



No. 73 March 2017

Members' Newsletter

Durning Library, 167 Kennington Lane, SE11 4HF

Tel 020 7926 8682

Open:

Monday 1-6pm

Tuesday 10am-6pm

Wednesday 10am-8pm

Friday 10am-6pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

Regular Library Events

Wriggle & Rhyme Storytime
(Under fives).

Every Wednesday 10.30am

Durning Library Chess Club

Every Saturday 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Chatterbooks Book group for children aged 7-11 yrs. 4 – 5pm 1st Monday of each month

Homework Club

Every Wednesday, 4 – 5pm

Twiddlemitts

Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon

Durning Library Book Group

Last Wednesday of Each Month, 7 – 8.30pm

Basic IT Skills

Every Friday, 10am – 12 noon

Older Person's Group

3rd Wednesday of each month, 3 – 4pm

FoDL Monday Talks

These talks are normally held on the third Monday in the month. 6.45 for 7.15pm at the Durning Library. Light refreshments. Everyone is welcome. There is no admission charge, but a £2 donation towards costs is invited.

Seretse Khama and the making of Botswana

Monday, 20 March 2017

Botswana is not just the land of the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, but of **Seretse Khama**, hero of the film A United Kingdom. Chief from the age of 4, Seretse married a white South Londoner in the teeth of opposition from the UK and South African governments and his own people. Botswana was one of the world's poorest countries, but as its first president this man of many skills (and a sense of humour) set it on the road to being prosperous, peaceful and democratic. Local resident **Prof. Charlie Harvey** tells how.

Future talks and 2017 dates for your diary

Monday 24 April: AGM. We hope that **Jack Hopkins**, Councillor with responsibility for Lambeth libraries, will start off the evening at **7.10pm** with his views on the likely direction our libraries will take in the next few years. The AGM proper will start at **7.50pm**. Agenda and papers to follow in due course.

Monday 15 May: The Philanthropist's Tale. A tale of stars, deals, and new ways to finance the arts. **Dr Laurie Marsh**, born over a shop in Lambeth Walk, is a philanthropic entrepreneur. He developed and operated a 150-screen cinema chain, hotels, theatres in London and New York, as well as producing some 75 films and founding an international distribution company. His book will be on sale. Part of Lambeth Libraries' Readers & Writers Festival.

Monday 19 June: Summer Party and a virtual perambulation around Kennington Park in the Victorian era.

Sit back and enjoy a glass (or two!) of wine and food prepared by the committee while Marietta Crichton Stuart and Rob Pateman from the Friends of Kennington Park take you on an illustrated tour around the park, regaling you with tales of plants, politics, fountains, fitness and family homes. And don't forget our raffle with its great prizes!

Diary dates:

17 July, 18 September, 16 October, 20 November, 11 December.

News from our Chair

This time last year (March 2016) we welcomed Lambeth's decision that the Durning and Tate South Lambeth libraries should remain in existence for the time being as joint town centre libraries to serve the north of the borough. We looked forward to seeing both libraries developing their services in collaboration with each other and there was also the possibility of a new library by 2022. The promised collaboration has not been much in evidence but our two libraries are both still in existence. We both await long-promised capital repairs now said to be scheduled for the first half of this year. The latest figures show that the Durning's visits have increased significantly since this time last year which is very encouraging.

We have also been told that the library service's budget for 2017/18 will be the same as for the current financial year and that further cuts are not expected in 2018/19. We have heard recently that Lambeth has decided not to go ahead with Berkeley Homes' proposed development of the Oval gasholder (OAKDA) site because the latest proposals did not contain enough provision for affordable housing. That means that the possibility of a new library in our area by 2022 has receded, if not totally disappeared.

The Friends of Lambeth Libraries, the umbrella group of library Friends' organisations, has recently approved a formal constitution and is hoping soon to meet the Cabinet member with responsibility for libraries (Councillor Jack Hopkins) to discuss the long-awaited strategy for Lambeth's libraries. We can only say watch this space!

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 24 April.

Other news

We are very sad to report the recent deaths of two of our long-standing members, **Peter Cheek** and **Valerie Collins**. Both of them had been members from the early days of the Friends and were both regular library users and faithful attenders at our events. They will be much missed by everyone who knew them.

Subscription renewals for 2017/18 are due at the end of April, but we are happy to accept renewals at the meeting on 20 March to avoid long queues at the AGM.

Special Library events

Wednesday 5th April 2017, 10.30 am: Nutti the Squirrel who couldn't eat nuts. Author Caroline Brown reads from her book in this interactive session for children.

Wed 12th April 2017, 2.30pm - Easter Egg hunt followed by Spring crafts. Children of all ages welcome. Free.

Friends' Committee

Priscilla Baines: Chair

Kay Coombs: Secretary

Jeremy Orme: Treasurer

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Library staff

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