



Subscriptions 2014 – ‘we’re worth it’

The Board has decided that after two years at the same level, the subscription for the year commencing 1st April 2014 should be £90 (£45 for country members and young members). The increase was unavoidable through continued cost inflation combined with a reduction in income from rents. The increase is only £2.50 every three months (and you can pay quarterly if you would like to), so it is the cost of an extra cup of coffee and less than the price of a magazine. With membership at £7.50 per month we feel it is very good value. And do remember that there are no extra charges for borrowing music CDs or audio books, and that should you bring a book back late, we won't charge you an overdue fee. We're not sure when the library stopped charging those, but it may have been when the Librarian stopped receiving a proportion of them.

To encourage younger people to join the Library we are introducing a new category of membership, at half the full subscription, for people aged between 18 and 25. At the same time we are withdrawing the previous reduced subscription category for full time students (except for those already in this category, while they remain eligible). The young person's membership is for an individual membership, rather than a family membership. By encouraging young people to join the library and enjoy the books and facilities, we believe it will contribute to the long term future of the Library. It will also be easier for the Library to administrate.

Cream tea

As the weather hopefully starts to get a little warmer and more springlike we have organised a couple of our popular fundraising events. The first is another Cream Tea to be on the afternoon of Wednesday 9th April in our New Reading Room. You will be able to enjoy coffee, speciality teas and a wide range of home made cakes for £5.00 pp. All the proceeds will be going towards our 2016 appeal. Last year's event was a sell out so please do reserve your tickets early.

www.bromleyhouse.org

A while ago a small group of interested volunteers met up to discuss the 'redesign' of the Bromley House Website. We were extremely fortunate that one of the group, Mike Astill, volunteered to design us a new site and train up members of staff in the use of the content management system.

You may have noticed that the site went live in the autumn, without a fanfare, as we wanted to be able to iron out any niggles etc. There is still a little work to do and content to put on (more links, more history, we are investigating a short film etc. etc.) and we are really thrilled that Google has finally found us. It will be launched on Saturday 29th March between 11am – 1pm. We would like to thank you all for your initial suggestions and kind thoughts about our original site on the questionnaires that you returned. A huge thank you to Mike for all his hard work, excellent training and work books and to the initial working party for all their help and suggestions. You will know that the Library has been through a very busy nine months with the Garden Wing expansion and stock relocation and the work on the web took a little longer than we expected or hoped, but we are extremely pleased with the results, both the aesthetics and functionality.

Open Garden Event

You may remember two years ago we chose the only sunny afternoon in a rain sodden summer to hold an Open Garden Event in aid of Bromley House and Maggie's. We raised a magnificent sum sharing our garden with over 400 visitors. This year we will be open from 1pm – 4pm on 24th May in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and our own 2016 appeal. Elizabeth and Carol will be on hand to answer your questions, there will be music, a raffle, a plant stall, and cakes and cordials will be on sale. Entry is only £2.00 pp so please do spread the word among your friends and neighbours – this is a rare opportunity to spend the afternoon in our garden. We will be publicising the event widely on social media as well; do retweet and share and favourite. Fundraising events like these can only take place with help from volunteers; so if you want to help steward or sell cakes or raffle tickets on the day or bake cakes for us to sell please get in touch with geraldine.gray@bromleyhouse.org or any of the library staff.



Email

Do we have an email address for you? As you know postal costs are increasing again. We post out just three newsletters a year due to the cost of postage. There are other times that we like to get in touch with members to alert you to extra events, ask for volunteers, and let you know a reserved book is in or ask you to return books that have long waiting lists. The most economical way for us to do this is by email. About two thirds of the membership has provided us with email addresses; if you have not received an email from us in the last couple of months it means we don't have yours, or the one we do have does not work. It would be a great help if you could email enquires@bromleyhouse.org so that we can get our records up to date. Don't forget that there is also our website www.bromleyhouse.org to keep you up to date with news and events.



Poetry evening

The Bromley House Poetry Please events are proving to be very popular. After several requests for an evening or Saturday event we have organised an event on Wednesday April 2nd from 5pm – 6pm. Please do come along and feel free to bring a friend or colleague. Who knows we may even be able to enjoy an evening in the garden.

Garden tours

Whether or not you know your Hosta from your Hebe you cannot fail to be charmed by the Library's garden. Our gardener Elizabeth Robinson, who looks after it extremely well with the help of some volunteers, is now doing a tour of the garden (to some extent weather permitting, although we do have umbrellas) on the following dates at 10.30am. Places can be booked a month in advance.

