



The Friends of Highgate Library

NEWSLETTER

June 2015

Our Library Now

On April 7th the FOHL became jointly responsible with Camden Council Library Services for managing and staffing our Library. Since then FOHL Library volunteers have been working alongside a Camden Librarian. It is central to the agreement signed by Camden and FOHL that Highgate Library remains one of Camden's Libraries continuing to offer all the services of a public library. It is still open 4 days a week, although budget cuts have meant slighter reduced opening hours: the Library now closes at 5pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 4pm on Saturdays (it is still open until 7pm on Thursdays).

Cllr Hai launched this new stage in the history of our 109 year-old Library by unveiling the new Library Noticeboard. At the party that followed particular thanks were given to Rachel Brignall, the head of Camden Library Services, and to Caroline Spencer, senior Librarian, who both did so much to make this possible. A glass was raised to the FOHL Library volunteers on whom the future of the Library now rests.

We are urgently looking for more people to become volunteers. We have developed a thorough training scheme for volunteers, which consists of two half days. Anyone interested should contact FOHL through its website or by leaving your name and contact details with the staff in the Library.

In structural terms FOHL has also developed. The current informal Committee structure, whose members are elected each AGM, will continue to run our monthly meetings and produce this newsletter. The Friends of Highgate Library Charitable Foundation has been set up to take on the legal and financial responsibilities for running the Library and the Civic and Cultural Centre. With charitable status, we can now to apply for grants. We would welcome assistance from anyone with experience of fund raising.

This new start has only been possible because of the large numbers who were determined that the Library should remain open. Now what is crucial, is that good use should be made of all that it offers. Beside the physical stock – books, magazines, newspapers, CDs and DVDs – there are extensive on-line and e-resources available. Other resources include a free phone to the Council for all enquiries, computers, printing and photocopying and much information about events locally and London-wide.

Sarah Harrison, Chair

Recent events

Curious Kentish Town March 12th

Andrew Whitehead fascinated the large audience with stories and pictures from his book, “Curious Kentish Town”, written with Martin Plaut. The audience contributed their own stories and ideas in an animated discussion afterwards. Ideas for a Curious Camden Town book are welcome – please email FOHL.

Question Time on Inequality 16 April

Candidates from the major political parties answered audience questions after watching some scenes from a new documentary based on “The Spirit Level”, presented by its director Katharine Round and producer Christopher Hird. This was a lively and popular event, the first of its kind for FOHL. The collection taken for The Equality Trust film raised £80.

“The High-Heeled Gardener” 14 May

Debbie Bourne gave us an amusing and informative talk about gardening and how she became an enthusiast and changed her life. Her book is described as 'a hilarious horticultural handbook', and these were available to buy. This was first joint event with our local Transition Town group.

Out and About this summer

FOHL committee plans to meet people at various summer events. Come and talk to us and help recruit members and volunteers at Highgate Fair in the Square or Brookfield School Brook Fest on June 13th, at the Highgate Newtown Community Centre Fun Day on July 11th and at the York Rise Street Party in September.

Brookfield School Reading Prizes

Our annual gift of book prizes for a child in each class who has made most progress in reading will happen at a special school assembly on July 10th. Sarah Carrier, our vice chair will be there to present the books. The Summer Reading Challenge will run at our library though the summer holidays –come in and ask about it.

Toy Library –did you know?

Volunteers working in the library are discovering all sorts of things! Did you know that Highgate Library has a small collection of toys to loan? They are in the children’s library –please ask!

Keep in touch with developments

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

Dates for your Diary

All on Thursdays at 7.15 for 7.30pm

Thursday 11 June Threads of Feeling John Styles



When mothers left babies at London's Foundling Hospital in the mid-eighteenth century, the Hospital often retained a small object as a means of identification, usually a piece of fabric. Each scrap of fabric reflects the lives of an infant child and its absent parent. Collectively, they comprise a poignant, elegiac witness of separation and loss. NW5 resident John Styles recently curated the 'Threads of Feeling' exhibition at the Foundling Museum, which exhibited these textiles for the first time. He will talk about the Foundling textiles and what they tell us about eighteenth-century London.

Thursday 25 June Twelfth Night in One Hour!

Valerie Doulton's Live Literature Company will present an open dress rehearsal of the production "Twelfth Night in One Hour", performed by drama students from Niagara University USA. This is a free performance before the company's tour to Hall's Croft Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon. All welcome including children with a family member. Valerie has told us how a four-year-old enjoyed her first Shakespeare!

July and August – a summer break!

Thursday 10 September An Actor's Life Corrina Marlowe

Actor Corinna Marlowe, well known for her role in Michael Frayn's play Copenhagen, will talk about her five decades in acting. Corrina will animate her talk by 'dramatizing' some moments and recounting tales of ups and downs, what real life is for actors: now a West End lead and then a miserable understudy.

Keep in touch with events

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

Highgate Library Civic and Cultural Centre

Our beautiful hall attracts a wide variety of users and is getting more arts use for dance and drama and music sessions. Find out more about it on our website and check the online calendar. Over the summer we will equip the hall to welcome the launch of a regular Dartmouth Park Film Club – an idea from Christo Hird after the Equality Trust film event.

Dartmouth Park Film Club to launch on Thursday 17 Sept

Did you know there are lots of filmmakers who live in Dartmouth Park? This new monthly club will screen films made by local people followed by Q&A sessions with the filmmakers themselves. Come and hear behind-the-scenes stories of how these films have been made and meet other film & media people living in the area.

The DPFC is launching in style with world famous film director **Kevin McDonald** screening one of his most recent films - **How I Live Now** - and speaking afterwards. This powerful drama stars Saoirse Ronan (Atonement, Grand Budapest Hotel) as an American girl who finds love and purpose while fighting for her survival as war envelops the world around her.

TIME: 7pm for drinks & chit chat. The film will start at 7:30pm.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: thank you

Thank you to all those members who have renewed their annual subscriptions. We are also grateful for the many generous donations. We are at a critical stage trying to develop the use of the Civic and Cultural Centre and work with volunteers to keep our library open. Subscriptions (£5, concessions £2) for this year can be sent to me, the Hon Treasurer at 35, Dartmouth Park Road NW5 1SU or left at the library in a sealed addressed envelope. Cheques payable to FOHL please.

FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE LIBRARY

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

Chair: Sarah Harrison

Vice Chair: Sarah Carrier

Hon. Secretary: Margot Kafno

Hon. Treasurer: Linda Lefevre

Committee: Michele Cohen, Andy Edwards, Alice Gutkind,
Agnes Stewart, Sally Thompson

Patrons: Julian Barnes, Tracy Chevalier, Hunter Davies, Andrew Motion, June Rose
