

Bromley House Library

# newsletter



Autumn 2013

## Annual General Meeting

Notice of this year's AGM is on Page 5 of this newsletter.

The last year saw plenty of activity:

We completed the retrospective cataloguing project and the detailed planning for the reoccupation of the Garden Wing to provide better facilities for members and staff.

Last winter the old gas heaters began to fail and after much research new electric heaters are being installed as this is written.

We adopted a new style for the newsletter and rewrote our information leaflet, membership application form, and "Adopt a Book" and legacies booklets. This enables us to present a more professional image to the public.

We also launched our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary development campaign with the aim of securing the fabric of the building for the next 100 years and improving facilities for members. A separate letter reporting on progress is enclosed.

The 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 accounts show (before appeal income) a small surplus (down from nearly £5,000 the year before) reflecting the second year's cataloguing costs, the preparatory work in respect of the Garden Wing and the general inflationary pressure on costs which we are all experiencing in our private lives.

The Library's financial position is strong and with the generous support members have given

to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary development campaign, we have met the planned Garden Wing expenses without having to dig into our reserves.

The formal end of the financial year is an opportune time to say a thank you to members of staff and the increasing number of volunteers, who as well as completing the catalogue, have kept the library running and whose enthusiasm and dedication is central to the culture of the Library.

As usual copies of the formal accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 are not sent to each member but copies will be available on the library's website and in the library. If you would like your own copy, you can collect one from the Library or ask staff to post one to you.

The directors retiring at the AGM under the company's rules (and who will each offer themselves for re-election) are-

- **Richard Tresidder**, who was appointed since the last AGM, and who is an experienced journalist and Business Editor of the Nottingham Post
- **Victor Semmens**, a retired solicitor, and currently chairman of the Library
- **Nigel Lowey**, an IT business consultant, and
- **Rowena Edlin-White** a well known local author and speaker

## New Bromley House Library Leaflets

We have designed and printed two new leaflets for members and others who want to support the Library.

The first explains how to leave a gift to Bromley House Library in your will. We set out the procedure and how this can help reduce the rate of Inheritance Tax payable and support the library's continuing existence.

The other addresses our book conservation programme and the ways in which you or your friends can support that much needed work. Perhaps "adopting a book" can make a great gift for a birthday, Valentine's day, or Christmas or a way of celebrating an anniversary by asking friends to contribute towards the conservation of your chosen book.

Copies of both leaflets (and of the membership application form and introductory booklet) are available for collection in the Library, or can be sent to you if you ring or email us.

## Poetry Please at Bromley House Library

This is an occasional group meeting at Bromley House Library where we meet to recite poetry; mostly by published poets but some written by the group. I have a love of the spoken word, some members come along to listen or meet new people.

The following comment was sent in when I asked for comments about the group for this newsletter

*I became a member of Bromley House about 6 months ago and I confess it was a turning point in my life. The staff are marvellous, very helpful and obliging, have smiles warm enough to melt icebergs; apart from having other work at Bromley House, organize the poetry meeting, knitting groups, bakers, lectures and much more and do a wonderful job.*

*Actually though, the poetry class is the icing on the cake.*

Our next meeting is on Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm and we have a theme of Celebration, you would be most welcome to join us.

*Geraldine*

## World War One Commemoration

Many members have generously loaned the Library artefacts, photographs, diaries and other memorabilia relating to the War, especially the local Home Front. These will form the basis of our exhibition and commemorative programme which is now taking shape through the hard work of Geraldine and Nicola.

If members have more stories, artefacts, letters, diaries etc which will help could you please contact Nicola or Geraldine reasonably urgently, as from Christmas they will need to decide what is to be displayed.

The planned programme is

- An exhibition illustrating Nottingham's connection with WW1 both at home and in military operations and the story of Bromley House Library during the war.
- A programme of a dozen or more talks and diary readings (on Wednesday lunchtimes and Saturday mornings)
- A Resources Room, for more detailed research and review, comprising items and research materials not in the exhibition, as well as books and maps from the our collections.

