



September Splendours



The Friends' garden and tea day on Saturday 6 September will be an extra special event. There are three linked components: communing with nature in the garden, enjoying refreshments in the main library and launching an exhibition in the gallery.

The celebration begins with our **garden volunteer session** from 11:00, where we shall mark the change of season from summer growth to autumn harvest. Come and see how your garden has grown and join in reaping the benefits while tidying and preparing for further growth and development. As usual, those who work in the garden are rewarded with free tea and cake. **The tea stall** will have a harvest theme, featuring sweet and savoury fare at very reasonable prices. Plans have not been finalised as we go to press, but it is hoped to combine some **big book storytelling** with a **seasonal display of books**.

Local artist Jo Self has booked **the gallery** for the month of September, and she will launch her exhibition to tie in with the Friends' first Saturday. She will exhibit three narrative oil paintings on gilded cherry wood and some of her father's photographs. Her father was one of the first television cameramen for ITN news and was also an amateur astronomer. Jo Self's flower paintings are widely acclaimed. Reviewer Neil Spencer writes of "their exuberance and tenderness, their mastery of colour and texture and their stylised but naturalistic approach. Jo captures both the outward grace of nature and its inner spirit." Her brother-in-law, Will Self, says her "floral paintings are like the darkness at the edge of the sun – a triumphant exploration of the power of pigment to titivate the psyche and arouse the emotions."

Jo studied at Wimbledon School of Art, where she won a prize with a series of narrative paintings, and at Chelsea School of Art & Design. She has lectured at Wimbledon and the Slade School and has shown work all over London and as far away as Mexico City. She has had residencies at Kew Gardens, the Dali Lama's garden and Tate Britain.

On Monday evening 15 September at 7pm, Jo Self returns to the Carnegie to present *The Secret of Eternal Youth*, a hand printed book with poetry by Jo Lee, illustrations by Jo Self and photographs by Jim Lee. Jo writes, "This poetry book was inspired by my residency painting in the private garden of His Holiness the Dali Lama in 2004/5. I have chosen to launch this book in the Carnegie because as you will see in my father's photographs I was one of the first t. v. children." Libraries are very important to her, and as a Herne Hill resident, she uses the Carnegie regularly. Look out for further details, and don't miss this very special event.

www.joself.org

Jeff Doorn



Your Garden Grows



Everyone who visits the library these days remarks how lovely the garden is looking. It is very gratifying to see it in regular use and to know people of all ages have been enjoying it throughout the spring and summer.

Thinking back to the marvellous opening party in May, when the garden resounded with music, laughter and happy conversation of over 100 people, more than half of them children, we must remember that day was both an end and a beginning. It marked the end of the funded project to create the garden and the beginning of our collective responsibility to maintain it for continued use and enjoyment.

Many people signed up to be garden club members or be kept informed; but more are always welcome. There are regular garden work days the first Saturday of the month. We have shovels, forks, gloves, etc. in the storage area for use by volunteers. Nothing heavy is involved; and it is very satisfying to do your bit, any time between 11:00 and 3:00, and then socialise over a cup of tea.

We may be getting help with some of the bigger jobs. Southwark Volunteer Centre is trying to round up a team to come and remove the unsightly tarmac path using a mattock and some muscle power so we can create a natural path with wood chippings we collected. They might also build natural wood railings alongside the log steps to the compost bin area.

Day to day maintenance, however, is down to us. Please think about adding your name to the garden club list, or just come along to one of the garden days and get stuck in. You don't have to commit to coming every month, but every little bit helps. Let's do our best to ensure library users continue to say how lovely the garden is looking.

Jeff Doorn



Management Changes



Many of the Friends will recall Garath Symonds visiting the Winter Fair and the very favourable impression he made. Those of us who have had dealings with him subsequently continue to have the same high opinion of him and his work. Sadly, we are losing him. He was Acting Divisional Director of Cultural Services, which comprises Libraries, Parks and Sport. The permanent post was duly advertised, candidates interviewed and a man unknown to us appointed with effect from 1st October. His name is Peter Jones and he has been running Cultural Services for Luton.

Mr Jones will be the fourth Director in two years. Each one seems to arrive with good ideas, which could be expected to improve the public's benefit from the Library Service, but then departs before he has had an opportunity to implement them. This is far from satisfactory. In particular, your committee make the effort to work with each new person only then to find that they have been wasting their time.

Lambeth continue to "join up" bits of their administrative structure. In theory the current set of changes affect Cultural Services. In practice, the division operates as a separate unit and we should expect this to continue.

Laura Chrysostomou, the Area Manager for Brixton and Carnegie Libraries, also, has departed and her permanent replacement will be appointed in due course. In the meantime Vincia Bennett is standing in. It is no secret that many of the Friends and other library users would like Vincia to become the new permanent Area Manager.

Stephen Carlill

Keeping the Carnegie Weathertight



The roof over the main library is copper??. It should last pretty well forever and not need any maintenance. The pitched roofs over other parts of the building are another matter. These drain into roof gutters which are concealed behind parapet walls and extremely difficult to reach. The gutters easily become clogged with leaves and other debris. Lambeth had the building surveyed in 2003 and the surveyors found extensive rainwater penetration of the ceilings and upper walls. Remedial work was carried out. The surveyors advised that the gutters would need to be cleared twice a year by a contractor specialising in this type of work but arrangements for this were never made and rainwater again came through the ceilings in the Children's Library and elsewhere.

From October 2006 onwards your committee repeatedly asked the then Head of Libraries, then Divisional Director and the Cabinet Member then responsible for libraries to make the necessary arrangements but got nowhere. Fortunately, it was announced that the Audit Commission would be inspecting Lambeth's Cultural Services in May 2008. We informed Lambeth that we would be telling the commission of Lambeth's persistent failure to make routine arrangements which "any reasonably competent property manager" could make "in a matter of days". That seems to have done the trick. When we subsequently pursued the matter through our local councillors they were informed that the necessary arrangements had been made and the gutters cleared in June 2008.

