



## The Friends of Highgate Library

# NEWSLETTER

## March 2017

### Highgate Library News

This Newsletter includes an invitation to our **Annual General Meeting on Thursday March 9th**. We hope to see you there.

For our 110th anniversary, the Friends contacted Glenda Jackson, who was a great supporter of Highgate Library when she was our MP and gave generously to the setting up of the courtyard garden. We had a card from her with this message, "Dear Friends, Unfortunately I'm not free to attend the anniversary celebrations, and how wonderful an anniversary, 110 years, which could not have been reached, given the vagaries of politics, finance, I.T. had it not been for you, true loving Friends. Without your commitment and dedication, imagination and sheer hard work, Highgate and all its residents would have been so much poorer. Thank you for all you've done and I know will continue to do, love Glenda."

The Friends also marked our librarian, Gloria Lavery's leaving with a gift and party. The committee, volunteers and former colleagues recognised her great contribution to Highgate and the Library service over many years. We hope to see her at future events.

We are delighted that local authors Charlotte Mendelson and Joanna Briscoe have agreed to join our group of distinguished patrons. Both are great supporters and have also entertained us recently.

One longstanding Friend of Highgate Library has generously donated £1000, payable in instalments. We have agreed to use this as an annual contribution of £100 for the book prizes to Brookfield pupils making outstanding progress in reading. We are very grateful for this generous donation.

Following the news, we can see that public libraries continue to be under severe threat across the country with stories of closures every week. At the same time, there are voices pointing out how important libraries are to their communities. Among these is Chris Riddell, the Children's Laureate and Observer cartoonist. Enjoy his cartoons (on page 3) and keep supporting our library!

*Linda Lefevre, Chair*

# News from Highgate Library

**Nick Durant, the team Leader for Highgate, Pancras Square and West Hampstead libraries writes:**

## **A new team**

As some of you know, I became responsible for Highgate Library from December 2016, as Team Leader for Highgate. The new librarian, Fahd Toor, started at Highgate in January. Fahd has worked for Camden for about three years, and still works some hours at Pancras Square Library.

Fahd has settled in well, getting to know many of the volunteers and of our users. To support him, and to get to know the library better, I am spending at least half a day at Highgate each week, so you will see me as well from time to time. Together, we are starting to looking at ways to develop the library, e.g. by more promotion of the books.

Finally, some news of Gloria and Kendra:

Kendra has had her baby, a boy (Theo) who was 3.9kilos (8lbs 9.5oz) at birth. Both are doing well. Gloria is enjoying life away from Camden Libraries, and sends her best wishes.

## **Sarah Harrison, FoHL Volunteer Coordinator gives news from the Volunteers**

As the end of our second year of staffing and running Highgate Library with Camden Library staff approaches, the volunteer team is settled in, playing its part in keeping the Library running.

New people interested in becoming volunteers continue to come forward, although we always welcome more; the training for new and established volunteers has been improved and extended; new responsibilities have been taken on board and new ventures developed.

The Library continues to be well supported by the local community with both its activities and books for children and its public computers particularly in demand. Our stock has been extended by many donations of books and CDs.

However, there is no room for complacency. The continuing central government policy of austerity means that this remains a very tough time for all services funded by local government. Libraries in addition face the challenge of reduced demand for books as reading habits change.

So please continue to support your library, and do explore and borrow some of the increasing range of books we have, and dip into the fascinating material in the Local History Collection.

A LIBRARY IS NOT JUST A REFERENCE SERVICE: IT IS A PLACE FOR THE VULNERABLE.

FROM THE ELDERLY GENTLEMAN WHOSE ONLY REMAINING HUMAN INTERACTION IS WITH HERBARY STAFF, TO THE ISOLATED YOUNG MOTHER WHO RELISHES THE SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP THAT GROWS FROM A BABY RHYME TIME SESSION, TO A SLOW MOVING 30-SOMETHING WOMAN COLLECTING HER CDS,

LIBRARIES ARE A HAVEN IN A WORLD WHERE COMMUNITY SERVICES ARE BEING GROUND DOWN TO NOTHING.

LIBRARIES ARE VITAL, THEIR WORTH CANNOT BE MEASURED IN BOOKS ALONE.

ANGELA CLARKE.

CHUCK RUSSELL



LIBRARIANS ARE BRIDGE BUILDERS. THEY USE THE BOOKS OF THE PAST TO INSPIRE THE BOOK CREATORS OF THE FUTURE.

WHEN WE CLOSE DOWN A LIBRARY, WE DESTROY

THOSE BRIDGES.

HAPPY & HUMBLER...

