

Friends of The Durning Library

NEWSLETTER

No 72, November 2016

Check out our website: www.durninglibraryfriends.org.uk
e-mail: friendsofdurning@gmail.com



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Friends' Committee

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

Elizabeth Barrott
Ruth Briant
Eleanor Halsall
Veronica Ledwith
Val Parker
David Tisdall

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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 12 December: Winter Party and Raffle. Paddy Ashdown will speak about his new book "Game of Spies: the Secret Agent, the Traitor and the Nazi" telling the story of a riveting spy triangle in occupied France.

Monday 16 January 2017: Speaker and topic to be confirmed. Details will be on website.

THURSDAY 23 February (NB not our usual Monday!): Medical Myths Professor Clare Gerada, MBE, local GP, member of BMA Council and Medical Director PHP, will discuss various matters medical. We are expecting a lively debate on this THURSDAY evening, so do come – on **Thursday 23**, not Monday!

Monday 20 March 2017: Speaker and topic to be confirmed.

Monday 10 April 2017: Friends of Durning Library AGM.

FORTHCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

Thursday 8 December, 7pm: The Lambeth Libraries Reading Group Christmas party is coming to the Durning!
Quizzes and light hearted entertainment. PBAB. All welcome.

Christmas crafts for children during week Monday 18 – Friday 23 December, telephone the Library for more information.

Reading Group. The Durning Library Reading Group normally meets in the library on the last 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: Wednesday 30 November, 25 January, 22 February and 22 March. For further information, contact Caroline Mackie on 020 7926 8682 or e-mail: CMackie@lambeth.gov.uk.**

Durning Library Chess Club. Free. Chess and board games available on Saturdays 2.30-4.30pm.

Wriggle & Rhyme Storytime for Under 5s. Every Wed 10.30am.

Chatterbooks Book group for children aged 7-11 years, 4-5pm on 1st Monday of each month.

Homework Club Every Wednesday, 4.00-5.00pm

Councillor's Surgery. **Wednesday 21 December, 6-7pm.** Tbc, and please contact Library for future dates.

ESOL class Every Tuesday 10.00-11.30am, every Wednesday 10 – 12pm.

Basic IT workshop Every Friday, 10.00am -12.00pm. Please pre-book at the Library.

Older Person's Group. 3rd Wednesday of each month 3.00 – 4.00pm. Free.

New Exhibition at the Durning Library by artist Cat Roissetter. Look out for further collaborations with the local Brocket Gallery.

Any membership queries, please contact Val Parker Membership Secretary daval100@yahoo.co.uk. May we encourage you to ask to receive the newsletter by email?

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

Caroline Mackie Library Manager
Audrey Hudson Librarian
Rita Chakraborty Assistant Librarian

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

Chairman's News

In September, we welcomed a new library manager, Caroline Mackie, who replaced Dale Arndell who has moved to West Norwood. Caroline and her colleague Rita have both come from the Carnegie, currently (and very sadly) closed while awaiting approval of plans for redevelopment of the building. Since they arrived, they have carried on the programme of children's activities started by Dale, the numbers of new library members and of visits to the Durning have gone up and the layout of the main library area has been opened up. They are in the process of replacing the very battered furniture that has long outlived its use-by date and have other ideas for increasing the study space for users. So watch that space! In addition, Caroline has won a Carnegie Trust fund award to provide a computer skills course that will be delivered at the Durning by King's College London students – details will follow.

We have also heard from Susanna Barnes, head of the library service, that some capital works are scheduled for Lambeth's libraries, including the Durning, in the first half of 2017. This should mean that at last the long-overdue structural repairs to the Durning building will happen, although we know only too well from past experience that we will have to work hard to ensure that the work gets done. Lambeth have also taken the first steps towards developing a strategy for their libraries, something that is also long overdue and was first promised by Councillor Hopkins, Cabinet member with responsibility for libraries, at a meeting with the Friends of Lambeth Libraries in June.

So things are happening at the Durning although as always nothing is guaranteed: like other local authorities, Lambeth's finances remain under severe pressure and it has been made only too clear that libraries will have to bear their share of the pain, even though they contribute in so many ways to the wellbeing of local communities. But please continue to support the Durning and spread the word that your local library is there to serve the community. The more it is used, the more secure its future will be.

Chairman, 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 17 October: "Higher Ed". Tessa McWatt teaches at the University of East London and has brought her experience to bear in creating the world of "Higher Ed" a campus novel which serves as a microcosm of the wider world. In life as in art Tessa is impressed by people who go to university in order to fulfil their desire to be connected to something bigger than themselves. We enjoyed hearing about Tessa's insights into university life and were delighted to hear that she loves libraries!

Monday 21 November: "Hinterland -- a memoir". Chris Mullin entertained a very full house with an account of his life drawn from his memoir Hinterland. Mr Mullin is clear that MPs need to know more of life than the Westminster village and indeed he was a highly successful investigative journalist and novelist before being elected to Parliament and eventually embarking on a ministerial career. We were also very pleased that Mr Mullin's family joined us for the evening.

Dates of forthcoming events are correct at time of going to press, but do please telephone the Library on 020 7926 8682 to confirm.