



**No. 75 September 2017**

**Members' Newsletter**

Durning Library, 167 Kennington Lane, London 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  
Knitting Group

**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.

### Monday 18 September: The GLC Story 1981-86

31 years after the Greater London Council was abolished, younger or newer Londoners don't know its history. How did it relate to our communities and social movements? Can people think more creatively about city level democracy? This inter-generational project aims to tell the story of the GLC's last few radical years. [www.glcstory.co.uk](http://www.glcstory.co.uk). **Part of Lambeth Heritage Festival.**

### Monday 16 October: Writing Africa's Futures: Fantasy Africa or Fantastical Africa

Futuristic writing in Africa today! Leave the real world behind and come for a fantastical evening with Nigerian writer Chikodili Emelumadu, shortlisted this year for The Caine Prize, and South African novelist and short-story writer Henrietta Rose-Innes. Part of Lambeth Libraries' Black History Month and organised with The Caine Prize (the "African Booker").

### Monday 20 November: Why French Cinema is so special

Jon Davies, a long term Kennington resident, teaches French Cinema at Morley College. His fascination with French film goes back to his early teens and led to a career in film. He'll be giving us a glimpse into his archive and explaining why French Cinema has always been a world leader in style and innovation.

### Monday 11 December: Winter Party

Festive food, a good raffle - and a speaker to be announced.

### Special Library Events:

**Wednesday 20th September: "These are our memories...Kennington and Stockwell" 3pm** Join us for a cup of tea and a chat as we share our memories of the 1940s-1970s with a whistle-stop tour of the history of Kennington and Stockwell told through the historic collections held at Lambeth Archives. We are especially keen to hear your memories of Lambeth and enjoy any photos or mementoes you might have.

**Fun Palaces Day: Saturday 7th October 10am—3pm** A fun-filled day of free events for all ages and interests: book reading by children's author Nicholas Allan, demonstrations of dancing, science and healthy eating - and lots more! Look out for the Fun Poster for details.

**Black History Month events at Durning Library: 20, 27 & 31 October and 3 November.** Further details from Library.

**2018 Diary dates:** 15 Jan, 19 Feb, 19 Mar, 16 Apr, 21 May, 18 June...

## News from our Chair

Welcome back to some distinctly autumnal weather after our August break. September sees the fifth Lambeth Heritage Festival which has so far managed to survive 'the cuts' and once again offers a very full programme of events throughout the borough (see Lambeth's website for details, or there are programmes available in the Durning). Our own contribution to the Festival is our talk on 18 September when we will hear about the last five years of Ken Livingstone's Greater London Council – a very significant period in the London local government scene. We look forward to seeing you there.

When you visit the Durning, you will see some noticeable changes. Ever since she came a year ago, our manager, Caroline Mackie, has wanted to improve the layout of both the main area and the children's area to make them more open and user-friendly. Her careful planning has now produced some very welcome results: the large and space-consuming staff desk has been replaced by a much smaller one which allows more user tables and chairs in the central space and means that staff have a better view of the whole of the main area. The layout of the children's area has been altered so that it is more open and circulation is easier. Throughout the library there is also some sturdy and colourful new furniture, for which the Friends have paid. It is much easier to move as well as lighter and brighter than what it replaced and we hope that you, as users, will approve.

### Ian Adams MBE

Ian Adams, who died on 5 August 2017 at the age of 94, was a very long-standing Kennington resident and closely involved in many aspects of local life. The Durning has particular cause to be grateful for his commitment and support to local libraries. In 1999, Lambeth proposed to close five of the borough's smaller libraries, including the Durning, and Ian was among the leaders of the group of Kennington residents who campaigned against the proposals and succeeded in saving the Durning. He was a founder member of the Durning Friends when they were set up that year and served as vice-chair from 2002 until 2005, with a period as acting chair in 2003-04. He was also the Durning's first representative on the Friends of Lambeth Libraries, which he chaired until 2013. He was a faithful attender at Durning Friends' events until ill-health prevented him from walking from his house in Courtenay Street to the Durning.

Ian had many interests ranging from birds to music, particularly music: he was one of a group of very regular attenders at the Wigmore Hall concerts and nothing, not even the Durning's monthly talks, was allowed to interrupt his attendance at various music festivals and at Glyndebourne. He also served for many years on the Church Council of St Botolph's without Bishopsgate where he attended Wednesday services each week. When he could no longer make the journey at weekends to his family home in Folkestone, he attended Sunday services at the Savoy Chapel.

Ian was awarded an MBE in 2004 for his services to the local community and social housing, especially his long period as chair of the Manor of Kennington Residents' Association. He will be greatly missed by all his friends in the community to which he made such a big contribution. There will be a memorial service at St Botolph's on 27 September 2017 with a Requiem Eucharist at 1.10pm, followed by a sequence in the church hall of music, readings and tributes. All are welcome to both parts of the event.

**Annual subscriptions** (£3) were due in April 2017. If you have not yet renewed you can put payment in an envelope with your name on and hand to a member of Library staff or pay at the library talk on 18 September. Any queries, please contact Val Parker Membership Secretary [daval100@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:daval100@yahoo.co.uk). May we encourage you to ask to receive the newsletter by email? We have not as yet identified the member who handed over £3 to a library assistant in April as renewal but didn't leave a name. If you paid in this way but have received a renewal chaser, please let Val Parker know so our records can be updated.

## Friends' Committee

Priscilla Baines: Chair

Kay Coombs: Secretary

Jeremy Orme: Treasurer

Enquiries: Kay Coombs

Telephone: 020 7735 3651

Elizabeth Barrott

Ruth Briant

Eleanor Halsall

Veronica Ledwith

Val Parker

David Tisdall

[friendsofdurning@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdurning@gmail.com)

## Library staff

Manager: Caroline Mackie

Librarian: Audrey Hudson

Assistant Librarian: Rita Chakraborty

[durninglibrary@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:durninglibrary@lambeth.gov.uk)