

Bromley House Library

newsletter

Autumn 2016



Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Bromley House Library will be held on Thursday 27 October 2016 commencing at 2.15 pm in the Library, Angel Row Nottingham NG1 6HL

AGENDA

1. To receive the report of the directors and the financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2016
2. To elect directors
3. To elect a president

4. To re appoint Rogers Spencer Ltd as independent examiner and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration

By order of the Board

David Hallett
Honorary Secretary
6 September 2016

A member of the company who is entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. A proxy need not be a member of the company.

Registered no.3413612 (England & Wales)

The Chairman's letter to members

Dear Member,

Let me first thank you for being a member, supporting the Library, and, I hope, visiting often, and thus contributing to the life of Bromley House Library.

Our AGM will take place in the Library on Thursday 27th October, at 2.15. The meeting is open to all members, and I hope you will be able to attend. I am conscious that many will not come to the meeting, and this letter is intended as an update and summary for those of you who will miss the meeting.

The year to March 2016, and indeed the months that followed, have been very successful for the Library. We have celebrated our 200th birthday and established a far greater level of activity, events, exhibitions and talks for members. This has been made possible by the extra capacity which the Garden Wing offers, the hard work of staff, and the generosity of many speakers who have given their time freely to join us in our celebrations. We plan to maintain a high level of activities next year (perhaps not as intense as this year). In planning talks, exhibitions and other activities we will be helped by members' suggestions, and especially introductions to possible speakers etc. Please tell Geraldine if you have any suggestions geraldine.gray@bromleyhouse.org

The year to March 2016 started with the completion of the restoration of the Neville Hoskins room. The cost was funded by gifts, large and small, from members and trusts. I have recorded our thanks elsewhere. That generosity is, I hope, rewarded by the sensational room we have created.

The year continued to be busy, planning for the 200th celebrations, successfully establishing our open tours on Wednesdays, welcoming a record number of members, restoring more books than previously, restocking our "shop" with resulting increased sales, and establishing the Pauline Heathcote Archive on the third floor, made possible by Bernard Heathcote's generous donation of Pauline's research notes and the hard work and enthusiasm of member (and volunteer) Eric Butler. At the same time we continue to run the Library, acquiring books, and offering what I know is a well appreciated service to members. I would like to record our appreciation of staff members, and the increasing number of volunteers, who make this possible, offering a smiling face to members and visitors, help in finding and choosing a book, audio book or music CD and making us feel "at home" in Bromley House. Increasing activity means more work for staff, and it's right that we acknowledge that. In January we reorganised staff, clarified roles and appointed Amy LeHuquet to manage the reception and the day to day operation of the Library.

The accounts for the year to March 2016 will be available as soon as possible on our website along with hard copies in the Library. We will post you a copy if you request it.

I am pleased to report the Library's financial position is strong. Although we had expenses in the year in respect of the HLF bid and the lift design, we recorded a surplus. We have no borrowings, and own our building. But there are two issues which concern the Board. These are:

1. Two of our 3 tenants (whose rental income is a material part of our income) are now on short leases, 25 years upward only rent review leases are a thing of the past and we have concerns about retail rental levels in Nottingham. We have quality agency advice, and continuously monitor the position.
2. While our income supports the running of the Library, neither it nor our reserves is sufficient to fund our objective of securing the fabric of the building (the roof is some 260 years old, leaks and needs considerable work, and there are other repairs which have been ignored for too long) making the major improvements we consider necessary for the Library to continue to flourish (especially the provision of a lift, and the upgrading of the third floor). It was therefore a disappointment that our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for grant support was turned down. As I write we are reviewing our priorities and the way forward.

At the AGM Stephen Lowe is standing down as our President after three years (a record) of contribution and support to the Library. It was his spark of genius that sent us off on the journey which resulted in UNESCO accepting Nottingham as a member of its Creative Cities Network, as a City of Literature. This will greatly benefit the City, and the Library which now is evidently pulling its weight in local cultural activity.

Well known author, John Harvey, has agreed to be Bromley House's new President, and I hope he will be able to join us on the 27 October. He is very committed to Nottingham and we are honoured and excited that he will be part of our "family" for the next couple of years.