These will take place between September and Christmas 2014 and will run concurrent with the Nottinghamshire wide "Trent to the Trenches" programme of commemoration.

All of this is a substantial venture for the Library and we plan that during the 3 months of the programme, the Library will be open to the public on part of Wednesdays.

## The Garden Wing Use of new rooms

The additional rooms give us an opportunity to rearrange the books within the library, and staff will have been seen measuring shelving at various times as we work out the best way to arrange our books in the new space. Our lovely new reading room, which is wonderfully light filled, will have modern fiction in it, so that fiction will be split between the new reading room and the main library, with older fiction remaining on the gallery and in the George Green Room. It will make it much easier for members to browse, as we won't be using the highest shelves.

Our new reading room also has something that is in short supply in the rest of the building: electric sockets. So if you wish to use a laptop then this is, as long as they are used in accordance with our policy, a good place to do so. Wifi will be installed in there as soon as practicable.

Our new coffee room gives additional space where readers can enjoy food and drink, in addition to the Standfast Room, and this means that this is a good time to make permanent the ban on food and drink that we impose on the table in the Neville Hoskin's Reading Room when older material is in use. Of course wherever you are enjoying refreshments within the Library we know you will be very careful with them, and please make sure they are kept away from our older books.

This also seems a good time to remind members that unless it is being used for a function, such as our poetry readings, that the Neville Hoskins Reading Room is intended for quiet study rather than chat.

## Bromley House Calendars and Christmas cards...

These calendars are now available to purchase, at a cost of £10.00. An ideal gift for those who don't know the library – or, indeed, for those who do! Last year we ran out, so if you want to be sure of getting a copy, then order one now and it will be put aside for you. As we don't want to be left with surplus stock we have to limit the number we have printed, but with enough notice we can arrange a reprint if they are very popular.



## Bromley House Library Gallery

The last year has seen a variety of exhibitions displayed in our (still relatively new!) gallery space.

We received many positive comments about Steve Gresham's exhibition of paintings, 'See these ragged red alerts', held in April. Our Members' Annual Open exhibition took place in the summer, and we had the usual pleasing variety and high standard of work. This year we were able to award a prize of a framed photograph from the Bromley House Library calendar, thanks to the generosity of former librarian Julia Claydon. A panel of judges awarded first prize to Anna Davies, for 'Big Crow'; second prize went to Andrew Prime, and Steve Brazier was highly commended. Rimantas Vainorius' black and white photographic portraits were very popular, and our current exhibition is of paintings by local artist Clayton Davey.



## Curators

Our curatorship programme has been getting off the ground gently, with those in place using our new catalogue to explore our collections in their chosen areas. The plan is that over time each collection will have a "curator" (which may be one person or a group of persons). The curators will define their collection, which may be a general subject area, a quite specific topic, or one of our special collections. Depending on the collection, the following are suggestions as to the activities that the curator will undertake. Some will be on gathering information about the collection, and others to do with sharing that information with others:

- The history of the Library's holdings in this area, and how they relate to the rest of the collection.
- Investigate gaps in the collections and the reasons for this.
- Identify possible acquisitions, either newly published, or to fill gaps in the collections and to justify need.
- Analyse current use of the collection, and make proposals as to how that could be increased (by members and non member alike) including possible partnering with other groups (internal or external).
- Plan methods of publicising to members (and non members) the existence and interest of the collection – generating talks, writing articles, putting together displays etc.
- Identifying key items that contribute to the overall richness of the Library's collections, whether for a specific reason, or simply because of their general quirkiness.

If you would like to take on a role of ambassador to one of the areas of our collections, then please get in touch with Carol for more details.

## ...and the Bromley House Shop

We have recently expanded our range of merchandise to include some unusual yet quality gift ideas, or a nice treat for yourself.



