



The Friends of Highgate Library

NEWSLETTER March 2014

FRIENDS NEWS

We were all so very sorry to hear that Roger Lloyd Pack, our president, had died. He had been a loyal supporter of the library from the early days of the Friends and was always willing to help in any way he could. He recently opened our new Civic and Cultural Centre and had agreed to be interviewed at our AGM later this month. We shall miss him very much.

With the AGM comes the opportunity to join the Friends' committee. Our work now falls into three main areas: firstly our traditional function of organising talks and producing this newsletter, secondly the marketing and letting of the Civic and Cultural Centre, and thirdly the discussions and planning for the future of the library. We already have a small management group for the Civic and Cultural Centre but it would be good to have smaller informal groups for each of the other two. But to achieve this we definitely need more hands to the pump! So if you are interested in helping in any way do please speak to a member of the committee or e-mail us at FOHL@dartmouthpark.org.

After thirteen years I shall be stepping down from the committee at the AGM. It has been a great and rewarding pleasure to work with such a dedicated and friendly group and I wish them all the very best for the uncertain future.

Fabian Watkinson, Chair of FOHL

Highgate Library Cultural and Civic Centre

The Friends have been managing this beautiful hall since last September. There are now several regular users running classes and many local community events have taken place there as well as children's and adult parties. The charge FOHL pays to Camden has to be raised from hire fees and while the hall's use is increasing, it is important for its future success that it is well used. Do you know people or organisations who might use it? If so please promote it!

A festive evening December 2013

A great time was had by all. The Children's Centre was festively decorated, and mulled wine tasted with all the nibbles eaten. Stories were told by Danny Scheinmann, wassail songs were sung by the members of the Cecil Sharp House Choir, with the audience joining in at times. In fact audience participation was the theme of this joyous occasion.

Paul Cox - A Journey Through His Art

On 23 January we were delighted to welcome Paul Cox, a freelance illustrator and painter. He showed us slides of his work, which covers a huge range of topics, including book and magazine covers and children's books. His father, Oliver Cox, was a well-known architect and artist, whose picture of the library heads our newsletter. His mother, Jean, as a local councillor helped save the Library from closure in the 1970s. Paul grew up in Grove Terrace and described how he accompanied his parents to Jamaica, where he found inspiration in land- and townscapes. He painted views of many towns and cities including New York, and pondered the question of whether, by capturing the essence of a place in a picture, one took something away from the scene. I would argue that rather, he adds something to the total of human experience! Certainly he uses perspective in a novel and individual way, a fish-eye or curved mirror view, something he attributes to his being dyslexic.

The audience asked how he managed to depict the Royal Albert Hall with the Royal College of Music behind it. He must surely have climbed the Albert Memorial but no, the answer was that he went up in a hot air balloon! He described illustrating Dylan Thomas's *The Outing* which is a description of a pub crawl from a child's point of view, hardly a suitable topic for a children's book, but the witty result is perfect for all age-groups. A memorable evening.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

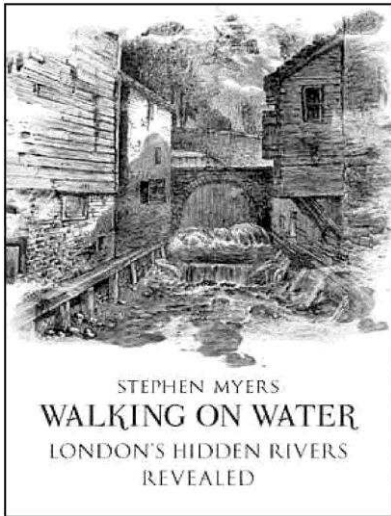
Quiz Night fund-raiser on Tuesday March 18th at 7.30pm to raise money to equip our Civic and Cultural Centre hall with new projector, a screen and sound equipment for film shows. The local Labour Party are organising the Quiz Night. There will be refreshments and a raffle. One of our patrons **Tracy Chevalier** has agreed to come and help with the fund-raising.

Tickets are £10 each or £45 for 5, buy them in advance by calling 0207 267 1691 or 07940 184075 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/q868u2s>

Please come – teams can be organised on the night, or bring your friends!

Annual General Meeting Thursday March 27th at 7.30pm

“The Fleet – Highgate and Hampstead’s Lost River. Can it be Revived?”



Stephen Myers is a consulting engineer who has worked in the field of water and wastewater engineering for many years. For the first 25 years of his career, he specialised in the planning, design and implementation of major water and wastewater projects throughout the world. Since 1990, he has practised as an independent consultant, specialising in advising international agencies, government and companies in 70 countries in 4 continents. He has recently researched London’s underground rivers and published “Walking on Water: London’s Hidden Rivers Revealed”.

Before Stephen’s talk there will be a short business meeting with reports on the year’s work. This meeting includes elections to the Committee. Current officers and committee are listed below. 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

Poetry reading, Thursday 17 April at 7.30pm.

Roy Batt and fellow veterinary surgeons will read poetry from their book, 'My Constant Endeavour' Poems by Veterinary Surgeons and Nurses. The book of poems was edited by Roy and has 38 contributors. Not surprisingly, the collection features poetry concerning a range of animal species but there are also poems about the general human condition, for example, concerning love, grief, war, beliefs, and dreams to name but a few of the subjects touched upon. Some poems are humorous, some serious, some are farcical and others tragic. There is also no one style or form to the poems and they range from regular verse to sonnets and haiku. This will be a most interesting and moving event, and to quote Roy's words about this anthology: as well as all animal life, all human experience is to be found here.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2014

Your membership fee is due if you find a renewal form in this Newsletter. Current subscription is £5 (concessions are £2). You can pay by cash or cheque

made payable to Friends of Highgate Library. Donations are welcome and help us to campaign to keep library services. Thank you for your continuing support.

You can bring your subscription to the AGM on March 27th, or follow the instructions on the form. If you wish to keep up with last minute changes and campaigning activities please ensure that we have your up to date email address. Ours is FOHL@dartmouthpark.org so you can email us with comments too.

Our main expenditure is on our activities: the quarterly newsletters and giving annual prizes at Brookfield School for the children who have made most progress in reading. Tell your friends and neighbours about FOHL and encourage them to join. Our library is a unique public space with a proud history of providing a local public service for the whole community.

Keeping in touch

Apart from our website at www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL we are on Twitter and Facebook – follow us and like us please!

READING GROUP

We meet every month on a Tuesday afternoon in the library reading and discussing a wide range of books.. The books we read are chosen democratically and all suggestions are considered by the group. The book we will be discussing next is 'Stoner' by John Williams - a moving portrayal of a sensitive man who discovers a passion for literature and the academic life. When our discussions are exhausted, we wind down with tea, biscuits and chat. At present we have ten members. If you 'd like to join us do get in touch and we will keep your name on a list. Margot Kafno: 020 7267 5565 & Ann Lewis: 020 7272 1722

FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE LIBRARY

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

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| Chair: | Fabian Watkinson |
| Hon. Secretary: | Margot Kafno |
| Hon. Treasurer: | Linda Lefevre |
| Committee: | Sarah Carrier, Michele Cohen, Andy Edwards, Alice Gutkind, Sarah Harrison, Agnes Stewart and Sally Thompson |

Patrons: Hunter Davies, June Rose, Julian Barnes & Tracy Chevalier