



The Friends of Highgate Library

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2019

Highgate Library News

We have plans for many exciting future events. Local authors and enthusiasts continue to offer their time to entertain and enlighten us and we do appreciate them. Our eclectic mix includes local and wider history, poetry, drama and new fiction. Please see our new programme inside this newsletter. Remember there is always more information and an extended and often updated newsletter on our website.

Our volunteers - and especially Margaret and Bridget - do a wonderful job maintaining the little garden in front of the library where the benches and plaques remember earlier campaigners who fought to save our library. It has changed a little over the summer to make room for one wooden bench, while the stone bench from outside Chester Balmore has been settled just inside the gates. This move was the result of much local consultation and discussion enabled by Councillor Anna Wright to settle concerns about the bench's previous location. It is now happily settled in its new home thanks to her work, the council workers who moved it and the library's management group.

As always, we enjoyed a delightful July special assembly at Brookfield Primary School, presenting book prizes to the child in each class who had made the most progress in reading and hearing from them why they had chosen them. This year the prolific and award winning children's author, Ifeoma Onyefulu, was the guest speaker and she spoke about Africa's rich culture and traditions which inspire her writing.

We look forward to seeing you at our autumn events and at the York Rise street festival on Sunday 8th September - do stop and say hello!

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. We also welcome your suggestions for events.

Please visit our website, <http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL>.

Linda Lefevre, Chair

Things to Come

Sunday September 8th from 12 noon until late evening York Rise Street Festival We will be there with our usual stall. Please stop and chat.

Thursday September 12th 7.30pm Fabian Watkinson *The Golden Age of Camden Housing* Camden's first Borough Architect Sydney Cook built up a formidable team of young architects who resisted the enormous pressure from the government and the planners to build tower blocks and use industrialised building techniques. Instead they created modern versions of the traditional street, not estates cut off from the world around, using new materials to create light-filled and exciting interior spaces. These belong to a brief golden age when Camden's architects believed that nothing was too good for social housing. Fabian Watkinson, who has lived on the Whittington Estate for over twenty years, will look at their remarkable and humane achievement, focussing in particular on Highgate New Town which represents in microcosm the changing fashions in housing from the late 60s to the early 80s. Come and hear the fascinating story of its development. **This event is linked to the annual Open House weekend which celebrates architecture and offers free entry into our best buildings. This year it is September 21st and 22nd**

Thursday October 10th 7.30pm. Three Wild Women An evening of poetry. Three distinguished poets will share their work for this evening celebrating 25 years of National Poetry Day. **Jehane Markham** is a local poet, lyricist and dramatist. She has worked in radio, tv and theatre. *Sixteen Sunsets* is a collaborative poetry and blues album that she made with her sons and friends in memory of her late husband, Roger Lloyd Pack. She has published four collections and three albums. www.jehanemarkham.co.uk

Linda Black is a poet and visual artist. Her fourth collection, *Slant*, was published by Shearsman in 2016. *The Son of a Shoemaker* (Hearing Eye 2012), a collaged prose-poems based on the early life of Hans Christian Andersen, plus the author's illustrations, was the subject of a Poetry Society exhibition in 2013. She teaches for the Poetry School.

Martina Evans is an Irish poet and novelist. She grew up in County Cork and is the author of eleven books of poetry and prose, her latest book of poetry *Now We Can Talk Openly About Men* (2018) was a finalist for the Irish Times Poetry Prize, The Pigott Poetry Prize and the Roehampton Poetry Prize. She is a Royal Literary Fund Advisory Fellow and reviews for the Irish Times.

Thursday November 14th 7.30pm Children's Books in the Georgian Era "Stroppy teenagers in 1806!" Prof. Michèle Cohen brings to life the domestic world of children in the years between 1780 and 1830 through the books that they read. She has researched this and collected examples of popular books of the time.

