



The Friends of Highgate Library NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2013

Friends' news

We were all very sad to hear of the deaths of Enid Evans and Richard Waddington, two loyal and hard-working friends who did so much for the library. Enid, who had been unwell for some time, died in June. She was a founding member of the Friends and worked enormously hard over the years as our treasurer. But Enid was always much, much more and helped us all behind the scenes in so many ways, holding us together with wisdom and integrity. Richard, who died in August, was a lovely man and an excellent and witty vice-chairman and chairman for many years before moving to Brighton in 2009. We miss them both very much.

One of the Friends' most worthwhile events is the annual donation of a book prize to the child in each class at Brookfield School who has made the most progress in reading. Members of the committee helped the children to choose their books at the Owl Bookshop and in July we had the great pleasure of attending an assembly for the whole school. After an inspiring talk by author and illustrator Karin Littlewood I presented the prizes, then each child explained why they had chosen their book. A touching and delightful occasion.

We were delighted to receive another very generous donation from Stephen Blyth, a former local resident who now lives in the States, as well as ones from Roger Lloyd Pack and Margaret Forster. We all appreciate enormously their generosity which is a great help in these uncertain times for the library.

The theme of this year's excellent Thursday evening talks has been our local history and I'm looking forward to the ones on the Konstam Nursery and Highgate Cemetery coming up soon. Next year's theme will be travel writing, so any suggestions for speakers, preferably local, who would fit this category would be very welcome.

The Working Group meets again this month. We have been given the political assurance that the council will keep our library open for at least three days a week after April 2015 but no financial guarantee. So we need to make sure that we hold the councillors to this promise.

Fabian Watkinson, Chairman

RECENT EVENTS

6 June **Angela Burdett Coutts**. A pop-up play, led and written by Beth Shaw and Martin Bould, was attended by approximately 65 women, men and children in the Children's Corner. The script was handed out to members of the audience who wished to be characters in the play. The play illustrated facets of the life of 19th century philanthropist, Angela Burdett Coutts. It was witty and informative and enjoyed by the players as well as the audience.

25 July **Waterlow Park**. Pam Cooper entertained us with her lively talk about the buildings and people associated with Waterlow Park, accompanied by many fascinating pictures. She concluded with a splendid mystery : the story of the statue of Galatea, once in Waterlow Park, now in Eltham – can we get her back?

29 July **Highgate Civic and Cultural Centre Opening**

The Friends now have a licence to use the former Children's Corner to host community activities and to celebrate we asked our President Roger Lloyd Pack and Councillor Valerie Leach to launch it and celebrate with us. Despite the looming thunder they welcomed this new phase in our library and wished us well.

The large multi purpose space which we use for our own events is now available to hire for drama, dance, music, art, social and educational activities and local meetings. Contact us by email at FOHL@dartmouthpark.org for details.

LIBRARY NEWS

Many children have enjoyed taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge, which encourages children aged 4 to 11 to read six books during the long summer holiday. This year's theme has been Creepy House.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - everyone welcome, all free

All on Thursday at 7.15 for 7.30pm

19th September **Inspired by Grief: how bereavement in the 1st World War laid the foundations for the Konstam Nursery**



Madeleine Bunting, author and journalist, will tell the story of how the deaths of two brothers in the First World War led their parents to establish a centre for children, the Highgate Newtown Clinic, now used by the Konstam Nursery. Madeleine is the great niece of the boys who died so this is a family story.

17 October **Highgate Cemetery: local aspects of its history**

Ian Dungavell, Chief Executive of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery, will talk about this fascinating place on our doorstep.

21 November **London Fictions**

This book, edited by local author Andrew Whitehead of the BBC, and social historian Jerry White, looks at how London has been represented in novels. Their talk will focus on George Gissing and Zadie Smith.

12 December **Christmas Extravaganza**

led by the inimitable Danny Scheinmann

Something different - Saturday Book Sale, 21 September 12 noon The

Friends are planning a massive book sale in the Children's Corner.

Donations very welcome. Details of where and when books can be donated will be e-mailed soon.

READING GROUP

We are now meeting in our new Children's Corner and enjoying the larger space where we can discuss, disagree and generally make noise if we want to without disturbing regular library users. There are ten of us and we meet about once each month on a Tuesday afternoon. We read a variety of books, some classics - such as *Persuasion*, which we read recently - and some more contemporary and we choose books democratically from ones that can be provided by Camden Library service.

We relax following our lively discussions over tea and biscuits.

A book we enjoyed recently was *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher* by Kate Summerscale and it was interesting to compare it to the *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins another book concerning the same period with a mystery to solve which we had also read. The next book to be subjected to our scrutiny is *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie and after that it's *The Master* by Colm Toibin.

If you are interested in joining us do get in touch and, although we have enough members at the moment we will be happy to put you on our waiting list.

Margot Kafno: 020 7267 5565 Ann Lewis: 020 7272 1722

Keep in touch with developments

<http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/news>

FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE LIBRARY

President: Roger Lloyd Pack

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