



The Friends of Highgate Library

NEWSLETTER Winter 2022

Friends' News

Our new programme is full of exciting events with our usual wide range of topics. Now we are back in the Civic and Cultural Centre we can make full use of our projection facilities and all our talks will be well illustrated, adding in some films for our January talk on glaciers and climate change. We look forward to seeing you there and possibly enjoying a drink and a chat which are impossible on Zoom!

Our December event on the census shows the importance of free library services like the Ancestry site for researching family history. As soon as our December event was advertised on a local tree we spotted someone reading it and taking a photo! Our trees advertising seems very effective, a good local tradition. Our March event about Pink Plaques is already attracting attention and many seem keen to support it and find out more.

We are moving our events to Tuesday evenings from our April AGM. This is to allow us more time to set up and train volunteers who offer to help with the technical aspects of recording and sharing our live events.

Now that a new head of libraries, Fiona Tarn, has arrived we intend to resume our much delayed discussions about the future use and management of the Cultural and Civic Centre. Meanwhile we value it as a space for our library children's activities, our chess club and our book group. We also host choirs, exercise classes and local meetings as well as family events. It is an important community facility.

We responded to the consultation on the school street and traffic in Croftdown Road to request dedicated parking for the Cultural and Civic Centre and library. We asked for a dedicated bay for disabled users and access for deliveries.

We continue to send our monthly emails, including an extended newsletter, and advertise events on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Eventbrite. Remember there is more information on our website, www.FOHL.org.uk. Please contact us by email FOHL@dartmouthpark.org.uk.

You can make donations and pay subscriptions (normally £6) by bank transfer to FOHL at RBS Sort Code: 16 00 23 Account number: 10008322. If you haven't previously done so or your details have changed you should complete our online membership form at <https://goo.gl/7e6VrW>.

Linda Lefevre, Chair

News from Highgate Library

Highgate Library is becoming busier and busier as the return to post Covid life continues. More adults are coming in to use the PCs, to borrow books and to attend sessions in the meeting room while the Children's Library is alive with large numbers of children and parents/carers in the after school hours. Numbers joining the Thursday Chess Club and coming into the Toy Library session are also growing. It is lovely to see.

With the growing concern about what the coming winter will mean for many we are planning for Highgate Library to provide a welcoming space for more adults and children, where they can be warm and comfortable without the need to turn on their own heating. We hope that the new furniture – on hold since before the pandemic – will soon be arriving. This will provide new and more spacious PC desks which incorporate shields to provide users with both privacy and protection from viruses. There will be a table with a charger point for those wanting to use their own devices. In addition we are seeking funding to provide some new comfortable seating designed for those who want to sit and read in comfort, and more tables for those needing study space.

As part of our response to the cost of living crisis Highgate Library is organising four events for primary school aged children. The "Cartoon Parties" will be showings of cartoons one Saturday each month through the winter months, beginning in December. Designed to give children and their parents/carers fun in a warm space, these events will be free like all library services. Full details and tickets for the Cartoon Parties will be available shortly in the library.

Toby Faber, our President, has kindly donated copies of many of the wonderful books that Faber and Faber have published over the years. The majority of these are now catalogued and available for borrowing by library users, along with other new books donated by FOHL. We are setting up a "New Books" table by the entrance doors so that users can browse through these. We have a small amount of money available to buy new books so please let us know of any book on any subject, for any age or any interest group that you think we should have in the library. We are always pleased to receive suggestions though we cannot guarantee to be able to act on them all.

Sarah Harrison, Chair of Highgate Library Management Group

Things to Come - please register in advance with Eventbrite.

Thursday December 8th 7.30pm Emma Jolly

Tracing your family history using the census

Emma is a professional genealogist, writer, researcher and author of five books. The census is an essential survey of our population and it provides a fascinating insight into the past. Emma's new handbook is full of advice for anyone wanting to trace their family history.

Thursday January 12th 7.30pm Simon Norfolk

Making Climate Change visible (and beautiful)

Simon is a landscape photographer who has won numerous awards and been described as 'the leading documentary photographer of our time'. Over a long career [Simon Norfolk](#) has :- Flown a helicopter into an active volcano ([looking for bears](#)) and once had to jump off a cruise ship; Has slept in a lighthouse, a shipping container, a wigwam and once in a hotel with no roof; Been on a [nuclear submarine](#), commuted by tractor and once [push-started a plane](#). He owns a helium balloon.

He will talk about turning away from conflict photography, primarily in Afghanistan, to thinking about how to make climate change visualisable. He will show work on the Lewis Glacier of Mt Kenya and on the Rhône Glacier in Switzerland.

Thursday February 9th 7.30pm Fabian Watkinson

Erno Goldfinger and 2 Willow Road The house that no one wanted

Fabian has a passion for architecture and is author of *The Golden Age of Camden Housing*. He been a National Trust volunteer guide at 2 Willow Road in Hampstead for the past five years and he will tell us about the controversy surrounding its building in the 1930s and the equal controversy surrounding its acquisition by the National Trust in the early 90s.

Thursday March 9th 7.30pm Catharine Wells

Honouring Highgate Women The Pink Plaques Project

The Pink Plaques project was started by three local women, including Catharine. It celebrates the lives of many Highgate women who have made a difference past and present. Catharine will tell us all about it.

Tuesday April 18th 7.30pm Our AGM followed by Tania Kaczynski *The story of a London art studio for asylum seekers and refugees*

Recent Events

Many of our Zoom events are recorded and you can enjoy them when it suits you or watch them again. We are currently clearing an editing backlog. Full details are on our website.

September 8th *Poetry and Music* Jehane Markham and Patrick Naylor

Jehane has been our guest speaker on several occasions and once more she was met with an appreciative audience. She read a variety of her poems, many from her latest anthology. Jehane was accompanied by guitarist Patrick Naylor who entertained us with his music.

October 13th *The Forgotten Partner: Silas Burroughs and the making of Wellcome* by Julia Sheppard

Silas Burroughs convinced his friend Henry Wellcome to join his firm Burroughs & Co but the partnership led to serious conflicts. Silas Burroughs was an enthusiastic salesman, he introduced new ideas for marketing and advertising, he travelled all over the world and laid the foundations for future trade. He supported numerous social and radical political movements. After Silas Burroughs' untimely death his contribution to the firm's success wasn't acknowledged. Julia's book is making much needed amends based on many years of research.

November 11th *Telling Hidden Stories* Pamela Holmes

Pamela told us how a fresco full of vivid images in St Mary's Church in Huntingfield inspired her to find out about the life of the artist, the wife of a Victorian vicar.

Mildred Holland took eight years of painstaking work to transform the ceiling with colourful images. Pamela's book *The Huntingfield Paintress* tells her story.

Pamela's *The Curious Life of Elizabeth Blackwell* is about one of the first botanical artists who drew, etched, engraved and hand painted her images of plants and herbs. Blackwell's *A Curious Herbal* was so successful that she could pay the debts of her husband who was in Marshalsea prison but there is no happy ending to their story.

FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE LIBRARY

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

Chair: Linda Lefevre

Vice Chair & Membership: Sarah Carrier

Events & Hon. Secretary: Margot Kafno & Ann Cheyne

Hon. Treasurer: Patrick Lefevre

Committee: Michele Cohen, Agnes Stewart, Paul Harris

Sarah Harrison & Virginia Kerridge

President: Toby Faber

Patrons: Julian Barnes, Joanna Briscoe, Tracy Chevalier, Hunter Davies, Caitlin Davies, John Harvey & Charlotte Mendelson