At the AGM Adrian Henstock is retiring as a trustee. He is President of the Thoroton Society and the ex-Nottinghamshire Archivist. Adrian's contribution to the Library is well known, especially in respect of our local history collections, and the Library's own archives. His wise and experienced judgement will be missed by his fellow trustees.

During the year we welcomed Maggie Else as an additional director. In accordance with the Articles of Association she will retire at the Annual General Meeting and, being eligible, will offer herself for re-election. The other directors retiring by rotation at the Annual General

Meeting are Sheelagh Gallagher and Rowena Edlin-White both of whom, being eligible, will offer themselves for re-election at the Annual General meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM, but if you can't be there and have any questions, please feel free to ask me or any member of staff.

Yours

Victor Semmens

Our Librarian

This is the announcement we made in August, it is repeated here in case you missed it.

Carol Barstow retires as Bromley House Librarian

Many of you will be aware that, while not having anything life threatening wrong with her, Carol hasn't been very well this year. Having taken some time out over the last couple of months it has become clear that it is going to take some time for her to get well again. We are therefore supporting Carol's decision to take a break from employment, have a rest and get well. She would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and in particular the wonderful team here who will continue to look after the library in the future.

Carol joined as librarian in February 2005. She has led and overseen the development of the library over the intervening decade, when membership more than doubled. The hall was redecorated, the gallery formed, the catalogue went online, the Garden Wing developed and the Neville Hoskins room restored. But most importantly, over the period, the library has improved, widened its service to members, and become an increasingly important part of Nottingham's literary life.

We record our appreciation to Carol for her contribution and wish her well in the future. At an appropriate time, when she is ready, we will hold a retirement party to say thank you.

We plan to appoint a successor, but the recruitment process will take some time. The staff will shoulder the burden in the interim and I express my and members' thanks to each of them for their support.

Victor Semmens

Our 200th Anniversary Development Campaign

We set ourselves in this decade to secure the future of the Library for its next 100 years.

In our judgement that required two things. First and foremost to remain attractive to members, always improving the "membership offering" and attracting and retaining members. We hope there is evidence of this.

Secondly, we need to secure the fabric of the building, which in itself will help improve facilities for members.

So we have redecorated the Hall, created and developed the gallery (thanks to Nicola Rae for her hard work), catalogued our books to modern standards, enlarged our activities programme, developed the Garden Wing and restored the Neville Hoskins room.

But we want to achieve three other things-

- To provide a passenger lift to the ground, first and second floors
- Renovate the roof (260 years old and leaking) and
- Make the third floor useable by members, so giving the Library more useable space.

The main task last year was to settle on the design of these works, clear the planning and regulatory requirements and assemble an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for financial support towards the cost of this project. In the event HLF turned us down.

We believe this is the right way forward for Bromley House. So we are readdressing how this project might be achieved, and within the project, what are our priorities, and what are our funding alternatives. Once we have completed this review, we will announce how we plan to go forward.

UNESCO Nottingham City of Literature - Director Sandy Mahal



Bromley House Library is the home of the Nottingham City of Literature organisation. Its trustees meet in the Neville Hoskins Room and we welcome

Sandeep Mahal, the organisation's newly appointed Director, who is resident in the old Librarian's study in Attic 1 which is her office. We have also provided the adjoining attic as a meeting room so as to reduce

the pressure on our other rooms. (Library books remain in these rooms, and members are free to access these at any time).

Sandeep tells us "Nottingham is a city with an incredibly vibrant literary and storied scene, boasting world-class talent and institutions, so the remarkable opportunity to lead a UNESCO accredited City of Literature in Nottingham was too good to resist. I am honoured to play a part in the local creative community, and to support, champion and celebrate Nottingham's cultural reputation on the local, national and global stage.

"The UNESCO accreditation will boost our profile on the international stage as a city with a rich literary past, a vibrant contemporary scene and a very exciting future. This in turn will allow us to work with more partners to stage events, develop projects and attract visitors to this city. Among my many aims and ambitions is the desire to encourage and facilitate collaborative relationships across the literature, creative and digital sectors, to help improve literacy, and ensure the best talent is developed and made available to the widest and most diverse audiences and communities.