To give you a flavour we have pictured the Literary Rubber Duck, my favourite, priced at a very reasonable £3.99.

Other items include a selection of literary mugs and notebooks, address books and reading journals. We also have great quality bags and tea towels. I like to think what we have for sale will appeal to our members and I hope you will agree.

We will be printing new Bromley House Library notelets which, dare I say, would make lovely original Christmas gifts.

Our Bromley House knitters will be providing some fabulous knitted items soon, Christmas tea cosies and tree decorations to name a couple. Truly unique pieces.

Other items include greetings cards, some made by members, fridge magnets, book marks, pens, pencils and postcards.

Of course you are all readers too so we have the full range of Bromley House Library editions, the Bromley House 1752 history book and Nottinghamshire Facts (this makes a great stocking filler, it isn't widely available and I'm sure we are selling it at the most competitive price). Don't forget the Candlestick Press "Instead of a card" poetry books. We have Christmas editions of these including the latest one with a selection of poems and a foreword by Carol Ann Duffy. I love these and have sent them to family and friends who have been delighted to receive them.

Next time you are in the library please take a little time to browse in our smashing shop. All profits go towards supporting Bromley House Library, and that's a good thing.

Malka

## Visit to St Paul's Library

The Library is planning a visit to the Library of St Paul's Cathedral, London. Because the Cathedral Library can only take a group of fifteen at once on its tour, which lasts around an hour and a quarter, it is planned to split the group into two tours, which will allow some free time for members as well. We will be very happy to recommend other cultural visits in the area, or you may prefer to make your own arrangements.

Please let us know if you are interested and providing we have sufficient numbers then we will make the arrangements and also work out whether it is more cost effective to go by train or coach.

The private library of the Cathedral, designed by Wren, has hardly been touched since its final fitting out in 1709. It is not open to the public, so this is an opportunity to visit one of London's most complete 18<sup>th</sup> century interiors with baroque carvings and collections still in place since they were first shelved.

## Mobile phones

Mobiles are a wonderful convenience, and most of us use them. However, they can be very intrusive and we want to make sure that they are used considerately at Bromley House Library. Ideally, simply switch them off when you are in the Library, but if you need to stay in contact with the outside world, then follow our guidelines.

Put them on silent – that means no beeps, no buzzes, no noise at all. And don't use them to make calls. Please don't think that because there is no-one in sight it won't matter. Most people speak much louder than they realise on the phone, and we don't want to know about Aunt Elsie's chiropody appointment, or what is for dinner tonight. The only place you can make a call is in the hallway on the ground floor, but again please be considerate, and be aware that voices carry. If someone calls you, simply reject the call and then go and call them back from elsewhere if you need to.

Please be warned. We don't want you to have the embarrassment of having to be told by Library staff that you are breaking library rules by using your phone where you should not. On behalf of all our members staff will be ensuring these rules are adhered to.

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## Launch of the Online Bibliography of Nottinghamshire History

Following on from the recent launch of Bromley House Library's own online catalogue another similar resource produced by the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire was launched in, appropriately, the 'Thoroton Room' at Bromley House Library on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Guests were welcomed by Bromley House Library chairman Victor Semmens and introduced by Thoroton chairman Professor John Beckett. A demonstration of the new website was made by Andy Nicholson.

In 2002 the Society published the first comprehensive bibliography of 8707 books, articles and pamphlets on Nottinghamshire history prior to 1998. It was compiled by Michael Brook and published as Volume 42 of the Society's *Record Series*. This has formed the basis of a new updated online version compiled by Andy Nicholson with the assistance of Corinne Fawcett of the University of Nottingham Dept of Manuscripts and Special Collections. It now includes over 11,000 bibliographical sources for the history of the city and county of Nottingham, and also includes brief summaries of the contents of those publications with more cryptic titles. It will form an invaluable and universally available resource for all types of local historical research. It is now available on the Society's website ([www.thorotonsociety.org.uk](http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk)).