Getting Lambeth to do even the most basic of routine maintenance can be a quite a slog. The underlying reason for this seems to be a belief amongst officers and, to a lesser extent, councillors that Lambeth does not do maintenance. This belief appears to be deep rooted and to go back some decades. One consequence is that no money is budgeted for routine maintenance. There is a budget described as being for maintenance but that money and more besides is spent on urgent repairs to keep libraries open. Often, of course, those repairs are made necessary by the lack of routine maintenance previously.

Happily, attitudes are changing. The Transformational Review last year, while generally unenthusiastic about the existing library buildings, recommended increasing the total maintenance budget to £250,000 a year. Shared between nine dilapidated library buildings this is not a great deal of money but might be enough to keep out the weather and slow down significantly the rate at which they are deteriorating. The money was not included in the council's 2008/9 budget when this was set at the end of 2007 and there has been no practical possibility of getting it included for 2008/9 subsequently.

However, your committee can and will pursue the matter later this year in the expectation of getting the money included in the 2009/10 budget. Local councillors are supportive, Kirsty McHugh, Rebecca Thackray and John Whelan openly so. Jim Dickson, being the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, is necessarily more circumspect but assures us that the Labour administration "recognises the need" for more money.

Stephen Carlill

Times Past History Box

Bring your family objects, papers and photographs to the library between 10.30 and 12.00 on **Wednesday 15th October** to be viewed by Lambeth Archives and local historians. Experts will be on hand to help you identify, interpret and date your own local history. Staff will be available to offer advice on storage and preservation as well.

Lambeth Archives would like to include some of the best finds on the Lambeth Landmark archive website so let's see what hidden historical gems are lurking away in Lambeth homes. Everything is welcome from family records to old photographs – anything you are willing to share.



MEMBERSHIP

Many thanks for renewing your FOCL membership and for your generous donations and offers of help which are much appreciated.

We will not be sending individual acknowledgments but will be contacting you when we need to take you up on your kind offers to volunteer.

MILKWOOD RESIDENTS COMMUNITY PARK RETAINS GREEN FLAG FOR THIRD YEAR



A total of four Lambeth parks was submitted this year for The Green Flag Award Scheme. The Civic Trust based in Liverpool manages the scheme on behalf of communities and local authorities and the Green Flag Advisory Board. The four entries were from Milkwood Community Park, Vauxhall Park, Ruskin Park and St. Paul's Church Gardens. The results were announced in July and to the joy of everyone involved with The Milkwood Community Park, an award for was given to them for the third time.

Milkwood Community Park is right in the middle of the Milkwood Estate, which has boundaries on Milkwood Road, Heron Road and Lowden Road. It is jointly looked after by Milkwood Residents Association and Lambeth Council. Two members of Milkwood Residents Association, Maude Estwick and Jackie Plumridge, along with Theresa Hoare (Lambeth Parks Ranger) and Dr. Iain Boulton (Project Officer, Parks and Greenspaces for Lambeth) went to Liverpool to collect 'The Flag' at the Green Flag Awards Ceremony.

A future date is to be planned at the Town Hall after the summer holidays to thank everybody involved with all the parks.

Jackie Plumridge.

Please encourage friends and neighbours to join by passing this newsletter on when you have read it. Membership forms available in the library or from Helen, our Membership Secretary
h.orourke@dewynters.com

AUTUMN EVENTS

6th-30th September - the **Carnegie Gallery**, exhibition of paintings and photographs by Jo Self. See front page.



Saturday 6th September – celebrate the autumn harvest – see front page. **Gardening from 11am, harvest tea and events from 2.30pm.**

Monday 15th September 7pm - **The Secret of Eternal Youth** by Jo Self – see front page.

First Saturday of the month – 4th October, 1st November 2.30-4.30 pm: **Teatime** – Carnegie Library. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and delicious home-made cakes for sale.



First Saturday of the month – 4th October, 1st November 11am onwards: **Garden Work Days** – Carnegie Library. Please come along for as long as you can, followed by free refreshments.

Every Saturday - **resumes 13th September** 3-5 pm: **Chess Club** – Carnegie Library Gallery. For experienced or novice players of any age. Free entry and tuition.

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

Third Wednesday of the month 10am-12pm: **Silver Surfers** – Carnegie Library. Come to this 50+ group and learn how to use the internet with free tea, coffee and chat too.

Every Friday 10.30am-noon: **Storytime for under 5s** – rhymes, stories and crafts – Carnegie Children's Library.

Wednesday 15th October 10am-12.30pm: **Times Past History Box** – see article – Carnegie Library.

VISIT THE LIBRARY!!

VISIT THE LIBRARY

If you have not already done so, do come and visit the reading garden if you have not already done so and enjoy the oasis of tranquility.

OPENING HOURS:

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

188 Herne Hill Road, Tel . 7926 6050

BOOK ORDERING SERVICE

If the book you want is not on the shelf, use the ordering service via the computer terminals

DVDs

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

CASSETTES and CDs

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

INTERNET

Don't forget that the Carnegie has free internet access for all! First fifteen minutes without booking but for longer slots just ask the librarian.

INFORMATION AND EVENTS

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

THE GALLERY SPACE

Entrance through children's section. To book the space enquire at the library. 6th- 30th September **Jo Self** – see article.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors or quoted sources and not necessarily those of the FoCL Committee. Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. Please send letters, articles or information to 139 Herne Hill Road, SE24 OAD or email elizocha@otmail.co.uk.