"We will lead a lot of collaborative activities and ventures that will open up all sorts of activities for readers and writers. At the moment, we're just putting the finishing touches to our brand and redeveloping our website, and in a unique –and hopefully ongoing - partnership with Trent University and Santander Bank, hosting a fantastic young intern, Bethany Johns, who will gain valuable experience and insight to the running of City of Literature".

To keep up to date with news and events sign up to the City of Literature mailing list at <http://nottinghamcityofliterature.us9.list-manage.com/subscribe>.

We expect that Sandeep will become very much part of the Library "family" and a familiar face around the Library.

A chance to read review copies of new books in advance of publication

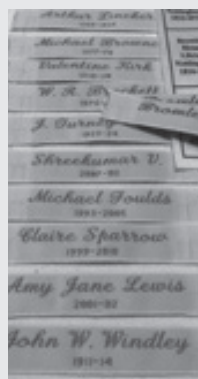
Sandeep Mahal, the new Director of the City of Literature, has arranged for publishers to send the Library pre-publication review copies of books. We will maintain a list at the reception, and a separate shelf. Your feedback will contribute to the publishing

process. If you take out a review copy, the publisher and author would like to know what you thought, so please leave a review or reply to a questionnaire. Each review copy will contain a note of what the publisher wants.

We hope this will be of interest to members and if successful, a service which will gradually expand. Please try and let us have your comments.

Setting this up will take a while, but hopefully we will have review copies available before Christmas.

Joy Pitts 2016 anniversary art commission



To celebrate our 200th anniversary, the artist Joy Pitts will be creating a contemporary artwork for us. Joy creates images from new and used clothing labels, and her portfolio includes commissions for Paul Smith, Liberty and Savile Row.

Since 1816 there have been 138 members of staff at Bromley House Library including presidents, honorary secretaries, librarians and other library staff. These 138 names (along with their time in service) will be specially woven onto individual nametapes and assembled on canvas depicting the four-storey building as it stood in 1816. The result will be a personalised history of Bromley House Library over 200 years - an achievement that would not have been possible without the continued support of its members. The finished piece will be unveiled at our Christmas party on Saturday 10th December.

Christmas Party 2016

Saturday 10th December, 11am – 1pm – tickets on sale Friday 9th November.

Please join us for our Christmas Party in this, our very special year. Refreshments and music, a raffle and a quiz, good company – and the unveiling of our commemorative artwork in the New Reading Room! Tickets are £7.50 (non refundable), to include your first glass of wine, and are initially limited to two per membership

As usual, we would welcome contributions to our traditional Christmas hamper in advance of the party.

Bromley House Library Secret Postcard Show

In celebration of Bromley House Library's 200th birthday we are holding a 'Secret Postcard Show' in aid of both the library and our chosen charity, the Renewal Trust.

Established and aspiring artists, non-artists, the famous and the not-so-famous, young people, 'celebrities', and members and 'friends' of Bromley House – local, national and international – are all invited to contribute. Participation is free of charge.

The resulting exhibition will be held from mid-November into January 2017, with a launch event on Saturday 19th November.

The postcards will be displayed anonymously, with the opportunity to purchase at a cost of £10 per postcard.

Further information and application forms are available in the library, online at www.bromleyhouse.org, or from Nicola at nicola.rae@bromleyhouse.org.

Donations

We receive many generous offers to donate books to our collection, and recently we have received many prized additions to our stock. However, with the extra work for staff after Carol's retirement and backlog of more than 100 books requiring processing, conservation and cataloguing, we want to declare a moratorium for a while perhaps 9 months. Please contact Geraldine or Nicola if you would like to discuss this further.

geraldine.gray@bromleyhouse.org
nicola.rae@bromleyhouse.org

Pop Up shop

Following on from last year's hugely successful pop up shop we intend to do the same thing again this year.

Date for your diary – Thursday 3rd November 2pm – 4pm.

There will be exclusive Bromley House Library merchandise including, new for this year, Christmas cards, handmade (seasonally appropriate) goods from our team of Bromley House Library makers, a bargain corner and the first sherry of the season. Come along and start your festive shopping and support the library too.

