



## HELP SHAPE CARNEGIE'S FUTURE

The future of Carnegie Library is in your hands. Lambeth Libraries Commission's report, delivered 21 November 2011, called for "co-production with the local community...at the earliest opportunity" leading to "Carnegie becoming a full community hub which results in significantly more users and visitors". Lambeth has now designated Carnegie as one of the first in a proposed network of community hubs across the borough. These would "provide flexible, economical space" from which groups could "operate, co-produce and deliver services...a home where community growth, community action, volunteering and enterprise will be nurtured".

The aim is for each hub to be "owned and managed by a community-led body with the governance arrangements being an existing or new community interest company, development trust or consortium". The Council would provide a budget for library services; money from rents and activities would be recycled back into the hub. While there is scope for volunteers to facilitate outside bookings and events, there is no suggestion of volunteers replacing professional library staff.

We had hoped Friends groups would take a lead in devising a simple questionnaire along the lines of our 2000 survey. However, a 29 page Cooperative Libraries Consultation Information document has been issued, together with a 21 page questionnaire to be completed by **Friday 20 April 2012**. Copies are available in the library and online at [www.lambeth.gov.uk/CooperativeLibraries](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/CooperativeLibraries). Though this may seem cumbersome and unwieldy, we urge everyone – members, users, non-users, visitors and local traders – to read the document and complete the questionnaire.

Let Lambeth know whether you agree with the overall concept and specific proposals and state which option you could support or suggest on how funds are allocated. The libraries budget will be much reduced for 2012/13 and further cut for 2013/14. We would seriously question the methodologies used to determine needs and allocation and would point out factors which have not been taken into account. We also have strong views on what we want – and do not want – to see in the library. Do consider your answers carefully. Consultation results will be assessed in a delivery report to Lambeth Council in May.

There are other opportunities to have your say. Apart from borough-wide public meetings, two specifically on the Carnegie's future will be held in the library: **Wednesday 28 March 10.00 – 12.00** and **Monday 2 April 7.00 – 9.00pm**. Please make every effort to attend one or both of these. State your views on what you want for our library; and if you are able to take an active role in setting up and running the hub, come forward now.

*Jeffrey Doorn*

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 14th AGM of Friends of Carnegie Library, to be held in the Gallery on **Thursday 22 March at 6.30 for 7**, will be a vital step in determining the future of our library. It is essential that as many members as possible attend. Come and enjoy free refreshments and socialise with fellow members. Renew your membership (or join if not currently a member) and consider standing for the committee. Encourage friends and neighbours to join as well. You are needed to play as active part as possible in the crucial coming year.

There will be detailed reports on what has been happening over the past year, the events planned for the coming months and, crucially, the changes in services, management and governance which we can, and must, help shape. While Lambeth has stated there are no plans to close any libraries, this is no cause for complacency. Each library must find ways to operate on a much reduced budget. That means deciding which elements of the service are essential, which are desirable, which if any could or should be altered or discarded and how a comprehensive and efficient service can be achieved with decreasing funds. It also means identifying compatible services and activities to bring in extra income.

A key aim of the Friends has always been “to revitalise the Carnegie Library in Herne Hill Road and raise its profile within Lambeth, the Southwark catchment area and beyond”. The transformation from a neglected, not properly maintained building with a mismanaged, deteriorating service into a fully stocked, properly run library and community hub owned and managed by a body led by local people will proceed smoothly only if we all come forward with ideas, skills, expertise and a willingness to make it happen.

First, we need to strengthen the Friends. Our membership year begins with the AGM, so unless you have renewed in advance or joined for the first time within the past two months, please bring cash or a cheque to renew then. A membership form is enclosed; please renew promptly and encourage others to join as well. Additional forms are in our tray in the library. Please also consider offering your services in the volunteering section, and indicate any skills you can bring, either now or for future hub management and activities.

This past year we have been working at less than full strength. In particular, I have had to combine the Vice Chair and Chair roles; and not all those elected last March are able to continue. Happily, our Secretary, Treasurer and some other members are willing to stand again; I am prepared to stand as Chair. We will need 4-6 others, including a Vice Chair; I urge you to consider standing and/or nominating another member. We meet the first Monday of the month, conducting the Friends’ business in a friendly way, everyone’s ideas and contributions valued.

The coming years will be challenging; but working together we will see our library grow and prosper. Thank you all for your continued support.