20TH JUNE



CARNEGIE GREENAWAY PRIZE - 2016 -

BILLOWS OF KIND THOUGHTS

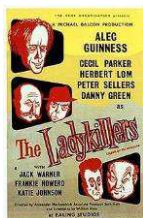
**The Friends of Highgate Library present**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**7.15 for 7.30pm**

**Annual General Meeting followed by**

**Danny Nissim Filmed in Camden**



Danny Nissim, film buff and producer, shows us Camden through clips of films produced in the 1950s. Using Ealing Studios "The Ladykillers" and "Train of Events" filmed around Kings Cross and "The Man who Knew Too Much" in Camden Town, he will show how these places have changed over the years. Come and find out more.

**Highgate Library Civic and Cultural Centre  
in The Children's Corner, Croftdown Road, NW5 1HB**

**[www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/events](http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/events)**

**Admission Free**

# Things to Come

## Thursday March 9th Annual General Meeting

### Danny Nissim, “Filmed in Camden”

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Before the talk, there will be a short business meeting with brief reports on the year’s work. This meeting includes elections to the Committee. Current officers and committee are listed below. Nominations to the Committee are welcome. You can do this beforehand by sending a nomination to the secretary of FOHL c/o Highgate Library, emailing us at FOHL@dartmouthpark.org or in person at the AGM.

### Thursday April 13th Confronting Injustice Through Literature

In this talk Michael Newman will look at issues discussed in his recent book. The authors are Victor Serge in Stalinist Russia, Albert Camus in Vichy France, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o in Kenya, Jorge Semprún in Spain under Franco, Ariel Dorfman in Chile under Pinochet, and Nadine Gordimer in apartheid South Africa. Each lived under a brutal system, each was prepared to take substantial risks to contribute to its overthrow, and each survived a transition to a new regime. Their works consider matters of universal significance. Above all, they stimulate further questions about how to end oppression without creating new forms of injustice. Michael Newman, *Six Authors in Search of Justice: Engaging with Political Transitions*, Hurst 2016)

### Thursday May 11th *Storm: Nature and Culture*

What were the most devastating storms ever? How did storms halt the expansion of the Roman Empire and start the French Revolution? Are they getting worse? In a talk based on his new book, local author John Withington answers these questions and many others. John will also consider how storms have been portrayed in films, literature and art, and how humans have tried to control them whether through sacrifices or by firing artillery shells into the clouds!

### Thursday June 8th Jane Austen “At Home”

To mark this year’s celebration of Jane Austen’s work 200 years after her death, we have invited a speaker from the Jane Austen Society to tell us more about her life.

### Wednesday June 28th

Return of The Live Literature Company with “**Much Ado About Nothing**” in one hour. Details to follow.

**The Dartmouth Park Film Club** based in our hall, goes from strength to strength with a fascinating variety of films. Their next film is **Woman in Gold** starring Helen Mirren on Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Keep in touch with events <http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/events>

## Recent Events

On **December 8th**, in a Hall glittering with fairy lights, we celebrated the jollity of the season with a brilliant show: songs by groups of musicians and singers, one led by James Waite, others from the Cecil Sharpe House chorus with their ukulele players and storytelling by actor Corinna Marlowe, who regaled us with moments from Dickens's relations with women. A variety of refreshments, many homemade, and glasses of mulled wine, prolonged the conviviality of the evening.

On **January 12th**, Charlotte Mendelson delighted us with extracts from "Rhapsody in Green". The audience laughed as she described dealing with slugs, making compost and growing unusual vegetables in her local garden.

On **9th February Patrick Lambert**, former BBC Radio 3 producer, presented a musical biography of Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959) by playing excerpts of a selection of his works. We also viewed excerpts from short films of the composer, reminding us that here was a 'modern' composer, almost of our time. The music selections were long enough for the audience to appreciate the music, and Patrick Lambert's narrative was riveting. Many thanks are owed to Michael Lefevre, on whose IT/Laptop skills the whole evening depended.

### Membership Renewal 2017

If you find a membership renewal form in this Newsletter, then your membership fee is due. Current subscription is £6 (concessions are £3). You can pay by cash or cheque, cheques made payable to Friends of Highgate Library. You can also pay by bank transfer to Friends of Highgate Library at RBS 189-191 Camden High Street NW1 7BP Sort Code: 16 00 23 Account number: 10008322. Donations are always welcome.

We use email to send urgent messages and reminders of events so please ensure that we have your up to date email address. Ours is FOHL@dartmouthpark.org. Our main expenditure is on our activities: the newsletters and events. Please tell your friends and neighbours about FOHL and encourage them to join.

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### FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE LIBRARY

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

Chair: Linda Lefevre

Vice Chair: Sarah Carrier

Hon. Secretary: Margot Kafno

Hon. Treasurer: Patrick Lefevre

Membership: Elizabeth Dormandy

Committee: Michele Cohen, Alice Gutkind,

Agnes Stewart, Sarah Harrison, Ann Cheyne

Patrons: Julian Barnes, Joanna Briscoe, Tracy Chevalier, Hunter Davies, Charlotte

Mendelson, Andrew Motion, June Rose

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