Room to read

Our new reading group which meets on a Friday afternoon is proving very successful, there is no set book, no planning to do - just a chance to chat about books and reading, the group is facilitated by Sheelagh Gallagher and Geraldine Gray. Sometimes a theme develops or we hop around various topics – but we always end up with a list of books to read or potentially avoid and get to meet new people. We meet on Friday afternoons and our next two dates are

7th October 2pm

2nd December 2pm

Dates for 2017 will be available before the end of the year.

Poetry Please

This long standing group rejoices in the spoken word. We generally have a theme but anyone is welcome to join us with their favourite poems written by others or themselves.

We have two further dates this year.

Tuesday 1st November 2pm – 3pm

Tuesday 16th December 2pm – 3pm

Dates for 2017 will be available before the end of the year. Both the above groups are very informal and you are most welcome to join us. We meet in the Neville Hoskins Reading Room.

Garden Party

Despite the weather not being on our side we had a wonderful morning at our Summer Garden Party. Over 100 members and their guests enjoyed a cream tea and sparkling wine and were entertained by Frances on the clarinet playing music from Mozart to Joplin. We welcomed many ex staff and board members to the occasion and it was lovely catching up.

New members' events

Starting in the new year we will be changing the format for new members' events. They will be a more informal gathering and give the opportunity for new members to meet staff, directors and existing members. They will be held monthly on the first Saturday of the month in the Neville Hoskins Reading Room from 11am – 1pm with refreshments provided. So if you are in the library please drop in and make our new members welcome!

Gallery volunteers

Some of you volunteered some time ago to help with gallery tasks such as hanging exhibitions, helping at launch events, and stewarding, and provided valuable assistance during the Martine Hamilton Knight retrospective exhibition held last summer.

Since then, there have been changes in the way we organise access for non-members of the library. To avoid unnecessary disruption for our members, we now restrict access for visitors to Wednesday afternoons - hence all our talks and tours are held on this day. This also includes access to exhibitions, which can take place between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Additionally, for exhibitions only, access is allowed on Saturdays between 11.00am and 1.00pm. However, there must be stewards in place on these days.

We would like to set up a group of volunteers who are able to act as stewards on a fairly regular basis on one or both of these days. This would mean being present in the gallery to greet visitors and potentially show them around the exhibition. (You would be provided with background information about the artist(s) and the exhibition). Volunteers might also be needed to help run launch events - usually held on Wednesdays or Saturday morning.

We have three exhibitions coming up for which we'll need stewards from September until the end of the year:

* 'The History of Photography: a selection of images from the Royal Photographic Society collection' (September - early November)

* 'Re-imagine: traces in the attic, trails in the grass' (Sara Gaynor, photographer) (September - October)

* Bromley House Library Secret Postcard Show (November - early January 2017)

Please contact Nicola with available dates if you would be interested in this opportunity, or if you have any questions.

Anniversary Talks 2016

There are still several events remaining in our anniversary year – if you have not purchased your tickets please don't delay.

Talks and Exhibitions – booking from August 20th

Rowena Edlin-White

Wednesday 9th November at 2pm

The Daughters of the Library. Tickets £3/£4

Polly Russell

Monday 14th November 2016 at 2pm

What's on the Menu? A Century of Eating in and Eating Out. Tickets £3/£4

Stephen Lowe

Wednesday 23rd November at 2pm

My life at the Moulin Rouge. Tickets £3/£4

Sheelagh Gallagher and Deirdre O'Byrne

Saturday 26th November at 10.30am

Mothers in the novels of Jane Austen. Tickets £5/£6

Professor Tim Youngs

Wednesday 30th November at 2pm

Why travel writing? Tickets £3/£4

Ted White

Wednesday 7th December at 2pm

The Smiths of Bromley House. Tickets £3/£4

Please note this replaces the advertised talk by Elizabeth Robinson.

2016 Anniversary Photography season events

Maiken Umbach and Anna Greenwood, Department of History, Nottingham University.

Saturday 8th October, 10.30am

'From Holiday Snapshots to the Front Lines of Empire: The History of Personal Photography of 'Other Places'.

Workshop open to library members only. Members are invited to bring in old family photographs and/or albums which illustrate travel/exploration/holiday/military experiences. Limited numbers. £5.