History collections were used in the compilation of the Bibliography. These include include rare volumes such as first editions of Dr Thoroton's *Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* of 1677 and a copy of John Blackner's *History of Nottingham* of 1815 with additional illustrations. The Library's own holdings are supplemented by two individual collections accumulated by former members – the Nottingham antiquarian James Ward, who gave his books in 1914, and book collector Michael Dobbin, a former Hon Secretary of the Thoroton Society, whose collection was deposited on loan in 1999.

The Thoroton Society was founded in 1879 and has long standing links with Bromley House Library. Between 1909 and 1981 it maintained its own library and committee room in what is now the meeting and lecture room called the 'Thoroton Room'.

Bromley House Library members are very welcome to join the Society which publishes an annual journal, a regular newsletter and holds a series of winter lectures and summer outings as well as an annual luncheon. The current individual subscription stands at £24 per year plus £6 for associate members at the same address.

## Nottingham Literary Luncheon

This will take place on Friday November 15th at the Council House, with Roy Hattersley and Alison Weir as the speakers. A booking form will be available on our website shortly.

## Christmas Party

Our Christmas party this year is on Saturday December 14th 11am – 1pm. There will be music, there will be wine, there will be food, there will be congenial company. Tickets are always limited initially to two per membership, and will go on sale on November 1st at a cost of £7.50.

## Forthcoming Gallery events

**November and December:** 'Below Zero' - ink and wash drawings by Pascale Quiviger

**January 2014:** a selection of photographs from the Bromley House Studio Project photographic competition

**February-March:** 'Under Milk Wood' – paintings by Mary Austin

**July-December:** World War I commemorative events and exhibitions

## Forthcoming Saturday Lectures

These take place in the Thoroton Room at 10.30am. Tickets and further details are available a calendar month before the lecture date. Should lectures be oversubscribed then tickets are limited to two per membership.

<b>November 16th</b>	Pascale Quiviger	Below Zero
<b>February 15th</b>	Richard Gaunt	Emma's sketchbook
<b>March 22nd</b>	Michael Eaton	The Priest of Nemi
<b>May 17th</b>	Linda Pratt	The Poet Laureateship – past and present
<b>June 14th</b>	Miranda Seymour	Noble Endeavours – The Cousinly History of two great nations

## Raffle Prizes

We would very much like to thank the Capital FM Arena, Nottingham for the fantastic raffle prize they gave us for our Heritage Open Day Raffle. It was 2 tickets for Cirque du Soleil in November and the winner was delighted with the prize. The raffle was held on Heritage Open Day and raised around £130 for the 2016 appeal.

It is very nearly Christmas Party time again and we would like to continue the new tradition of raffling a Christmas Hamper made up by our members. Any contributions of delicious Christmas food or beverages would be most welcome.

## BROMLEY HOUSE LIBRARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the company will be held on Thursday 28th November 2013 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 ended 31st March 2013
2. To elect directors
3. To elect a President
4. To re-appoint Rogers Spencer Ltd as independent examiner
5. To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the independent examiner

By order of the Board

David Hallett  
Honorary Secretary  
4th November 2013

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

Registered No 3413612 (England & Wales)

## Christmas and New Year Closing

The Library will be closed on Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th, and Saturday 28th December. We will be closing at 1pm on Tuesday 31st December and remaining closed on Wednesday 1st January.

**Bromley House Library**  
Bromley House  
Angel Row  
Nottingham  
NG1 6HL  
0115 9473134  
www.bromleyhouse.org



BROMLEY HOUSE  
LIBRARY  
NOTTINGHAM  
FOUNDED 1816

## 200th Anniversary Development Campaign



### First Bulletin November 2013

To members of Bromley House Library

## We have something to celebrate!

The Garden Wing is finished - if you have not seen it yet, visit soon.