Saturday 5th April
 Saturday 7th June
 Saturday 6th September
 Saturday 4th October

Garden Party

Our garden party this year will be held on Saturday 26th July. We are hoping for sunshine of course. Tickets will cost £7 and will go on sale on Monday 16th June, when more details will be available, but we thought you may like to put the date in your diary now.

Membership procedures

In order to streamline our membership procedures we are now offering prospective members, or simply the curious, an opportunity to have a tour of the library free of charge. This will last around an hour, and are scheduled fortnightly but on varying days of the week. You can pick up a leaflet with the dates from the Library, or it is available on our website. These are not, however, a prerequisite to applying for membership, and our new members are still invited to a welcome event when they have joined.

Celebrating our new facilities

Those of you who came to the AGM will have enjoyed a glass of wine in the New Reading Room, but we would like to celebrate our new rooms by inviting members to join us for a glass of wine or cordial and cakes, up in the New Reading Room on Saturday 29th March between 11 am and 1 pm. Do come and join us.



The grand book move

We have now finished moving the book stock around, and are getting the shelves labelled correctly and catching up with the location changes on the Catalogue. The aim, as well as finding space for the next few years of book purchases has been to bring some collections together for ease of use, and to gather the scattered remnants of the Ca books (History and Biography), together into a single sequence. We have also gathered the Local History collections as close to each other as we can.

Don't forget that staff are always available to help you or to find something for you, and we have produced maps which show you where the books are in each room.

None of this could have been done without the help of our members who were willing to carry books up and down the stairs, clean the shelves and make sure everything was in the right order.

Update on the Heaters

After a very cold winter last year, since we have had our new heaters put in it has been quite mild. We have had electric storage heaters installed in the main rooms of the first floor, to replace both the gas heaters that had failed, and the two that were the same age and therefore likely to go soon, and with no spare parts available. Electricity was the only viable option as it would have been prohibitively expensive to have the flues lined and ventilation put in to meet the safety standards for installing new gas heaters. Storage heaters were the only possibility to warm these large rooms using a single heater.

In the new wing we have also installed electric heaters. These are panel heaters with individual controls, and we are now getting used to what settings they need to be on, but we have noticed that the New Reading Room can be quite chilly after the heating has been off over the weekend, so we do prioritise switching those on first.

Have you been a member for a long time?

Have you been a member of the library for a long time, or were your parents members of the Library back in the days when members had a share which could be passed on when they died? We are looking for old photographs of the Library. Whilst there are quite a lot of external photographs of the building on Picture the Past (<http://www.picturethepast.org.uk/>), a fantastic website of images of old Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, it would be lovely to find more photographs of the interior of the building, or of people associated with the Library.

Or do you have any memories of the Library that you would like to share with us? One or two people have told us that they can remember (just) the reading room in what we are now calling the Garden Wing. What was your favourite room and why? We would love to know. Carol can be contacted on carol.barstow@bromleyhouse.org but is always happy to receive letters the old fashioned way!



Volunteering

We find it very rewarding to have members volunteering with us in the Library, but are noting a tendency that those looking for work seem to find that work shortly after they have started working with us - which we are of course very pleased about! It does leave us with some vacancies for our 'general volunteers' though; these are people who can commit to coming in for a half day a week and helping us with whatever needs doing. For those who are physically able, that involves some shelving - an excellent way to get to know the Library stock well. Other than that it can be all sorts of things.

We are also in need of some hospitality volunteers. When groups come to visit us, we do sometimes offer them coffee and biscuits, so helpers for this are always very welcome. Then there are occasions when it is helpful too to have someone who can show people where to leave their coats, to take them to the appropriate room and if they are having a tour, bring up the rear so that no-one gets lost, or take people up alternate staircases. Our early evening events for new members also benefit from having an extra person to serve wine and chat to people whilst they gather, and just help them to feel at home.

Contact Geraldine who can forward you a volunteer form and let you know what days we need help.
geraldine.gray@bromleyhouse.org

Hire a room at Bromley House Library

Are you looking for a special room to hire in a grade II* listed building in the city centre? Maybe for your book group? You can now hire a room at the library. The Thoroton Room and the George Green Room are available at the modest cost of £30 per session. You can book a morning or afternoon, Monday to Friday, between 10am and 1pm or 1pm and 4.30pm. Please note that if you opt to use the George Green Room then members may still need access to the books in there.

Drinks can be purchased at the going rate and taken to your room. Normal rules apply regarding washing up.

Only Bromley House Library members can book but you may bring non members into the library, but please take responsibility for your guests.

Please email enquiries@bromleyhouse.org or telephone 0115 9473134 if you would like to book or have any questions.