



Deck the halls with boughs of holly

FRIENDS OF CARNEGIE LIBRARY
PRESENT

A WINTER FAIR

11AM-3PM SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
Carnegie Library, 188, Herne Hill Road, SE24

**DELICIOUS HOME MADE
REFRESHMENTS FOR SALE**

**RAFFLE, TOMBOLA
ARTS AND CRAFTS
CHRISTMAS CARDS
AND PRESENTS**

**NOVELTIES AND GAMES
CHRISTMAS QUIZ FOR ALL AGES**

*Come dressed as a Christmas
decoration to this Fair,
You'll get a prize and
Father Christmas will be there!*

LIVING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN GORGEOUS COSTUMES WILL BE THERE THROUGHOUT
SMALL REWARD FOR EVERY CHILD ATTENDING IN CHRISTMAS COSTUME!

**FREE CHILDREN'S
CRAFT ACTIVITIES**



ALL THE USUAL
LIBRARY SERVICES
AVAILABLE 9.00-5.00

**Admission
FREE!**

WINTER FAIR FROM AFAR

or

Move Over, Wendy Cope

**My aunt she died some months ago
And left me all her riches
A rump-tump-tum and a tumpy-ta
And a pair of calico breeches**

No, not really, but her sudden and unexpected demise, much lamented in her corner of the Potteries, meant that I, as her nearest relative in this country, found myself in the unenviable role of funeral arranger, house-clearer, family archivist, will-searcher, bill-payer and all the other horrors which follow a sudden death.

At weekends, I would stagger home, tired out and able to do little more than observe the alarming state of my own house and garden. I hadn't really cleared away the remains of a children's production about the history of coffee which had invaded the garage. There were carrier bags full of returned pirates and a town-crier, all nicely washed by their borrowers, and some bonnets and cloaks for Dickensian carol-singers – good grief, how long had they been there?? So I had to cancel my involvement in the Folk Dance Club's Costume Ball, but couldn't refuse a request for assistance with costumes for 'Toad of Toad Hall', mercifully not for the whole cast.

And then there came the awful realisation that although I could hardly hope to attend any working-parties for planning the Winter Fair, time was running out. I made some agitated phone calls to confirm the theme ('Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly'), agreed to decorate the library and devise a quiz, provide costumes for committee members and write a verse for the poster:

Deck the halls with boughs of holly Dress as a decoration See the stalls and Santa jolly Diddly diddly dee Fancy dress creation NO!	Come in costume as a living decoration And win a prize for your fancy dress creation Father Christmas, stalls and games so jolly Will deck Carnegie with boughs of holly NOT RIGHT!
Come in costume as a Christmas decoration And get a prize for your fancy-dress creation Father Christmas in his cave, stalls, free games, fun, Quiz for kids and parents, fun for everyone TOO LONG!	Deck the halls with boughs of holly Stalls and games and Santa jolly You, dressed as living decorations, Win a prize for your fancy-dress creations NEARLY!
Father Christmas will be there Come as living decorations If you do, there'll be a prize For your fancy-dress creations NOT IT!	Dress as a decoration Get a prize at the Winter Fair Buy lovely things and make a wish Father Christmas will be there WON'T DO!

I don't feel that the role of Local Celebrity Poet is in any danger at present, if ever. Keep it simple. Here goes:

Members of the Committee and other extroverts will be dressed to represent Christmas decorations. Members of the public, of any age, are asked to do the same and will receive a small prize (don't get too excited) for their pains. The costumes need not be very elaborate or difficult – most children's dressing-up sets could qualify their wearers with little or no modification.

The quiz this year is ideally suited to adult/child duos – it will include a choice of titles for each costume and will help you to get to know the Committee and FOCL supporters. The titles will make you smile and the costumes will range from the beautiful to the comic via the mildly surprising, but include nothing to bring the blush of modesty to the cheek of shame (or vice versa) unless my idea for 'Christmas Stocking' completely unnerves its wearer (who hasn't been told about it yet).

Our meeter and greeter, who will welcome you and distribute programmes, will be particularly lovely and our fabulous Father Frost will come from Russia as usual. All sorts of cards, presents, decorations and delicious food and drink will be for sale and there will be free seasonal crafts, always very popular, for children (and adults). The quiz is free too – just bring a pen or pencil to fill in your entry.

That's where I came in, so that's where I go out. Now I'll go and make a vital phone call about a Christmas stocking...



**Come as a Christmas
Decoration to this Fair
You'll get a prize
And Father Christmas will be there**

*Ceres E. S. Dandridge
Carnegie's Self-appointed Poet in Residence*

Safe for the Moment

Councillor Mark Bennett, Lambeth's Cabinet Member for Culture, has made a commitment that none of the existing libraries in the borough will be closed while he has the Culture portfolio.

Previously, there was only a commitment not to reduce the number of libraries in Lambeth from the current total of nine. This was worrying because a new library is due to open at Clapham Park next year and the council have set aside funds to open a library at Streatham Vale to replace one that they closed years ago.

