



NEW COMMITTEE, NEW CHALLENGES

At the Friends' AGM on 22 March a strong new committee was elected, comprising four officers and six other members. We are:

Chair	Jeffrey Doorn	foclchair@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Eleanor Mitchiner	foclvicechair@gmail.com
Secretary	Ceres Dandridge	
Treasurer	Bob Goodrick	
Members	Sue Beynon	
	Carol Boucher	
	Marco Hall	
	Frances Lamb – Newsletter & Publicity	foclnewsletter@gmail.com
	Elizabeth Ochagavia – Membership Sec	foclmembers@gmail.com
	Jackie Plumridge – Events (with Bob & Ceres)	

Meanwhile, there have been changes affecting Lambeth's libraries, and the Carnegie in particular. In a recent reshuffle, Cllr Sally Prentice became Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & the Olympics. She has visited the library; and the Friends are looking forward to working with her. Local arrangements have also changed: no longer managed jointly with Brixton, the Carnegie is now part of a new group, which links us with Waterloo, Minet and Lambeth Archives, all under the overarching management of Jon Newman and Len Reilly. The Principal Librarian responsible for Carnegie and our sister libraries is Oneil Williams, who knows the library well and has been a familiar figure to users for some time.

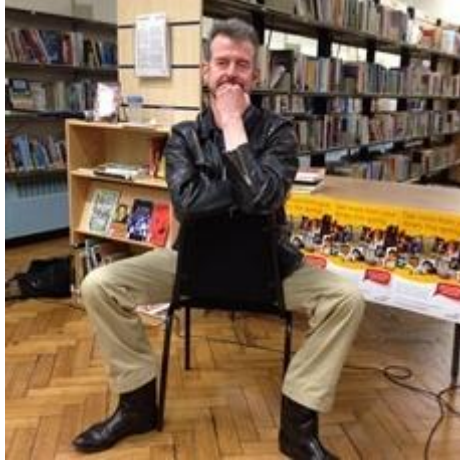
One consequence of the re-grouping is that some staff who often worked at Carnegie will remain at Brixton or take assignments elsewhere. However, three staff members opted to work at Carnegie as their first choice: Lisa, Nicole, and Orlanda. This should provide a sense of continuity and stability; library users have long wished for permanent staff with a feeling for the Carnegie. Expect also to see other staff from within the new group working here from time to time. Lambeth's proposals for cooperative libraries calls for co-production with the local community; we will all be expected to work together to create a thriving library as the core of an active community hub. (*Update: Lisa left the library service this month*).

We are pursuing a number of outstanding issues; and I am pleased to report the missing second computer will be replaced in the Children's Library, flood-damaged walls and ceiling refurbished and gutters regularly cleaned. Repair of the bashed about swing doors in the main library will also be undertaken. Our new Teenage area will be officially launched this summer – look out for details. Other points highlighted at the AGM, including improving stock levels, extending opening hours and reinstating our reference section are subject to further discussion. Quarterly management meetings are set to resume, which should ensure communication improves and problems are dealt with quickly in future. Your comments, suggestions and offers of help are always welcome. Together we will succeed.

Jeffrey Doorn

COMING EVENTS

Exciting events taking place in the library include two author sessions in the Readers & Writers Festival, 8 and 28 May. The first welcomed novelist and literary critic Adam Mars-Jones (pictured), who lives in Herne Hill. He gave a very entertaining talk about his career, the process of writing and some tips he gives his students. He read from his latest novel, *Cedilla*, as well as earlier works, and then dealt with a variety of questions.



The second author event (on **28 May**) ties in with the Dickens bicentenary, as Lynn Shepherd presents her new book exploring the dark underside of Victorian life.

For a breath of fresh air, on **9 June**, our Reading & Wildlife Garden is featured in Open Garden Squares Weekend <http://www.opensquares.org/>. The Friends will as usual have a stall at the Friends of Ruskin Park Summer Fete on **23 June**; visit between 1.00 and 4.00pm and enjoy music from the bandstand. Then on **4 August** we are holding a follow-up to last year's hugely successful Bat Fun Day, followed by an evening bat walk in Ruskin Park in conjunction with Embrace Cooperation's Lost Stories series of events.

JD

MORE 2012 ANNIVERSARIES

The last issue highlighted literary and other anniversaries being marked this year. Three we inadvertently left out were Joan of Arc, Robert Browning and Lawrence Durrell.

The 'Maid of Orleans', an ordinary peasant girl who taught the military, religious and political 'experts' a thing or two, was born 600 years ago, in 1412. She has been the subject of books, plays, paintings and films, with depictions by the likes of Shaw and Shakespeare, the latter in *Henry VI Part 1*. Sadly, we no longer have a copy of Shaw's *Saint Joan* or indeed any G B Shaw. As for *Henry VI*, somehow we still have *Part 3* among the remaining three plays by the Bard on our shelves – the other thirty-four have been deleted. Poet Robert Browning was born in Camberwell 7 May 1812. None of his works remain at Carnegie; he has two entries in *The Nation's Favourite Poems*, but that collection is missing as well.

Novelist, poet and dramatist Lawrence Durrell was born in 1912. In the mid-1970s I was urged to read his *Alexandria Quartet* (published 1957-1960). My then local library, Maida Vale, had all four volumes, and over the course of a year I was able to borrow and read them in sequence. Can you imagine that happening in Lambeth today?



Jeffrey Doorn

SHELVES – WHAT STYLE DO YOU PREFER?



