



No. 77 Spring 2018

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 and Saturday 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

Friendly Knitting Group

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.

Monday 19 March: Birth Control: A revolution in our time

As Philip Larkin put it in his poem *Annus Mirabilis*: “Sexual intercourse began/ In nineteen sixty-three”. **Dilys Cossey**, local resident and Durning Friend, will be talking about how her working life fitted in to Larkin’s big discovery. After abortion law reform (1967) came three decades working for the provision of contraception on the NHS, young people’s advisory services, and the legalisation of embryo research and its impact on assisted conception. An international campaigner, she was founder Administrator of the All-party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health.

Monday 16 April: The Friends' AGM, plus:

Lambeth's Victorian architecture

Edmund Bird, Lambeth's Head of Conservation, will explore our Victorian public buildings. He will focus particularly on the northern districts and public libraries, but will also cover housing, schools, parks, industrial sites and lost architectural treasures. His first four books appraised the 20th century architecture of the borough, whilst his new book assesses Lambeth's rapid expansion between the 1830s and the 1900s.

Monday 21 May: "From RAINBOW to RASTAMOUSE - 40 Years Working In Children's TV"

Local screenwriter Lee Pressman will be discussing and showing clips from many of the popular and iconic children's television shows he has written - including *Rainbow*, *Play Away*, *The Tomorrow People*, *Spatz*, *T.Bag*, *Thomas & Friends*, *Fireman Sam*, *Shaun the Sheep*, and *Rastamouse*.

Future 2018 Diary dates: 18 June, 16 July, 17 Sep, 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 10 Dec.

Membership renewals: Membership renewals for 2018/19 are due by 1 May 2018. To help avoid long queues at the AGM on 16 April, we will happily take renewal subscriptions at the talk on 19 March.

News from our Chair

There are London-wide borough elections looming on 3 May so we face a six-week period of so-called 'purdah' for councillors and officials ahead of the elections. There has already been a policy vacuum in Lambeth for some months and we have been told that the libraries strategy promised by Council leader Lib Peck and the then Cabinet member with responsibility for libraries, Jack Hopkins, as long ago as July 2016 will now be delayed until after the election.

We also know that Lambeth, like other local authorities, faces another round of funding cuts that will mean that resources are very tightly squeezed but we urge you to use any opportunities you can to make the case for libraries to all the candidates at the election. We should not have to convince anyone of the role that libraries can play in helping the council to meet its key objectives – promoting inclusive growth, reducing inequality and building strong and sustainable communities - but the message needs to be hammered home whenever possible.

In the last newsletter in November, we reported that contractors had been selected to carry out a maintenance programme at four Lambeth libraries, including the Durning, and that the work was scheduled to start before Christmas. That was delayed until this month (February) but has not yet started although we know that the contract has been let. We have been assured that it includes roof and other external repairs and the dry rot in the porch but have not been given any more details. As we also reported in the last newsletter, there is funding (£73,500) earmarked specifically for internal alterations to the Durning but there are so far no plans, nor do we know about the timing. Unfortunately, events elsewhere, particularly the re-opening of the Carnegie earlier this month, have taken a great deal of staff time and attention away from other library buildings. We will have to keep up the pressure on both councillors and officials: we are particularly conscious how vulnerable buildings are to neglect.

Many of you will have seen reports of the requirements of new data protection regulations that will come into effect on 25 May. To prepare for that, we expect to need to check the information that we hold (name, address, and, if currently provided to us, e-mail address and telephone number), and to ask you to confirm your consent to our holding these personal details and using them for purposes connected with the Friends' activities. We are working out the details and hope to keep the bureaucracy to a minimum but will be circulating the paperwork with the Annual General Meeting papers in March.

We are also making another plea for more helpers with the food for our meetings. Our food is greatly appreciated but we have recently lost some regular providers and one or two new ones would make a real difference. It is not too demanding: normally not more than twice a year and it does not all have to be home-made. Food costs are re-imbursed from the Friends' funds. If you would like to help and can spare the time, please contact Sylvia Goodman – staircasewit@outlook.com.

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

Library staff

Manager: Liz Buchanan
Librarian: Audrey Hudson
Assistant Librarian: Alison Ekang
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