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Friends of Milton Road Library Newsletter July 2020

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Online Evening Events



Since the lockdown we have hosted two online talks on 'Zoom' both of which we judge to have been successful. The first in which two local published poets Andre Mangeot and Michael Brown read and discussed their poetry. Very professionally presented, this proved a highly popular evening. More recently local novelist and poet Emily Scialom provoked much interest as she talked about her two novels, *Religion of Self-Enlightenment* and *The Rivers*, explaining how she came to write them, how related they are to her own life experiences and the whole process of becoming a published writer.

Plans for further online evening talks are ongoing. Our next one is to be given on **Wednesday 8 July** by local author Emily Winslow Stark whose detective novels take place in Cambridge.



For further information and to register for Emily's event go to;
www.friendsofmiltonroadlibrary.org

The following one will take place on **Wednesday August 5th** and will be given by Di Beddow. Her subject will be the two poets Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, their poetry and courtship in Cambridge. Further information will be circulated nearer the time.

All our online talks are free to both members and non-members. Further talks are at the discussion stage. As always if anyone is able to suggest future speakers who they feel would be of interest to members, we should be pleased to hear about them.

We wish you all good health and safety and plenty of enjoyable reading.



New Notice Board

Keep an eye open for up to date information on the new library noticeboards.



Competition

Life in Cambridge During Lockdown and Beyond. Prizes to be won. Open to all up to 16 years. See inside.....

Earlier Events

by Jill Young

Since the opening of the new library we have had a number of successful evening talks, none more so than the last three given before the lockdown. But I should not fail to mention the earlier memorable talk about Clara Rackham given by Professor Mary Joannou. Clara, one of the early graduates of Newnham College, was a Cambridge benefactor in many ways, among others, improving the lives of women and the poor, and participating in the establishment of Parker's Piece swimming pool and Rock Road Library. We were so impressed by Clara's achievements that we are hoping to name one of the two community rooms at Milton Road Library after her.

The three pre-lockdown talks, all given by women, have been successful and well attended through a team effort to publicise our events more widely.

Firstly we heard Sue Grossey's fascinating account of the self-publishing of her novels about historical fraud crime, secondly Ann Kennedy Smith's talk about early 20th century Cambridge women's societies devoted to cultural events and philanthropy largely led by university students and academics' wives, and thirdly Anne Forbes's talk about Sir Thomas Fowell

Buxton MP who by making slavery illegal in Britain carried on Wilberforce's work banning the trade in slaves.



Competition

Life in Cambridge During lockdown and Beyond

An opportunity for children up to 16 years to enter this competition and win prizes. There are four separate challenges which are age appropriate. For full details see the website https://www.friendsofmiltonroadlibrary.org.uk/?page_id=1046

Everybody has had different experiences and emotions during lockdown. This competition gives children and students the opportunity to write, draw or make audio or models to record this unique period..

There are prizes for winners and runners up in each category.

Entries must reach us before 22 July 2020

Friends of Milton Road Library

Competition for all ages up to 16 years



Life in Cambridge During Lockdown and Beyond
Categories: up to 5 years (FS), 6-8 yrs (KS1), 9-11 yrs (KS2), 12-14 yrs (KS3), 15-16 yrs (KS4)

The challenges

For FS or KS1 only:

- An illustrated, audio or photo diary of life during lockdown
- Model-making reflecting life during lockdown.

For KS 2-4 only:

- Imagine it's the year 2080 – you are sixty years older than you are today. Write a letter to a grandchild or young person describing what it was like to be young during the lockdown of 2020.

For all ages:

- Write a descriptive piece called The Sounds of Lockdown.

For all ages:

- The diary of a lockdown day - A typical day or number of days experienced over the last four or so weeks.



Prizes - each of the five age categories will award a winner (£25 token) and runner up (£10 token)

Full details: www.friendsofmiltonroadlibrary.org.uk/

Closing date: 22 July 2020

Also of interest to younger people.

Milton Road Library is setting up discussion groups for students aged 13-18 yrs. The focus will be to engage with wider issues, culture and the community in which they live. We had hoped to start these sessions sooner but sadly they have been delayed due to COVID-19. For further details contact fmr.library@gmail.com

Book Sales

By Diana Buddle



First of all, a big thank you to families and individuals who have kindly donated their treasured books for reasons such as emigrating, making space for new books, inherited books, moving house, downsizing and spring cleaning. We have received wonderful books – vintage publications, fascinating hardbacks, many paperbacks including a large donation of science fiction books. Also boxes of much sought after children’s books – these boxes are always popular for rummaging by the many children enjoying the new library. We show our donated books to library staff so that they can check if there are any that they would consider can be added to Milton Road Library shelves. Sometimes we find books of special interest in our donated stock that we know would be appreciated by visitors or talk presenters at the library, an example of which was an Edgar Allen Poe hardback book illustrated by the artist Arthur Rackham, who was the brother-in-law of Clara Rackham. Following the talk about Clara Rackham on the 19th September 2019, so enthusiastically presented by Professor Mary Joannou, Professor of Literary History and Women’s Writing at Anglia Ruskin University, we donated that book to Professor Joannou and she was delighted to receive it.