The new commitment is extremely welcome. However, it should be appreciated that it is temporary because the Cabinet members change portfolios every year or two.

Stephen Carlill, Chair

Ruskin Readers



Volunteers are needed to help adult students with reading and writing skills on Wednesday afternoons 2.30-4.30pm in the gallery at Carnegie Library.

This is a good opportunity to share your enthusiasm for reading. We work on a one-to-one basis in a warm and friendly environment.

Please call Caroline 020 7274 2443 or email cknapp22@btinternet.com for further details.

Ward Purse



This is a new scheme being tried out by Lambeth Council. The councillors in each ward can collectively apply for finance for up to three projects. Our Herne Hill councillors have not so far had many suggestions for projects and they are keen to have more. I would be very grateful to hear from anyone who has an idea, even a very vague one, for a project that would benefit the library.

Each project must cost at least £1,000 and the total cost of a ward's projects must not be more than £12,000. The money must count as capital expenditure, that is, it must be a one off payment that produces a lasting benefit.

There are some very restrictive time limits. The deadline for the councillors' application is 12th December and before making the application they have to get council officers to agree that the council should be responsible for resulting future expenditure for, for example, maintenance. All projects must be completed by the end of March.

My email address is foclchair@googlemail.com or a note can be left for me in our tray in the library. My telephone number is 020 7274 7008 and I am often in during the day.

Stephen Carlill, Chair

Memoir of Carnegie Library

Anthony Wall has written this fascinating piece on his recollections of our library in the sixties. He says '.....the library (Carnegie) was brilliantly stocked and it was an invaluable aid to my studies, especially in literature. Of course that was not just the Carnegie but the easy access to the other libraries in the borough and then libraries beyond. This is especially the case with books that were not on any recommended list at school but ones I came across brilliantly chosen by those charged with buying the books.'

He went on to direct and produce films for the acclaimed BBC Arts strand Arena for nearly thirty years. Under his guidance Arena's witty director-led films have gone on to won awards and honours worldwide.



It was 1967, one of those years when the world appeared to change. I was doing my A levels and, on Saturdays, working as an assistant in the Carnegie Library.

My overriding memory of the library is one of calm. Under the iron regime of Miss Steere, the library ran as smoothly and coherently as the Dewey Decimal System. There weren't actually notices demanding SILENCE, they were hardly necessary. I came back from lunch one day to be told that a reader had had an epileptic fit; you would never have known.

The only thing that would disrupt the peace would be an occasional visit from the Irish writer Brian Behan, one of the notorious Behan brothers, who lived locally. He'd lean on his beefy forearm on the counter, towering over Patricia, her eyes downcast as she pressed the date punch onto his books,

“Admit it darlin’”, he boomed, “Working that little machine gives you a powerful sexual thrill!”

Reprobates and hooligan elements were thin on the ground. The readers were a gentle lot, their favourite authors were Eric Ambler, Margery Allingham and above all Georgette Heyer, English writers for English people. They were unassuming and well mannered and drawn from surrounding roads with leafy names – Deepdene, Holmdene, Elfindale and Fawnbrake. Names that suggested a rustic aspiration.

Off the beaten track, Herne Hill seemed like a place from another time, nestled among the turbulence of Brixton, the old world London of Camberwell and the riches of Dulwich Village. As the P4 climbs the hill and passes the library, the two miles it travels from Brixton Police Station to Dulwich Art Gallery might as well be two thousand.

I look back on my couple of years as a Saturday assistant with extreme fondness and I find the library's continuing existence and its fine building reassuring. I recall its peace as I gaze from the top of Poplar Walk towards the Emerald City of Central London and think of an altogether different life.

Anthony Wall, October 2008

WINTER EVENTS

Wednesday 19th November 6.30pm – **launch of Lunch at the Elephant and Castle by Katrina Naomi** – Streatham Library, Streatham High Road www.lambeth.gov.uk

Saturday 6th December 11am-3pm - **Winter Fair** – Carnegie Library. See flyer.

Wednesday 10th December 7.30pm – **Music Halls of London, seasonal treat exploring amusements of times past** – Herne Hill United Church Hall, Red Post Hill, non-members welcome. www.hernehillsociety.org.uk

Wednesday 14th January 7.30pm – **Astronomers and Oddities** – Herne Hill United Church Hall, Red Post Hill, non-members welcome www.hernehillsociety.org.uk

First Saturday of the month – 3rd January, 7th February 2.30-4.30 pm: **Teatime** – Carnegie Library. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and delicious home-made cakes for sale.



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

Every Saturday - 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.

VISIT THE LIBRARY!!

Don't forget 'Use it or Lose it'.



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 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

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 see librarian for longer.

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

Autumn Show – Oils, Mixed Media and Watercolours by Carola Mathers until 28th November www.alternativeartsales.com To exhibit see library staff.

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@hotmail.co.uk