Over the years we have lost not only books but shelves as well. Whole stacks have been removed, their former positions clearly seen on the parquet floor before it was refurbished. Regular Carnegie users will have noticed the shelf tops all along the walls also disappeared a few years ago. The top shelves are thus now treated as shelf tops, i.e. either left empty or holding a flower pot, framed certificate or a couple of larger books standing face out. As if that were not enough, all the shelves now sport several facing out books. Apparently there is a theory that this is attractive and will draw people to borrow; that is the “less is more” philosophy. The opposing theory is that library shelves should not be empty, nor should they be treated as display units; and that people are quite capable of browsing and choosing books as they have at Carnegie since 1906, without needing to be led. There are several standing displays and wall units showing new books, tie-ins with special events or commemorations; they should be sufficient to call particular books to our attention. What do you think? Should our shelves be empty/half-empty and used for face out displays, or should they be full of books stacked in the traditional way? Comments please to foclchair@gmail.com or leave a note in the Friends’ red tray in the library.

JD

ANYONE for ‘CRAFTS at CARNEGIE’?



It seems that local residents are a crafty bunch – there have been several queries about whether there might be craft sessions when the ‘community hub’ gets going and we have longer and better opening hours. It is still early days and the shape and rules of a working community hub have yet to emerge. In principle, however, the answer must be yes, IF enough people are available to run such sessions. Other suggestions include music making, a gardening club and French lessons. In time we might see a whole range of activities running; some could be self-run’ by enthusiasts, while others could be ‘taught sessions’. Since a community hub must provide for *all* local residents, any charges should be considered carefully. However, the building must contribute to its own upkeep, and so it seems likely that compromises would have to be made. Depending on overall demands on the space, there could be a mix of voluntary (not-for-profit) activities and profit-making activities. Obviously anyone wanting to run a class for profit must expect to be charged an appropriate fee.

At present, all aspects of Lambeth’s community hub proposal are still up for discussion. But if and when our hub takes off, who knows - we may see classes and clubs scheduled for every day of the week! If you, or someone you know, would like to suggest an idea for a club, class or other service that would fit at the Carnegie, one way is to get in touch with the Friends. Either drop a note into the Friends Red Tray (next to the Library desk) or email foclnewsletter@gmail.com Don’t be backward at coming forward!

Frances Lamb

EVENTS

Tues 8– Fri 25 May, Carnegie Gallery exhibition
Eco-Fashion Community Project,
MD Art Studio, with Nic Menash-Dika, Textiles Artist.

Monday 28 May, Carnegie Library, 7pm
Tom-All-Along's with author **Lynn Shepherd**
Tom-All-Along's was the working title of Dickens' *Bleak House*.

Tuesday 29 May, The Prince of Wales, Brixton Road 7pm
Book launch '*Lambeth Architecture 1914 -1939*'. Local author **Edmund Bird**, historian and heritage adviser.

Saturday 9 June, Carnegie Library Garden, 10am-5pm
Open Garden Squares Weekend www.opensquares.org/

Wed 13 June, Herne Hill United Church Hall, 7.45pm
The Cinema Museum with Martin Humphries
Herne Hill Society monthly event. All welcome

Saturday 23 June, Ruskin Park, 1.00 – 4pm
Friends of Ruskin Park **summer fete**.
FoCL will have a stall.

Saturday 4 August, Carnegie Library Garden 2.30 - 5.30
Bat Fun Day. Lots of batty activity, and an evening bat walk in Ruskin Park. Look out for the poster.

Regular events at Carnegie Library:

First Saturday of the month, 2.30 – 3.30pm:
Councillor Carol Boucher's surgery at Carnegie Library.
Tel 07814 567914 email cboucher@lambeth.gov.uk

First Saturday of the month, 2 - 4pm:
G&T (gardening and tea!) at Carnegie Library. Do some gardening and follow with free tea and cake.

First Saturday of the month, 2.30 - 4.30pm:
Teatime at Carnegie Library.
Tea, coffee, soft drinks and delicious home-made cakes.

First Monday of the month, 7 - 8.30pm:
Book Group at Carnegie Library.
Ask the librarians for the current book.

First and third Wednesday of the month, 10am - 12noon:
Silver surfers. Introduction to the internet. 6 & 20 June.

Every Wednesday, 10.30 – 12 noon:
Book at Breakfast. Listen to a story read aloud to you.

Every Friday, 10.30am - noon:
Story time for under-5s at Carnegie Children's Library.
Rhymes, stories and crafts.

Every Saturday, 2.45 - 5pm:
Chess Club – Carnegie Library Gallery.
For experienced or novice players of any age.
Free entry and tuition. Email: foclmembers@gmail.com

VISIT THE LIBRARY!!

188 Herne Hill Road, Herne Hill SE24 OAG

Telephone: 020 7926 6050

Email: carnegielibrary@lambeth.gov.uk

Don't forget 'Use it or Lose it'



OPENING HOURS:

Mon	1pm-8pm
Wed	10am-6pm
Fri	10am-6pm
Sat	9am-5pm

BOOK ORDERING SERVICE

If the book you want is not on the shelf, use the ordering service in the library or via

<http://libraries.lambeth.gov.uk/TalisPrism/>

DVDs

There is a good selection of DVDs for adults and children to rent.

CDs and TAPES

The Carnegie stocks a good range of talking books, language courses etc.

INTERNET

Don't forget that the Carnegie has free internet access.

INFORMATION AND EVENTS

Browse through the leaflets in the entrance hall and look out for useful information on the notice boards.

THE GALLERY SPACE

To book the space, see library staff.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors or quoted sources and not necessarily those of the Friends' committee. Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. Send your letter, article or information to the editor at 6 Sunray Avenue, SE24 9PY.

Or email it to foclnewsletter@gmail.com Thank you.

To contact the Friends, please either drop a note in the Friends' Red Tray in the library, or email foclchair@gmail.com or telephone 7274 3176.