The first book sale was in the garden at the 80th birthday party and farewell event to the old library prior to demolition. This book stall was popular and successful, and many donated books were sold. This proved that regular book sales in the

new library would be a good idea for funding and community interaction, and new book donations started arriving. A very large donation was made by a family who were parting with their treasured books prior to emigrating. We had a good stock of donated books ready for the stall as part of the celebration of the opening of the new library on the 26th June 2019. It was a very hot day and the book stall was in the community rooms, but the large gathering of guests enjoyed browsing and buying books and sale proceeds of £76.10 were added to Friends of Milton Road Library (FMRL) funds for the benefit of library equipment, events, etc. After that a further seven book sales have taken place – 5 Saturday daytime sales and 2 evening sales prior to talks. A total amount of £313.00 was added to FMRL funds in 2019 and, at the best sale to date on the 15th February 2020, £130 was received for FMRL funds from our book sale enthusiasts. Refreshments are available at Saturday daytime book sales as the kitchen is open so that adults and children can enjoy cake and biscuits and hot and cold drinks whilst browsing, again run by our volunteers who provide home-made, or shop purchased cakes and biscuits to add to our FMRL tea, coffee soft drinks stock – many thanks to our kitchen volunteers and for providing cakes and biscuits. There is an optional contribution pot placed on the kitchen counter and we thank our book sale customers for their kind support with those proceeds, also for FMRL funds.

Finally, a further big thank you to members of the FMRL committee, all our book sale helpers for the storage of books, moving the books to and from the community rooms, and moving chairs and furniture to set up the sales. Also many thanks to the library staff for the room bookings and staff on duty on the days of the sales for being so accommodating and helpful.

I enjoy helping at the book sales so much and seeing the

enjoyment of our customers, especially when they find books of great interest to them that they may no longer find in shops or on library shelves. Also the community interaction – meeting and chatting – is a perfect atmosphere for the community rooms in our new library. We look forward to the time when the libraries are allowed to open again so that, in due course and when possible, we can restart the book sales. We will inform you as soon as this is possible.

Library Reopening

The latest information we have is that Milton Road Library will be reopening on Monday August 3rd for two days per week. To borrow books users will need to use the “Select and collect service .” To find out more about this access the Cambridgeshire County Council libraries website and search for “Select and Collect ” or telephone 0345 04505225. This information comes from the Cambridgeshire Libraries Monthly Newsletter.

Available services;

- Online reservations
- Customers can call or contact us online to request a selection of titles.
- Return items to any open library
- No browsing of titles in libraries
- No CD/DVD lending
- Talking Books free throughout July and August
- Public Access IT facilities by appointment.
- Printing - exact cash only, card payments at Cambridge Central.
- All in-library events remain suspended
- No room hire
- We cannot accept book donations

Story Sharing



It has not been possible to continue the Story Sharing sessions every fortnight during lockdown and the closure of the library but we hope this can be re-started in due course.

Stories online

Meanwhile Marion Leeper has been experimenting with telling stories online. There is one for little children which you can look at here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldsuxDdnsZA&feature=youtu.be>

Silly Songs

Storyteller Sef Townsend has an inexhaustible fund of

silly songs for children (of all ages!), gathered from all around the world, and during lockdown he has started to record some of them on his Youtube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD3AcBbGwoX7A2AJKdzBXlQ>

Highly recommended by Marion for children (or parents) who need a five minute break from each other, or for anybody working with young children who needs to brush up their repertoire of catchy tunes.

Marion has also recorded a story for grownups for Radio Cambridge recently and put a version of it up here:
<https://open.acast.com/shows/5e7f943b8dc644b1036d5006/episodes>



Head to the [Summer Reading Challenge Facebook page](#) this Friday 5th June for the virtual launch party of 'Silly Squad', this year's online Summer Reading Challenge. It's going to be great fun!

Children will join the 'Silly Squad' team of animal friends who love to go on adventures, reading books along the way. There will be book recommendations, quizzes, videos and games on the Reading Agency's website—children can join [here](#)

Library staff will be creating special craft activities to add to the fun, available on the [Cambridgeshire Libraries Facebook page](#) throughout the summer.

Families can join the library, borrow e-resources (books, audio-books, comics and magazines) and see our timetable of online events here – <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries>.

#sillysquad

Join Us

As a member of the Friends, we will keep you informed of events and activities, and also ask you to give us ideas and feedback on proposals affecting our library. Most of the events we run are free to members. We keep in touch primarily by email but we will do what we can to also notify those people who join us who aren't on the internet.

Subscriptions

Subscription to be a member:

Individual: £5 (£3 if unwaged)
 Family/household: £8 (£5 if unwaged)
 Community Members (schools, local businesses): £10

To join please contact fmr.library@gmail.com for a member subscription form.

This is the first of our members newsletters. We hope you like it. Please send any comments or suggestions for improvements to The Friends of Milton Road Library on fmr.library@gmail.com