



## No 81 Spring 2019

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

durninglibrary@lambeth.gov.uk

**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.  
1st Monday of each month  
4—5pm

**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 Persons' Group**

3rd Wednesday of each  
month, 3 – 4pm

## Members' Newsletter

## 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 March:

Both topic and speaker are a mystery. It should be good. Watch this space!

### Monday 15 April: AGM

**Susanna Barnes, Service Manager, Libraries and Archives** will start the evening at 7.10pm with a brief overview of the future development of Lambeth's library service.

The **AGM** will follow at 7.50pm. Agenda and papers to be circulated in due course.

**Monday 20 May: Publisher Deirdre McDermott** will talk about **Walker Books**, a leading independent publisher of English-language children's books based in Vauxhall Walk.

Part of Lambeth's Readers and Writers Festival.

**Monday 17 June: Summer party.** Come and enjoy seasonal food, a speaker and a raffle.

### 2019 Diary dates:

15 July, Aug break, 16 Sep, 21 Oct, 18 Nov, 9 Dec.

**Book Group** meets 7pm on the last Wednesday of each month for an informal discussion. Copies of the book are freely available from the Library Desk. £2 donation for refreshments. Next Book Club will be on **Wednesday 27 March**. Please check with Library for future book titles and dates.

**Knitting group:** King's College Hospital need our help with making pompoms in red, orange and green for newborn babies' hats. The colour of the pompom indicates the level of care each baby requires. We have plenty of green and orange wool which was generously donated recently but are very short of red, so would welcome donations of any quantity, as pompoms do not require much wool.

Anyone who would like to come to the library on **Tuesday mornings between 10.30 and 12.00** to lend a hand with the production of the pompoms will be very welcome!

**Renewal of FoDL subscriptions for 2019/2020** will be due in May. As usual, we will be happy to accept your renewals at the talk on **Monday 18 March** to help reduce queues for the desk at the AGM in April.

## News from our Chair

Lambeth council's long-standing leader, Lib Peck, is leaving shortly and she will be replaced by Jack Hopkins from Oval Ward. As far as we know, Councillor Sonia Winifred's cabinet portfolio will continue to include libraries and we are very grateful for her continuing strong support of our libraries.

The libraries budget for 2019/2020 has now been set and the good news is that the library service is not being cut yet again; instead, each of the Durning and Tate South Lambeth libraries has now been included in the overall libraries' budget and this should mean that the future of both libraries is now reasonably secure. Lambeth's finances remain painfully stretched – so that the strategic future for the Durning and other libraries cannot be guaranteed, but we believe that the position is less dire than for some time. We therefore look forward to participating (with other Friends groups) in discussions with Lambeth about a longer-term libraries strategy.

We also hope that we can continue to provide input to the council's plans for addressing long-standing issues about the physical state of the Durning Library building. This time last year, we reported that in November 2017 contractors had been selected to carry out a maintenance programme at four Lambeth libraries, including the Durning. That work had been scheduled to start before Christmas 2017 but finally started only in January 2019 and is progressing agonisingly slowly. We have again been assured that it includes the roof and other external repairs and the dry rot in the porch. We hope that the work will be done to a proper standard rather than the botched repairs of almost three years ago – the extent of the damp penetration shows only too clearly throughout the inside of the building.

Poor maintenance (and its consequences) is not helpful towards making the library a place that attracts and keeps users (quite apart from Lambeth's heritage responsibilities for the Durning as a listed building). In addition, and as happens only too often, events elsewhere have taken a great deal of staff time and attention and held up other planned work. We hope to be able to give a more informative report at our AGM.

Also in relation to the Durning building, improving the disabled access has been another long-term concern of the Friends. In January 2019, we had a meeting with library staff as well as conservation and building control officials where we discussed a range of possibilities but the construction of the building, particularly the front porch, means that there is no easy solution and whatever is done will be expensive. We hope that at the very least a handrail will be installed on the steps to the front porch as that would make using the steps easier. Again, we hope to be able to make a more detailed report at our AGM.

We look forward to seeing you at our AGM on 15 April – we hope there will be a good turnout.

**Friends of Durning Library Chair:** Priscilla Baines

**Committee:** Jeremy Orme, Kay Coombs, Elizabeth Barrott, Ruth Briant, Eleanor Halsall, Veronica Ledwith, Val Parker and David Tisdall.

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

**Library Manager:** Liz Buchanan

**Librarian:** Audrey Hudson