



Spring 2017

Annual subscription

Members' subscriptions are due on 1st April. Subscriptions for the year commencing 1st April 2017 are £104 for a full member, £52 for country members, young members and those who qualify for reduced membership rates. This is an increase over last year's rate, reflecting concern there are inflationary pressures on the way, for example, at the time of writing, energy prices are announced to rise by 10% and we are determined to maintain member services, especially improving wifi/ internet speeds and increasing our book buying budget. We plan for this subscription rate to be maintained in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Payment methods

If you have given us a direct debit authority, the subscription will be withdrawn from your bank account on or shortly after 1st April 2017. If you pay quarterly, payments of £26 (£13 for all reduced rates) will be taken on or shortly after 1st April, 1st July, 1st October and 1st January.

If you pay by cheque, your cheque should be made payable to "Bromley House Library", please put your name and membership number on the back of the cheque. If you use internet banking the Library's account details are: sort code 30-96-18, account number 00160588 but please use your surname and membership number as the reference and email the Library to let us know you are paying by this method.

Paying by direct debit keeps our administrative costs to a minimum. If you have not given us a direct debit

instruction, and wish to, let us know and we will give you the instruction form for completion. Please contact Malka if you are unsure whether you have a functioning direct debit or if you would like to switch to quarterly payments. You can do this by email admin@bromleyhouse.org, give us a ring or ask for a chat next time you are in the library. Please contact the Library by 21st March if you wish to change to direct debit and / or quarterly payments.

If you are in receipt of benefits you may qualify for a reduced membership rate, please contact the Library for details.

Library Director

- At the time of writing our recruitment process is in hand. Final interviews are planned for early in March, in the hope that the selected candidate can start before the summer. The appointment will be announced to members by email and details will be on the library website.
- Carol Barstow retired in August, and for nearly 12 months the Library has been understaffed. Maintaining the library service since August has placed considerable pressure on our staff. I hope members will join the trustees in thanking staff members for maintaining the library operation, and their smiling welcome to members.

Library News

We certainly saw our celebratory year off in style with a fantastic Christmas Party. It was wonderful to see Carol and say a proper good bye and we also thanked Elizabeth Robinson for 20 years' service as gardener. John Harvey joined us and unveiled the unique artwork of Bromley House Library that Joy Pitts created, this is currently on display in the New Reading Room.

The momentum of exhibitions, events, talks and tours continued throughout the whole year every member of staff worked incredibly hard to make the anniversary year a huge success. We have a similar, although not quite so busy, programme in 2017. The last exhibition of the year The Secret Postcard Show was a huge success with over 300 entries and many sold in aid of the Library and The Renewal Trust. The first exhibition this year by Kate Genever is already impressing members and guests with two sold before the official opening event. We are continuing with our

Wednesday guided tours at 2.30 pm and are now making a small charge of £2.

We are delivering a different model of New Members event this year. We are holding them on the first Saturday of every month from 11am - 1pm and they will include a glass of wine, a chat with staff and directors and a short tour of the library. If you are in the library during one of the events please do come along and say hello. The first event was attended by about fifteen new members and was very successful.

We have recently been given a most generous gift of a new electric piano from Claire Sparrow purchased in memory of her mother. The piano is available for members and staff to play in the Thoroton Room - where it looks very much at home. The piano came with head phones so other people in the Library are not disturbed. We have also purchased several sets of sheet music which are kept with the piano.

Members views please

Subscriptions

- Subscriptions amount to less than £9 a month. Traditionally paid annually, we have recently introduced quarterly payments. If there was a demand for monthly payments, we would consider the practicalities.
- If spreading your subscription over monthly payments is attractive, or if you have any other queries about your subscription then please contact Malka admin@bromleyhouse.org or have a word with a member of staff next time you are in the library.

Regular staff / trustees members' clinics

- Finding the right method for passing on information/ consulting members on plans for, or concerns about the library is a problem.
- Members of staff are always available to members, but once our new Library Director appointment is made, we are planning a number of informal "clinics" for members to meet the appointee and discuss building plans etc. We have in mind holding such "clinics" on a number of different days/ times.
- If you would like to come to one or more clinics, please let us know with a time which best would suit you, so we can plan accordingly.

Trees

The large London plane tree (the one nearest our building) planted in 1875, has been showing signs of being unstable. This has been investigated, and on advice it has been decided that rather than fell the whole tree, it can be heavily pollarded. The process of consulting/ agreeing this with the City tree officer is underway, the works should be carried out in March.

Crime Club

The Library Crime Club had a soft launch on the 22nd April 2015. We meet approximately every 6 weeks to discuss a selected text chosen by group members. I founded the group to extend my crime fiction reading, and it has certainly done that. We score the books on different categories, character, plot, location and readability. Our top scorer so far is Fred Vargas – A Climate of Fear, followed closely by Sjowall and Wahloo – Roseanne. If you like crime fiction then they come highly recommended by the group. There are 12 of us and I think all members would say we have extremely lively discussions! We are currently closed to new members but if you would like to go on the waiting list, please contact Malka admin@bromleyhouse.org or ask for a chat next time you are in the Library.

Exploring Time, Experience Science – The 1834 Bromley House Meridian

A new project is taking place at the Bromley House Library themed around the 1834 Meridian line. Daniel Brown and Dr David Fairhurst from Nottingham Trent University (NTU) funded by the Institute of Physics (IoP) are leading the project Exploring Time and Experience Science. They will develop resources to allow visitors both of the library and website to explore the workings of the more than 180-year-old meridian sundial. Daily monitoring will bring this masterpiece of time keeping alive and make it accessible for anyone. The IoP considers this a future opportunity to showcase the educational value of this historic location and possibly link-up the other still existing UK meridian sites.

