cones, or collect other props such as keys. These stimulating books are expensive to make and the charity needs support.

Monday 21 March: River Effra: South London's Secret Spine. The fluctuating fortunes of this River were ably outlined to us by Jon Newman from Lambeth Archives, with many interesting illustrations and anecdotes. Herne Hill resident John Ruskin regretted the Effra's disappearance underground as part of Bazalgette's main drainage system for Victorian London in the 1860s. There are some attractive stories about Elizabeth I sailing down the River Effra, but these, like the myths of the vast number of beds in which she is supposed to have slept, are not based on fact. Jon Newman's book *River Effra: South London's Secret Spine* will be printed in September 2016, available from (good) bookshops, Lambeth libraries, Amazon and Jon Newman.

