



## The Friends of Highgate Library

# NEWSLETTER

## September 2016

### Highgate Library News

The changes to Camden's service outlined in our June newsletter are now happening. We are sad that Jane McGrath has left the library service. Jane has been running the very popular Rhyme Time at Highgate and was great at encouraging the very youngest (and their parents) to join the library. Peter Baxter who has recently supported us is also leaving. He had many roles in Camden including developing and nurturing book groups. We wish them well. Our new link officer will be Anthony May who replaces Kendra Bucknall who is working elsewhere in Camden. Again Kendra has been a great ally in our development and will be missed. We look forward to working with Anthony.

All these changes are a challenge as we recruit and train new volunteers and develop the ones we have. Several have taken on additional roles to extend what we can offer. Please admire the front garden, which is looking fresh and bright thanks to the work of Margaret Legg and Bridget.

A busy autumn lies ahead, starting with Tracy Chevalier and Joanna Briscoe introducing us to the delights of short stories by many distinguished authors reflecting on the story of *Jane Eyre*. In October our precious library celebrates 110 years of public service and we will mark the occasion with a celebration event and exhibition. We hope to see you there. We are delighted that part of marking this anniversary will be the launch of our new reference collection on local history and the history of Highgate Cemetery. It is housed in a beautiful new oak bookcase designed and made by Sean Thompson.

Finally, we will be running a stall at the popular York Rise Street party. Please drop by, we'd love to see you!

*Linda Lefevre, Chair*

## Recent events

On June 9 2016, the very high turnout for **Sixteen Sunsets: Poetry meets the Blues**: in memory of Roger Lloyd Pack was a tribute to a much loved actor. The poems and music performed by his family created an atmosphere of intimacy which allowed the deeply moved audience to share in their sadness and loss. The audience raised £700 to donate to the charity Pancreatic Cancer UK (For information about buying the CD, go to [sixteensunsets.bandcamp.com](http://sixteensunsets.bandcamp.com) )

### Brookfield prize giving

Each year the Friends of Highgate Library give a book to the child in each class who has progressed most in reading. The children are taken to the Owl Bookshop where they choose a book and on 15 July at the school Assembly it was my privilege to present the books. The special guest of the Assembly was Dan Carrier who entertained us with a story and the children had to guess if it was newsworthy. After the Assembly I was invited for tea and scones where I had the opportunity to chat to teachers, mums and prize winners. A wonderful occasion!  
*Agnes Stewart*

### Summer Reading Challenge

This summer's Reading Challenge was based on the books of Roald Dahl, and called 'The Big Friendly Read.' Children were awarded stickers and prizes for reading six books from the Library, as well being given as a colourful bag to carry them in. Brookfield School makes another presentation of a book token to every child completing the challenge.

## Things to Come

### 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!

### Thursday 15 September -'Reader, I Married Him'

Local authors 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 female writers, including Lionel Shriver, Jane Gardam, Emma Donoghue and Elif Shafak. The book is edited by Tracy Chevalier.

# Dates for your Diary

Thursdays at 7.15 for 7.30pm

**Thursday October 13** 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Highgate Library

Highgate Library was the first in the Borough of St Pancras and opened on October 18<sup>th</sup> 1906 after vigorous resistance from the local ratepayers. The Liberals who supported it were voted out of power two weeks after it opened! Come and find out more about its story and the many fights to keep it open at our special event.

FOHL will celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Highgate Library. The event will involve the participation of Brookfield school children who use the Library and their parents. We are inviting the local community, Camden Council members and officers and notable users and supporters of the Library past and present.

We are also setting up a display of historical posters, pictures and banners and of course, organizing refreshments. We are inviting a number of guest speakers who will each present a short talk about a specific period in the history of the Library since its opening. We are also preparing a short history of key moments in that history, focusing specially on times when the Library was threatened with closure, but saved thanks to the continuing support of the local community and supportive councillors.

**Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup>** Poetry with Dinah Livingston and other poets

**Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>** Our seasonal event -details later

**Thursday 12 January** - *Rhapsody in Green: A novelist, an obsession, a laughably small excuse for a vegetable garden.* 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 next screening is on Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

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)

## **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 [www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/HLCCC-childrens-corner](http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/HLCCC-childrens-corner) 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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