Thursday December 12th Peterloo! 7.30pm 200th anniversary pop-up play

In 1819 peaceful protest met state tyranny - come and take part in Manchester's historic drama of peaceful protest and state tyranny. Martin Bould and Beth Shaw have created another play for audience participation. Join in by becoming the characters in this important drama. You will of course be fortified by mulled wine and tasty snacks as is our December tradition!

2020 Events In **January** we welcome **Tracy Chevalier** to introduce her latest novel, *A Single Thread* and in **February** Chef **Oliver Rowe** will talk all things food, local and seasonal.

Recent Events

Thursday June 13th Ian Dungavell Highgate Cemetery *A great garden of death* Ian told us about the horrors of burials and body snatchers before the great Victorian cemeteries were created. He then used many illustrations to describe how the magnificent Highgate Cemetery was designed and developed. Together with the excellent exhibition, this was a very entertaining evening.

Friday 28th June The Live Literature Company's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the Tea Lawn at Lauderdale House, Waterlow Park. This was the latest of Valerie Doulton's productions with students from Niagara University USA and it was a great success. It was a perfect warm summer evening with a large audience including families with young children. Most of the collection taken on the night has been donated to the Friends.

Thursday July 11th John Massey Stewart "Thomas, Lucy and Alatau; The Atkinsons' Adventures in Siberia and Kazakhstan" The highlight of this evening was the many photos of Atkinson's watercolours of the people and places on his journey, carefully explained with added maps and black and white photos. John has spent years searching them out and gave a fascinating talk about this man and his brave companion, Lucy.

News from the Library

Camden Libraries digital offer

Highgate Library is bigger than you may think!

Apart from the 15,000 items on the shelves and the thousands more you can request from Camden's other libraries – you can now download thousands of e-books, e-audio books, e-magazines and e-newspapers.

Camden subscribes to three platforms which you can access free with your library membership: Pressreader (e-newspapers and e-magazines), RB Digital (e-magazines, e-audio and e-books) and Overdrive (e-books on its new app Libby). You can get these on any computer with internet access, but the best way is to use tablet computer or a smart-phone: that way you can download and listen to an audio book or read an e-book or e-magazine while you're on the move.

The e-newspapers and e-magazines are complete electronic versions, laid out exactly like the print editions (including ads). Pressreader and RB Digital have nearly two thousand titles in 70 languages and from 150 countries: from Amateur Gardening to Vogue, the Economist to Viz; many leading newspapers from around the world, e.g. Liberation (France), China Daily (Hong Kong) and The Washington Post (USA); and most of the UK national and big regional newspapers (except for the Times).

RB Digital has more than 2,000 e-audio books and 150+ e-books; Libby has 7,000+ e-books, including 350 for kids and 250 for teenagers. To get access, you'll need to download an app and log-in with your library card number. To get started go to: www.camden.gov.uk/digital-library If you need any help, ask in the library. Happy reading! **Nick Durant, Camden Libraries Team Leader**

The theme for the **Summer Reading Challenge** this year was "Space Chase", to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. This clearly captured the imagination of the children as so far 99 children have enrolled, ten more than last year. Eleven children have already completed the Challenge although it is not yet the end of the holidays.

The aim of the Challenge is to encourage 4-11year olds to keep reading during the summer holidays by rewarding them with stickers for each two books read and reviewed. If the target of six books is reached, the child receives a medal and a certificate.

This year, for the first time, we have created displays of the children's reviews, which has clearly been a source of pleasure to the children. They pour over the reviews spotting their own and those of their friends. The Library staff and volunteers have very much enjoyed talking to the children about the books they have read and are delighted that so many children have taken part in the scheme. **Sarah Harrison, Chair of Highgate Library Management Group**

Keeping in touch

We use email to send urgent messages and reminders of events so please ensure that we have your up to date email address. Ours is FOHL@dartmouthpark.org .

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, Agnes Stewart, Paul Harris

Sarah Harrison, Ann Cheyne & Virginia Kerridge

President: Sue Perkins

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