



The Friends of Highgate Library

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2020

Highgate Library News

Life has continued to be quite different during the three months since our last Newsletter. Many of us have had more time to read. We hope to keep you stimulated and entertained and involved with our now well-established Zoom events. We have some exciting things planned for the autumn and hope you will join us.

The most exciting news is that our library is looking forward to reopening and is offering a limited request and read service meanwhile. Details inside. We do appreciate the time and work of our many volunteers, now offering this new service.

We are grateful to our speakers who give their time for free and bring different perspectives on our world. We add copies of the books they present to our library stock so that you can borrow them.

If you are on Facebook you can register for our events from our Page, otherwise you will need to register through Eventbrite. There are links (including a short-cut QR code for those with a 'reader' app on their phone) to the event on Eventbrite on all our posters. It isn't at all difficult to Zoom if you have a notebook, a tablet or a smart phone. Zoom is great for talking to friends and family as well.

Our Zoom events are recorded and you can now enjoy them when it suits you or watch them again. Full details on our website and with the enclosed programme. Our events are reaching a wider audience and are more accessible.

As we said before, our Annual General Meeting has been postponed until further notice. Our planned event about Hampstead Heath with Helen Marcus we hope to fit in next year.

Please use our website to keep in touch. We continue to send our monthly emails and advertise events on our Facebook and Twitter sites.

*Don't forget you can pay subscriptions and donations by bank transfer to FOHL at RBS **Sort Code: 16 00 23 Account number: 10008322**. You can complete (or amend if you have completed the form previously) our online form at <https://goo.gl/7e6VrW> We are still very good value at just £6 and of course we welcome your donations.*

Remember there is always more information and an extended and often updated newsletter on our website, <http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL> Please contact us by email or through our website. We welcome your suggestions.

Linda Lefevre, Chair

Things to Come

See the attached Autumn Events Programme for full details

Thursday September 10th 7pm for 7.30pm Joanna Briscoe *The Seduction*

Beth lives by Camden Lock with her partner Sol and their daughter. Life is peaceful, but Beth is troubled by unease. She cannot shake her uncertainty over her mother, who disappeared when Beth was a child. So she goes to therapy. But what if the person who is meant to be the solution becomes the most dangerous problem of all? And why is what's bad for us so enticing? Join us to hear Joanna present her latest novel and join in the discussion.

"A gripping thriller" Independent "Elegiac, beautiful, evocative ..." – Telegraph

Thursday October 8th 7pm for 7.30pm Andrew Whitehead *The Lives of Freda*

Freda Houlston, from the Midlands fell in love with an Indian fellow student at Oxford University. They married in 1933 and from that moment Freda regarded herself as Indian. They became a noted left-wing, nationalist couple - both were jailed by the British. Freda later became the first western woman to receive full ordination as a Tibetan Buddhist nun. Andrew Whitehead is a historian and journalist and was a BBC correspondent in Delhi. He has a PhD in the modern history of Kashmir and is an honorary professor at the University of Nottingham and also teaches in Chennai.

Thursday November 12th 7pm for 7.30pm Lucy Mangan *Bookworm a memoir of childhood reading*

When Lucy Mangan was little, stories were everything. She was whisked away to Narnia, Kirrin Island and Wonderland. She ventured down rabbit holes and winkle burrows into midnight gardens and chocolate factories. She only left the house for her weekly trip to the library. In *Bookworm*, Lucy brings the favourite characters of our collective childhoods back to life poignantly, wittily using them to tell her own story, that of a born and unrepentant bookworm.

Beautiful and moving... It will kickstart a cascade of nostalgia for countless people'
Marian Keyes

Lucy is a journalist and author. She is a columnist, features writer and TV critic for The Guardian. Join her to discuss her delightful book.

December – watch out for our plans in your emails or on our website!

Recent Events

Watch recent events again or catchup

<https://vimeo.com/friendssofhighgatelibrary>

Thursday June 11th At Home with Frances Hodgson Burnett

Who knew? Frances Hodgson Burnett, the author of three of the most popular children's books ever, defined herself as a 'pen-driving machine' and wrote popular adult fiction all her life to earn the money to support her increasingly opulent lifestyle and her travels. Helen Tierney's reading of her diaries and letters drew an intimate portrait of this fascinating woman and her passionate love of gardens, while Alexis Leighton's acting, beautifully dressed for the part, made her come to life.