In the next months, a daily imaging facility will be set in place as well as a website developed telling the story of the physics behind the meridian. The wealth of images will allow a NTU physics student to demonstrate the physics of the apparent Sun's path captured in the drifting midday solar disc. Public talks promoting the meridian are being held both at NTU Clifton campus (Thursday 27 April 2017 8pm) and Bromley House Library (Wednesday 24 May 2pm). Further opportunities are being offered to local WI and U3A branches.

Our building

This time last year we were waiting for the result of our Heritage Lottery Fund grant application. As you know we were not successful.

We have reviewed our objectives and reaffirmed our commitment to member services. We are primarily a library and our aim is securing the physical future of the library. That has led us to two major priorities. First the restoration of the roof (removing the fundamental risk of damage to main building fabric), and secondly, the provision of a lift.

Because of the condition of the roof, the building has been included in Historic England's Buildings at risk register. In turn that registration opens the possibility of HE grant aid towards the restoration cost. We are currently in negotiation for such a grant. Should such a grant be forthcoming we would hope it will be the catalyst for detailed planning (including other funding) and consultation on the way forward. It is frustrating that progress is so slow.

ILA membership

The Library is a member of the Independent Libraries Association (ILA), there are member libraries in various locations around the UK. A Bromley House Library member who would like to visit any member library outside London will be welcomed, but you will need a letter of introduction, which we are happy to provide. Please contact the library you wish to visit to inform them of your visit.

Knitting Group

Last year was another successful year for the Bromley House knitting group. Sales of knitting and other crafts raised nearly £700. The knitting group meets every other Wednesday from 2-4pm. We work on a range of projects, from baby clothes and toys, to socks and hats. Whatever your skill level, or if you'd like to learn to knit or crochet, come and join us.

We always welcome donations of wool. For more information please have a chat with Amy.

Adopt a Book 2016

Grateful thanks to everyone who has 'adopted' a book or books. I shall be contacting everyone soon with details of the required conservation and the costs involved.

This will be an ongoing project, so please contact me if you are interested in learning more about the scheme.

Nicola
nicola.rae@bromleyhouse.org

Gentle reminders

- Please ask a member of staff to adjust the heating if you are too hot or too cold. We try to monitor and control the heat and humidity levels in the library to best accommodate the needs of both books and library members.
- Our plants are regularly tended by a nominated member of staff and do not need extra water/tea/coffee! Please let Amy know if you are concerned about the welfare of a particular plant.
- As a matter of principle we keep library rules to a minimum. So here is a convention which we bring to your attention. With the occasional exception of rooms reserved for events or lettings, members should have access to all our shelved books, CDs etc. We are a library. It follows that members reading, working or in conversation should see that they are not impeding access to surrounding shelves.
- Last but not least, please only use your mobile phone in the hall on the ground floor.

German conversation class

If anyone is interested in forming an informal German conversation group, please contact Nicola nicola.rae@bromleyhouse.org

Room to Read and Poetry Please

These are two very informal groups with no set texts but time to chat, read, recite and celebrate the written and spoken word. We meet in the Neville Hoskins Reading Room. Dates for this year until June are:-

Room to Read

Friday 7th April at 2pm /
Friday 9th June at 2pm

Poetry Please

Tuesday 7th March at 2pm –
our theme is New Beginnings
Tuesday 9th May at 2pm –
our theme is to be decided at
the March meeting

Wednesday 14th June at 5pm

New members are more than
welcome at both groups.

Geraldine

2017 talks and gallery programme

We welcome members support for our programme last year, that was especially large to celebrate our 200th birthday. We plan to maintain an annual programme, mainly outside the summer holiday season, a copy of the 2017 programme is included with this newsletter.

Geraldine Gray (who organises the talks) and Nicola Rae (the gallery programme) welcome members' suggestions (and introductions) for future (2018) speakers and exhibitions.

Coming soon: Just for you

We have included a copy of the 2017 printed programme with this mailing but, as with last year, extra events and talks may be added so please keep checking our website and notice boards in the library. Here are some events which are not listed in the programme. We also have events exclusively for members and guests, we offer two tickets per membership (extra tickets may be available if the event is not fully booked). The following can be booked from 14th February.

Cream Tea

Thursday 20th April 2pm – 4pm
£5.00 to include homemade cakes and speciality teas and coffee.
Open to members and guests. Booking essential. 25 spaces only.

Opening the book on...our Special Collections

Tuesday 23rd May 10.30 am
Geraldine will lead a tour of the library looking at the James Ward collection, the Philip James Bailey collection, the Michael Dobbin collection and the Alan Sillitoe collection.

Free talk open to members and their guests.
Booking essential. 12 spaces only.

Exploring Time, Experience Science – The 1834 Bromley House Meridian

Wednesday 24th May 2pm – 3pm
Free talk open to members and their guests.
Booking essential.

UNESCO Nottingham City of Literature

Wednesday 7th June at 2pm
Sandy Mahal, the Director of Nottingham City of Literature.

Sandy will update us on the latest exciting developments.
Free talk open to members and their guests.
Booking essential.

Garden Party

Saturday 8th July, 11am – 1pm.
Additional information, including when tickets go sale, will be emailed shortly and will also be posted on our web site.

Library closures

Easter: Library closed Friday 14th April – reopens Wednesday 19th April.

May Day: Library closed Saturday 29th April – reopens Tuesday 2nd May.

Spring Bank Holiday: Library closed Saturday 27th May – reopens Wednesday 31st May.