*Jeffrey Doorn*

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Carnegie Library will be held at Carnegie Library, 188 Herne Hill Road, London SE24 0AG on 22 March 2012. Doors open from 6.30pm and the formal business of the meeting will commence at 7.00pm. The quorum for the meeting is 20 members. A detailed agenda will be provided at the meeting. Nomination forms for election as an officer or committee member can be collected beforehand from the Friends tray in the library or on the night.**

# READ AND REMEMBER



This is a bumper year for literary anniversaries. Reminders of Charles Dickens at 200 abound; but there is also Jean-Jacques Rousseau, born 300 years ago. Edith Wharton, Marcel Proust and Arthur Schnitzler would have been 150 this year; Edward Lear, May Sarton, John Cheever and Patrick White 100. We should also note the death centenary of Bram Stoker and 50 years since the passing of William Faulkner and Herman Hesse.

In other fields, notable people include Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator, born 1512; British architect Augustus Pugin, born 1812; French PM Aristide Briand and composer Claude Debussy, born 1862. Centenarians range from actors Karl Malden and Wilfred Brambell to scientist Werner von Braun, PM James Callaghan, singers Kathleen Ferrier and late Herne Hill resident Marian Nowakowski. We also commemorate the deaths in 1912 of composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, explorer Robert Scott and his Antarctic team, and of course the many passengers of the Titanic.

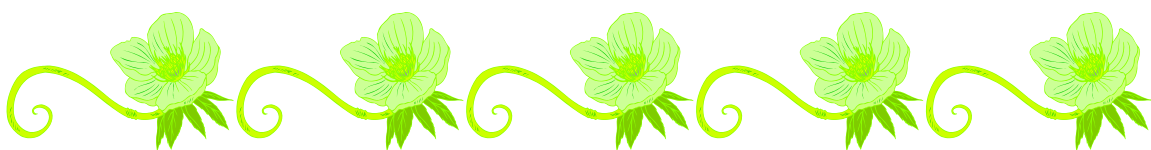
Seek books and/or recordings and films by and about these people; remember them and see what we can learn from their lives.

*Jeffrey Doorn*

## GARDEN NOTES



Spring is a really exciting time in the garden; the hellebores and pulmonarias are already flowering and the bulbs we planted several years ago will be following suit very shortly. I am eagerly awaiting the wallflowers, my personal favourites for their fresh colours and lovely scent. Happily Annie Gelly's apple tree which was planted in the autumn has survived the winter and is sending out fresh green shoots. You may be surprised at the choice of a fruit tree for the front garden but the Carnegie already has a damson and a fig, and there was originally an almond too. Do come along to our workdays, donate plants or put forward any ideas you have to the editor.



*Liz Ochagavia*

## EVENTS

Wednesday 14 March 7.30pm: **Herne Hill Society AGM followed by 'Solicitor to Novelist – a Change of Career in Middle Age'** - Herne Hill United Church Hall [www.hernehillsociety.org.uk](http://www.hernehillsociety.org.uk)

Thursday 22 March 6.30 for 7pm: **FoCL AGM** – Carnegie Library. See article.

Wednesday 11 April 7.30pm: **'Dickens and the Police'** - Herne Hill United Church Hall [www.hernehillsociety.org.uk](http://www.hernehillsociety.org.uk)

Wednesday 9 May 7.30pm: **'The Marshalsea Prison'** - Herne Hill United Church Hall [www.hernehillsociety.org.uk](http://www.hernehillsociety.org.uk)

First Saturday of the month, 2.30-3.30pm : **Councillor Carol Boucher's Surgery** – Carnegie Library Tel 07814 567914 Email [cboucher@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:cboucher@lambeth.gov.uk)

First Saturday of the month 2.30-4.30pm: **G&T (Gardening and Tea!)** – Carnegie Library. Followed by free tea and cake.

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

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

Every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12pm: **Book at Breakfast** – Carnegie Library. Drop in and enjoy listening to a good story or poem.

First and Third Wednesdays 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.

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

Every Saturday – 2.45-5pm: **Chess Club** – Carnegie Library Gallery. For experienced or novice players of any age. Free entry and tuition.

## VISIT THE LIBRARY!!

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



### OPENING HOURS:

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

188 Herne Hill Road, Tel. 7926 6050  
[carnegielibrary@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:carnegielibrary@lambeth.gov.uk)

### 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 and CDs

There is a good selection for adults and children to rent: films, music, talking books and language courses.

### INTERNET

Don't forget that the Carnegie has free internet access for all! Either book in advance or use a free computer.

### 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

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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. Please send letters, articles or information to the editor at 139 Herne Hill Road, SE24 OAD or email [elizocha@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elizocha@hotmail.co.uk)*