**F**ive years since we started negotiations with Nandos for the surrender of the upper floors, a year since we received planning and listed building consent, we have completed our project to bring extra space back into Library use.

We are planning opening parties for the New Year.

In the meantime, we are focusing on the moving of books, the reorganisation of the Counter area and the removal of the screen on to Angel Row. Then, hopefully, a period of consolidation while our changes settle down and we iron out any teething problems.

## What's new?

- A super sunny reading room with full wifi – and lovely views of the garden.
- Members' toilets on the first as well as the second floor.
- Large extension to coffee/newspaper room and a new carpet in the Standfast room, exposing the Meridian line, used for setting the clocks in the 1820s.
- A full kitchen, which increases the variety of functions we can hold in the Library.
- Through the generosity of the University of Nottingham, new shelving not just in the Garden Wing reading room, but in the coffee room and the Thoroton Room.
- Space for storage and rooms for administration functions, freeing up the Counter for reader services.
- Following the removal of the screen, a new reading area for members overlooking Angel Row and the Square.

## And we will be warm this winter...

Two of the old gas heaters in the main rooms failed their annual test last year, so whilst not planned to be done quite so soon, the time had come to replace them. This was done in October, an expensive addition to our budget.

## How is this all being paid for?

Our Campaign launched at the beginning of the year has raised, through the generosity of more than 200 members, £90,000 in immediate gifts and standing order promises over a number of years.

And gifts are continuing to come in, so please don't be shy if you have been meaning to respond and have not quite got round to it. We have a long way to go to meet all our objectives and each contribution takes your library a step forward on the journey to secure its future. If you need a copy of the gifting form please ask library staff who will have one sent to you immediately.

## And our thanks -

To each member who has contributed so generously to the campaign fund.

To those who have made or bought cakes, walked the Coast to Coast footpath or helped in other ways in our cause.

To our architect, Peter Rogan, who saw the possibility of what is now the Garden Wing, who planned and oversaw the detail and who found time for us when stretched between our project and the larger works at St Mary's.

To all those members who have volunteered to help with the work- cleaning, moving books, erecting shelving etc.

To the University of Nottingham for the shelving and the furniture in the new reading room.

To Courtaulds for the donation of the office furniture.

To our staff who have kept the library operating while builders have worked.

And, its' not said often, to our colleagues on the board who have steered the library safely to this substantial change.

## And where to next?

There remains much on our agenda, including planning a lift, repairing the roof and the exterior, making the attics useable, catching up with decoration etc through out the building.

This is all aimed at securing the property and improving facilities for members.

We have to search for external grants but need to show further contributions from members.

And we have a generous offer to support the cost of repairing the 1752 plaster ceiling in the Neville Hoskins room. We are taking specialist advice on what should and could be done.

The room is the gem of Bromley House and to have it cleaned and properly lit would be a wonderful celebration of our 200th birthday.

Progress depends on members' support and every gift you can give us helps whether it's money or the offer of help. If you would like to help please speak to a member of staff.

Thank you.



# BROMLEY HOUSE LIBRARY ANNUAL JOURNAL SALE 2014

Each year the library auctions off the periodicals for the following year.

How does this work? If you are interested in bidding for a particular journal, listed below, please complete the slip and return it to the Librarian in a sealed envelope. The envelopes will be opened on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. If your bid is successful, then for all of 2014 when we receive the latest copy of the journal the previous copy is kept for you to collect. This helps us towards the cost of the journals and you will hopefully bag a bargain!



Country Life  
Discover Your History  
Gardener's World  
Good Housekeeping  
History Today  
House and Garden  
London Review of Books  
National Geographic  
New Scientist  
New Statesman

New York Review of Books  
Nottinghamshire Today  
The Oldie  
Private Eye  
The Spectator  
Times Literary Supplement  
Vogue

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**Bid for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014**

**Your name and membership number:**

**Journal:**

**Your bid £**

Please return to the Library by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December