Thursday July 9th Lennie Goodings *A Bite of the Apple* Behind the scenes at the Virago press

Lennie Goodings was our guest for this Zoom event. Lennie, as Chair of Virago Press, spoke engagingly in conversation with Harriet Evans about her 40 year involvement with feminist publishing and, of course, about her book 'A Bite of the Apple' which is described as 'A Life with Books, Writers and Virago'. Lennie brought to life the excitement and struggles of launching this ground-breaking initiative. Virago gave huge impetus to the awareness of women's writing, attracting outstanding talent and broadening the readership. Lennie admitted, however, that, even to this day, most of her readers are women.

Thursday August 13th Robert West *Wants, Needs, Habits? How motivation drives our behaviour*

Robert gave a thorough insight into his work as a psychologist looking at behaviour and what motivates our actions. A fascinated audience listened and learnt much from the talk and the many diagrams to develop our understanding and provoke many thoughtful questions. Our first foray into a scientific topic but definitely not our last.

News from the Library

Highgate Library is now open again after 5 long months!

On Tuesday August 15th, the 'mini' library service was launched. Although the Library is only open for two hours twice a week, library users are now able to return all the books and other library items that have been cluttering up their homes for months and get a new supply of books. The new 'mini' service is limited to the books the Library currently has on its shelves as the full inter-library loan scheme is not yet fully functioning. But despite its limitations those library users who have taken advantage of this initiative, led by the FOHL Library volunteers, have been warmly welcomed it. The 'mini' service will continue until the Library re-opens – the projected date for this is September 15th. So do take advantage of it and come along on Tuesdays between 10am and 12, and Thursdays between 2 and 4pm.

Although you will see changes when the Library re-opens, adults will still be able to come into the library to choose their own books or to use the PCs.

Sadly, the Children's Library will have to remain closed for the time being, so there will be no children's activities but it will be possible to issue children's books. The tables and chairs have had to be removed so it will not be possible to stay in the Library peacefully reading or studying. The WCs will not be open to the public.

The opening hours for the Library will also be shorter (10.30-3.30 is currently being mooted) as all the re-shelving will have to be done while the library is closed.

The Covid19 safety precautions being put in place by Camden include limiting the numbers of the public in the library at any one time, limiting the number of PCs available, and adopting a policy of compulsory mask wearing and use of the hand sanitiser. The layout of the Library has been re-organised to maintain social distancing. There will be a marked traffic flow from an entry door round the bookshelves to the exit door. All returned stock will be quarantined for 72 hours before being returned to the shelves.

Throughout the lockdown FOHL Library volunteers have been working with Camden Library services to re-design a Covid safe service, and once the Library re-opens the volunteers will be working alongside the Library staff to deliver the best Library service possible in these circumstances.

Please do support your local Library, above all by borrowing books. After this long closure when many have got out of the habit of visiting the library it needs your support more than ever.

Sarah Harrison, Chair of Highgate Library Management Group

Highgate Library Civic and Cultural Centre

Back when lockdown began Camden Council forbade entry to the library buildings. The Friends have a licence to use the building and Camden provide cleaning and maintenance services under this licence. We hope to negotiate a safe return soon for some of our regular users.

Keeping in touch effectively

There isn't a viable alternative, but relying even more heavily on email as our main means of communication becomes more problematic by the day. Providers are constantly trying to upgrade their efforts to beat off spammers and worse. Which is good but not so good is they frequently trap innocent emails like ours. Making sure FOHL@dartmouthpark.org is in your address book helps. We normally send one email a month. ***Let us know if you simply can't find our emails.*** We have to pack in more than one message per email so please open them and read beyond the headlines.

One failsafe way of getting our emails if all else fails is to go to <http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/newsletter>. There you will find back numbers of all our Newsletters and, at the bottom of the page, a link to all our Reminder Emails and e-Newsletters.

We have a strong presence on Facebook and Twitter. Sadly, many Friends aren't but if you are on either or both and if you haven't already please 'like' and/or follow us. If enough people are on another App, eg WhatsApp, we will set up a Friends' Group.

The absolute fail safes are the News and Events Pages on our Website: www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/events or [news](http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/news)

FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE LIBRARY

c/o Highgate Library, Chester Road, N19 5DH

Chair: Linda Lefevre

Vice Chair & Membership: Sarah Carrier

Hon. Secretary: Margot Kafno

Hon. Treasurer: Patrick Lefevre

Committee: Michele Cohen, Agnes Stewart, Paul Harris

Sarah Harrison, Ann Cheyne & Virginia Kerridge

President: Sue Perkins

Patrons: Julian Barnes, Joanna Briscoe, Tracy Chevalier, Hunter Davies, Caitlin Davies, John Harvey, & Charlotte Mendelson
