



The Friends of Highgate Library

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

Highgate Library News

The latest visitor to our library was Councillor **Georgia Gould**, the leader of Camden Council. She came with Highgate councillor Oliver Lewis and other colleagues. Councillor Gould was getting to know Highgate ward and meeting as many local people as she could. She was impressed by the success of our partnership in keeping our library open and providing a full service, but she also commended us on our local history collection and the plans we have for an ambitious children's art project. There is more news about this inside.

We were sad to learn of the death of **June Rose**. She had long been a patron and good friend of Highgate Library. We last saw her at the celebration of our new partnership with Camden Council. She was a distinguished author of biographies and had given talks to fascinated audiences about Jacob Epstein, Elizabeth Fry and Marie Stopes. Our sincere condolences to her family.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be on **Thursday April 19th**. Please note that we have moved this event forward to the 19th to secure **Gillian Tindall** as our speaker and avoid the Easter school holiday. She is always popular and her latest book is fascinating.

As Sarah Harrison reports, we held a book fair to sell off those books donated which could not be added to the general library stock. Despite the cold wet day, we raised over £300 for the Four Seasons Art Project. Our thanks to all the volunteers who helped both in advance and on the day.

We will continue fund raising via our Charitable Foundation for the Four Seasons Art Project and will seek donations at the AGM.

We are delighted that **Caitlin Davies** has agreed to join the distinguished authors who are our patrons. She has always been a great supporter and has spoken about several of her books. She will be our guest in September and will talk about her two latest books, *Bad Girls* about the many rebellious women locked up in Holloway Prison, including of course many suffragettes, and *Daisy Belle*, who was born in 1863 and aimed to be Swimming Champion of the World.

As always, we welcome you to join us as volunteers to work in the library, to manage the hall or to join our committee to plan and run events. Just come and talk to any committee member at an event or contact us by email or through our website.

Linda Lefevre, Chair

News from Highgate Library

The Library volunteers have been working hard to sort the books left to the library by John Horder, a local poet. A significant number have been identified for incorporation into the Library's stock including a sizeable number of poetry books. These we aim to set up as a permanent "poetry corner" as a memorial to him. There are too many books to incorporate into the Highgate or other Camden libraries so some of the rare poetry books have been given to the National Poetry Collection based in the South Bank Arts centre, others to another national poetry collection in Manchester. Other books have been sold to raise money for our other major project.

Four Seasons Art Project

The aim of the Four Seasons Art Project is to enhance the physical environment of the children's library with permanent high-quality artwork, to create the opportunity for a group of local children to participate in an educational art project and to strengthen the links between the library and the local community by involving children, parents and volunteers in a creative project.

Groups of children from the local primary and secondary schools will work with professional artists, each group working with a different medium to create an artwork that celebrates one of the four seasons. We are currently working with the local schools and an organisation of artists specialising in working with children in schools to identify the groups of children and suitable artists. The intention is that each piece of artwork should be created during the season that it celebrates, starting this summer term with "Summer".

We have a sponsor who has kindly offered to part fund the project, and the money raised from selling some of the books from John Horder's collection will go towards funding it but in addition FoHL needs to raise several hundred pounds. We are exploring options for fund raising events to be held during the autumn, but in the meantime, we would welcome donations from the ever generous FoHL members.

This is our Charitable Foundation's first fundraising project.

Sarah Harrison Library Volunteer Coordinator

Things to Come

Thursday March 8th Toby Faber Faber and Faber: A distinguished Publishing House

As the grandson of Faber and Faber's founder, Toby Faber grew up steeped in its books. He was managing director for four years and is still on the board. This illustrated talk will trace the firm's history, trying to explain why it is the last of the great literary publishing houses to remain independent, while telling some of the stories about the publication of books familiar to us all.

Part of the firm's success relates to the strong editorial team - TS Eliot was famously an early recruit - but a large part is also due to the firm's insistence on good design and illustration. It has employed some of our most celebrated artists as cover illustrators - from Rex Whistler and Barnett Freedman to Peter Blake and Damien Hirst.

Thursday April 19th AGM & Gillian Tindall “The Tunnel Through Time”

Crossrail is the latest way of traversing a very old east–west route through what was once countryside to the city and out again. Visiting Stepney, Liverpool Street, Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street, Gillian Tindall traces the course of many of these historical journeys across time as well as space. *The Tunnel Through Time* uncovers the lives of those who walked where many of our streets still run.

