



## The Friends of Highgate Library

# NEWSLETTER

## June 2016

### Highgate Library News

In my first report as chair I would like to pay tribute to all those who actively support our library and its events and activities. Our committee members and volunteers make a great contribution but those attending events and using the library are important, too!

Every day there is news of library closures across the country and brave battles to keep them open. Camden has also seen major changes but the most recent cut of £800 thousand has been achieved without closures. Although 26 jobs have gone all libraries remain open and for the same hours, except for Sundays at Swiss Cottage. New door opening technology will support staff at five libraries (not Highgate), controlling access at less busy times when fewer staff are on duty. In all libraries computers will go live together, without each being switched on manually. Printing will be done automatically from the computer with charges added to the user's library account.

Our events continue to be varied, in June we have poetry, jazz and drama. In September there is new fiction based on *Jane Eyre* and in October we celebrate our 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Local history is always a popular and this year we will launch our new local history collection. Just a reminder that if you have fond memories of using our library, please email us your memory or leave a message in the library - we'd love to hear from you. We will be setting up a display in October.

July brings the special assembly at Brookfield Primary with a presentation of books to the children who have made most progress as readers. We are keen to encourage young readers. Indeed, all classes at Brookfield now make a visit to the library to see what is on offer and learn how to use it, thanks to a keen volunteer.

Soon some volunteers will be trained to use the full library users' data base and handle more complex queries on user accounts. We are always keen to welcome new volunteers in whatever way you want to get involved. Just let us know at an event, in the library or via the website.

*Linda Lefevre, Chair*

## Recent events

### March Marc Haynes Hidden Highgate

After our AGM, Marc Haynes entertained us with a historic tour of local facts starting and finishing in Highgate Newtown. He included the local streets, Retcar Place, named after Carter the builder, the Whittington Cat, tales of those buried in the cemetery and the time when Queen Victoria's life was saved by the swift action of a local publican. Thanks to Marc for an intriguing evening.

### April 'Curious Camden Town'

Following the success of their book '*Curious Kentish Town*' Martin Plant and Andrew Whitehead gave us a fascinating illustrated talk on a selection of entries in their latest work '*Curious Camden Town*', amongst them Tom Sayers, the celebrated 19th century pugilist and the singer Amy Winehouse, and insights into the history of the Belgian Church and the secret behind the Regents Park barracks. It was an enriching and entertaining evening.

### May Danny Scheinmann, the launch of *The Half Life of Joshua Jones*'.

Our book launch on 12 May was well-attended. The bestselling author of '*Random Acts of Heroic Love*', Danny Scheinmann, has written a new page-turner, '*The Half Life of Joshua Jones*'. After an introduction by the editor Sophie Hicks and John Mitchinson from the publisher Unbound, Danny read a scene from the book - a description of an accident... or was it suicide? If so, why? The answer is in the book and we look forward to reading it soon.

'Headway' the brain injury association attended the event for which we are grateful.

## Things to Come

### Brookfield School Reading Prizes

Our annual gift of book prizes for a child in each class who has made the most progress in reading will happen at a special school assembly on July 15th. The Guest speaker will be Dan Carrier.

The **Summer Reading Challenge** for children will run at our library through the summer holidays – come in and ask about it.

### York Rise Street Party September 11<sup>th</sup>

Friends of Highgate Library will as usual have a stall to promote our library and recruit members and volunteers. Come and support us!

Keep in touch with developments

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

# Dates for your Diary

**Thursdays at 7.15 for 7.30pm**

**9 June - *Sixteen Sunsets* - Poetry meets the Blues - Jehane Markham, Hartley Lloyd Pack and Friends**

This will be a charity event and any donations will go to Pancreatic Cancer UK. Two years after the death of actor Roger Lloyd Pack, the much loved president of Highgate Library for many years, his widow, Jehane, and his son Hartley, have joined forces to create an album in his memory. Collaborating with musicians and singers they have created a stunning and original piece of work that was launched to a packed audience at Map Cafe in February. Sad, but not sentimental, *Sixteen Sunsets* proves that the energy of grief can be transformed into enduring works that reflect and challenge all that life can offer. To download or buy a copy go to:

<https://sixteensunsets.bandcamp.com/releases>

**Wednesday 29th June Shakespeare's 'The Tempest in One Hour!'**

**Valerie Doulton's** Live Literature Company will present an open dress rehearsal of the production '*The Tempest 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.

**15 September - 'Reader I Married Him'**

**Tracy Chevalier** and **Joanna Briscoe** will discuss '*Reader, I Married Him*' a collection of short stories to mark the 200th anniversary of Charlotte Bronte's birth in April. The stories, inspired by this famous line in *Jane Eyre*, are written by well-known women writers, including Lionel Shriver, Jane Gardam, Emma Donoghue and Elif Shafak and the book is edited by Tracy Chevalier.

**Thursday 15 October** - A celebration of 110 years of Highgate Library

**Thursday 10 November** - Poetry with **Dinah Livingstone** and other poets

**Thursday 8 December** - seasonal event

**Thursday 12 January** - **Charlotte Mendelson** on her latest book on Gardens

**The Dartmouth Park Film Club** based in our hall, goes from strength to strength with large audiences and a fascinating variety of films. The 2015 *Macbeth* is next on June 27<sup>th</sup> from 7 pm, with a Q&A with Chris Dickens, the film editor, followed by *Borat* on July 18<sup>th</sup> with a Q&A with the screenwriter. You see the film and learn more about film-making, too!

**Keep in touch with events**

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

## **Volunteering in our library**

As we are now involved in the management of our library, there are more and varied opportunities for you to become involved. You could work in the library, help to run the Civic and Cultural Centre, or offer to help with design, IT or publicity. By getting involved you could learn new skills, meet new people and improve your CV as well as helping the library to survive. Please email us at [FOHL@dartmouthpark.org](mailto:FOHL@dartmouthpark.org)

## **Caroline Spencer**

Sadly, since our last newsletter Caroline Spencer has died. As library manager her dedication to establishing the new Highgate Library management system has helped ensured that the library is still open. We are hugely appreciative of the support she gave us in saving our library and training our volunteers and of her warmth and enthusiasm.

## **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.

## **Membership Renewal 2016: thank you**

Thank you to all those members who have renewed their annual subscriptions. We are also grateful for many generous donations.

If you have forgotten, we would like you to renew your membership for 2016! Subscriptions are £6 and concessions £3. You can pay by bank transfer to FOHL at RBS 189-191 Camden High Street NW1 7BP, Sort Code: 16 00 23 Account number: 10008322 OR leave it at the library in a sealed envelope for Elizabeth Dormandy, Hon. Treasurer FOHL, OR you can post it to her at 16 St Albans Rd London.

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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, Sally Thompson, Sarah Harrison, Ann Cheyne,  
Natalie Doyle

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

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