Royal Photographic Society Talks

Geoff Blackwell Wednesday 12th October, 2pm

'Alfred Barber'. £3 (members); £4 (visitors).

Eric Butler Wednesday 19th October, 2pm

'Samuel Bourne'. £3 (members); £4 (visitors).

Colin Harding National Media Museum Wednesday

26th October, 2pm

'Richard Beard'. £3 (members); £4 (visitors).

Bromley House Gallery 2016-17

The History of Photography: A Selection of Images from the Royal Photographic Society Collection

7th September – 12th November in the Main Gallery and Garden Wing Gallery

'Re-Imagine – Traces in the Attic, Trails in the Grass', photography by Sara Gaynor

2nd September – 26th October in the Attics

Wet plate collodion photographs by Jim Grainger

3rd September – 12th November in the New Reading Room

Bromley House Library Secret Postcard Show

November – December in the Main Gallery

'Six Bees', artwork by Joy Pitts

December in the Garden Wing Gallery

Kate Genever.

January – February 2017 in the Main Gallery and Garden Wing Gallery

Paul Harraway

March – April 2017 in the Main Gallery and Garden Wing Gallery

Local History Workshops

Workshop: Find out about...Historical Maps in Nottinghamshire

Leaders: Hilary Waring and Philip E. Jones

Tuesday 14th March 10.30 am – 12.30 pm, New Reading Room

Find out about how the maps in Bromley House Library can help you trace the history and development of your local area.

This workshop is limited to 12 people. £3.00 per place, booking essential. Open to members and their guests – 2 tickets per membership.

Workshop: Find out about...Trade Directories in Nottinghamshire

Leaders: Hilary Waring and Philip E. Jones

Tuesday 28th March 10.30 am – 12.30 pm, Thoroton Room

Find out about how the trade directories in Bromley House Library can help you trace local businesses and the development of trades in your area.

This workshop is limited to 12 people. £3.00 per place, booking essential. Open to members and their guests – 2 tickets per membership.

These workshops are for members and guests: Booking from Tuesday 13th December.

2017 Programme of talks

Plans for our programme next year are well under way. We are aiming to have 2 talks per month, one Wednesday one Saturday with a break during July and August. A full programme will be available by the end of the year and also on the website. Listed

below are the talks booked so far with 'working titles': booking for those in January to March opens on Tuesday 13th December (April – June Tuesday 14th February, July - September Tuesday 16th May and October – December 16th August) Prices are the same as this year £3.00 for Wednesday talks and £5.00 for Saturday talks.

Dr. Sarah Badcock

Wednesday 25th January 3pm

The Russian Revolutions: a hundred years ago. Free talk organised by the Historical Association

Nigel Lowey

Saturday 11th February 10.30am

With his ever popular talk on St. Pancras. £5 (members); £6 (visitors).

Professor Stuart Ball

Wednesday 15th February 3pm

Stanley Baldwin (1867 – 1847). Free talk organised by the Historical Association

Frances Potts

Wednesday 22nd February 2pm

Egyptomania. £3 (members); £4 (visitors).

John McGuiggan

Saturday 11th March 10.30am

The Sherwood Foresters role in the Dublin Easter uprising in 1916. £5 (members); £6 (visitors).

Professor David Wilson

Saturday 1st April 10.30am

Murder, Serial Murder and True Crime. £5 (members); £6 (visitors).

Tahir Ahmed

Wednesday 5th April 2017 2pm

The expansion of the Universe: a simple mathematical model. £3 (members); £4 (visitors).

Rowena Edlin-White

Wednesday 21st June 2017 2pm

Four forgotten best-selling authors: Muriel Hine, John Collis Snaith, Cecil Roberts and Dorothy Whipple. £3 (members); £4 (visitors).

Simon Bradley

Saturday 21st October 2017

The Pevsner Guides: focussing on the new and revised guides of Nottingham and Derbyshire. £5 (members); £6 (visitors).

William Ruff

Saturday 4th November 2017

Father Henry Garnet and his part in the Gunpowder plot. £5 (members); £6 (visitors).

Bromley House Library

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www.bromleyhouse.org