Before the talk by Gillian Tindall, 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 on the last page. 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 May 10th Mrs Shaw Herself - A Glimpse into the life of Charlotte Payne-Townshend

Helen Tierney and actress Alexis Leighton present a one woman show based on the life of Charlotte Payne-Townshend, wife to George Bernard Shaw. Charlotte was a remarkable woman and their marriage was unconventional. She was a champion of women's rights, especially women’s suffrage and education and she funded the Shaw library at LSE. The show consists of readings and acted passages, texts which are almost entirely Charlotte's own words, as well as those of G.B.Shaw and her contemporaries such as Beatrice Webb, T.E. Lawrence and Mrs Patrick Campbell.

Thursday June 28th Love Scenes from As You Like it with Songs

The Live Literature Company are again using the tea lawn at Lauderdale House for their free summer Shakespeare performance and Valerie Doulton, the director welcomes Friends of Highgate Library.

Recent Events

Thursday December 14th Beth Shaw and Martin Bould Dante’s Brexit

An enthusiastic audience became the characters in an update of Dante’s Inferno negotiating our post-referendum journey in the UK. The twists and turns of this pop-up play by Beth Shaw and Martin Bould sparked hilarity and despair in equal measure.

Thursday January 11th Public Librarians in Victorian and Edwardian London

We enjoyed **Dr Michelle Johansen’s** talk about Public Libraries in Victorian and Edwardian London. A riveting story was animated by often surprising slides, such as a picture of the first generation of chief librarians, all men, most sporting commanding moustaches; another showing a solemn reading room with tall easel-like boards for newspaper reading. The final and much awaited story concerned Henry Bond, first chief librarian of Highgate Library. His great career prospects were stymied by the anti-library lobby, and his tragic end was hastened by what was then a professional transgression, being caught with a-not-his-wife-woman out of hours in his office.

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

Thursday February 8th Eve Harris 'The Marriage of Chani Kaufman'

Eve spoke to us about her background and how it was her final position as a teacher at an all girls' Ultra-Orthodox Jewish school that gave her the idea of writing her novel. She found the girls innocent about such matters as sex, for example, and her character 'Chani' is likewise confused. Eve amused us with anecdotes about her experiences in this closed world and how she, as a secular Jewish woman, had to quickly learn to negotiate around the many rules of behaviour. There were many questions from the audience and, thanks to Eve, the evening was humorous and relaxed.

Highgate Library Civic and Cultural Centre

Our hall continues to be popular for a wide range of community users. It is perfect for meetings of up to 80 people and for seminars and dance and exercise classes. We have sales, children's craft workshops, art exhibitions and our popular film club. Please enquire if you wish to hire our lovely space for your events and tell your friends about it. All enquiries to FOHL@dartmouthpark.org. More details at <http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/HLCCC-childrens-corner>.

Membership renewal 2018/9

A membership renewal form for 2018/9 is in this Newsletter. Current subscription is £6 (concessions are £3.) Donations are always welcome. 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. You can also pay by cash or cheque, cheques made payable to Friends of Highgate Library, which you deliver or post to Sarah Carrier membership secretary FOHL, at 37 Dartmouth Park Road, London NW5 1SU.

We use a secure email to send urgent messages, reminders of events and an email version of this newsletter so please ensure that we have your up to date email address. Ours is FOHL@dartmouthpark.org. Please put us in your address list. Our main expenditure is on our activities: the newsletters and events. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join. Our library is a unique public space with a proud history of providing a local service for the whole community. FOHL members receive a quarterly newsletter with news about the library and our events.

FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE LIBRARY

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

Chair: Linda Lefevre

Vice Chair & Membership: Sarah Carrier

Hon. Secretary: Margot Kafno

Hon. Treasurer: Patrick Lefevre

Committee: Michele Cohen, Alice Gutkind, Agnes Stewart,

Sarah Harrison, Ann Cheyne & Virginia Kerridge

President: Sue Perkins

Patrons: Julian Barnes, Joanna Briscoe, Tracy Chevalier, Hunter Davies, Caitlin Davies John Harvey, Charlotte Mendelson, & Andrew Motion
