

# Giving the Library extra help

## AGM agrees new subscription rate

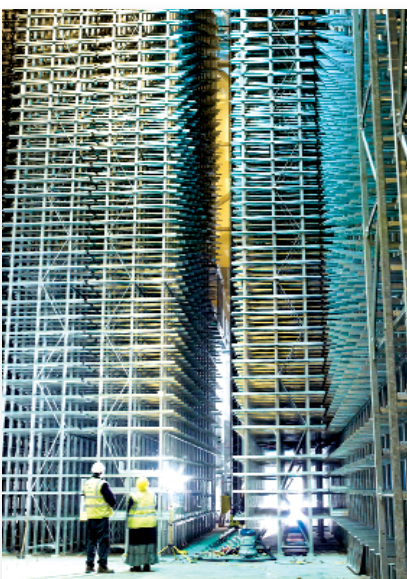
There was good news and bad news at the Friends' Annual General Meeting, held on 2 March in the Conference Centre. The good news was that over the year membership has remained stable, at just above 3,000, despite the recession. Less welcome, perhaps, was the decision, endorsed by the meeting, to raise the annual subscription by £5, with an extra £75 added to the cost of life membership.

This means that standard single membership, if paid by direct debit, goes up to £40, and the concessionary rate to £30, with a £5 surcharge if any other payment method is used.

Graham Allatt, the treasurer, said that the increase would enable us to increase our grants to the Library. It is a timely move because, as Dame Lynne Brindley, the Library's chief executive, told us in her annual address, Government funding will inevitably be constrained in the current economic climate.

Mr Allatt reported that the Friends' administrative costs had fallen by nearly six per cent in the year ended June 2009, to £41,459. During the same period grants to the Library totalled £85,000.

Dame Lynne (pictured) expressed her gratitude for the grants we had made over the year, including our sponsorship of a conservation intern and our support for the National Life Stories project. She reported that the fund-raising for the purchase of the Mervyn Peake archive – towards which the Friends have committed £25,000 – was now almost complete. (It has since been completed – see report on page 4.)



Looking ahead, she gave a foretaste of developments at Boston Spa, where the new robotic storage facility (pictured) is due to open by the end of the year. And the newspaper collection will have moved from Colindale to another new building on the site by the end of 2012, by which time most of the collection will have been digitalised and will be accessible at St Pancras.

These developments have been funded by the Government, but the Library is looking for private sponsorship of the Business and Intellectual Property Centre when its current funding expires next year.



The formal business of the AGM included the re-election of three Trustees for a second three-year term: Edmund King, Robert Kirton and Michael Leapman. Graham Allatt was re-elected as Treasurer and Stephanie Kenna was welcomed as our new Acting Honorary Secretary. Stephanie retired this year after 37 years at the British Library, holding many senior positions, most recently Acting Head of Planning and Strategic Development Manager. There is an interview with her on page 2.

A motion about the selection of the Volunteers' Co-ordinator was also agreed. The Council had earlier devised a procedure for selecting the co-ordinator, which the Volunteers were due to discuss a week after the AGM. Members therefore agreed to place the Council decision on hold until the Volunteers were able to consider it, and the Council would revisit the decision, if necessary, in the light of the Volunteers' views.

Lord Hameed, our chairman, paid tribute to the work of the Volunteers, especially their role in attracting new members. He also thanked members of the Council for their work before introducing the guest speaker, the author Marina Warner (see page 3).

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## From the Membership Secretary



Welcome to the summer edition of our Newsletter. Many of you will have noticed the new look launched in the last issue, and this will be rolled out to our leaflets and materials as we deplete current stocks. Now that we'll have a more eye-catching and informative leaflet, I'd like to get a wider distribution to local groups, libraries and the like. Please contact me in the office if you'd like to help.

It's been a busy quarter for events – we've held nine of them, with over 300 places for Friends! The programme has been very well received but clearly there have been a few failings in the office with sending out confirmations, for which I can only apologise. I've now implemented a new system so this shouldn't be a problem any longer, and I'd like to thank you all for your patience. Our exciting programme of events continues for the rest of the year and I hope to see lots of you attending. On an administrative note, it helps me when payment is given by credit/debit card if you apply for more than one event. Of course, payment is only taken when places are confirmed.

The Friends' Room has been busier than normal with the Easter rush at the Library, and I've been pleased to meet so many Friends. I think the Friends' Room is one of our greatest assets and we could be doing more with it. If any of you have spare magazines you'd

like to donate, please bring them in at any time. We're also looking for a chess set or other appropriate games, as many of you have expressed an interest in getting to know other Friends. Finally, I'm very keen to start a Friends' Book Club – so if you're interested in joining or in running it then please get in touch. I would be happy to facilitate it in any way, but need someone else to take it forward.

We've made an arrangement with the Library Shop for new members to receive 20% off their first purchase, and gift memberships come with one of our canvas tote bags. With the membership price increase coming into effect on 1st July, June is a great time to buy a gift membership. Email or call the office for more details. I'm more than happy to send out membership leaflets for Friends to pass on to their friends, or directly to prospective members.

To remind you, annual membership prices are going up across the board by £5. Direct debit payments will be adjusted automatically, but if you have a standing order in place, please increase it accordingly or, even better, consider switching to direct debit. All you need to do is fill in a form and send it back to me and I'll take care of the rest.

Donations and legacies form an important part of our financial support to the Library, and I'd like to encourage you all to consider the Friends when preparing your giving portfolio. Information is available in the Friends' Room or from the office.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to welcoming you at the Library or at one of our events.

## Stephanie stays in touch

### Michael Leapman meets the Friends' new honorary secretary

When you have worked for an institution for your entire professional life, it is hard to break away. That was why, when Stephanie Kenna's retirement from the British Library became due last year, she asked colleagues to give her a year's membership of the Friends as a leaving present.

But she wanted more than just to keep in touch; so she was pleased to be approached shortly before Christmas to become the Friends' honorary secretary, maintaining a strong link with the Library that she has served in a variety of capacities since 1975. "I said I'll do it for a year and see how it goes," she recalls. "I haven't regretted it yet."

The honorary secretary's role is a vital one. Although unpaid, she is in many ways the official face of the Friends, administering the affairs of the Council, preparing its agendas, writing the minutes of its meetings and taking care of our vital relationship with the Charities Commission. She works closely with the Membership Secretary, Nickie Chapman.

Stephanie comes from Bury in Lancashire. After graduating from Oxford and taking a post-graduate course in librarianship at Sheffield, she joined the Library – then newly separated from the British Museum – in the précis indexing section, where among her colleagues was Lynne Brindley, now chief executive.

In subsequent years Stephanie moved through departments



handling official publications, preservation, research and development, until she became manager of the Co-operation and Partnership Programme, working with other institutions and promoting the Library regionally. Her last few years were spent in forward planning, first developing strategy for 2008–11, then helping to create a vision for the Library in 2020.

"I've had a very rich career," she says. "I don't think I could have had such a rich career with a public library or a university library. Fewer and fewer people work for the same institution for all their career, but it doesn't really feel like it because I've moved around such a lot."

She retains a strong commitment both to the Library and the Friends: "I see the Friends as a really useful adjunct to the Library. The amount of money contributed might be comparatively small but we get a lot of mileage out of it. It goes a long way. We can help in small ways that sometimes generate other funding.

"Looking ahead, it's going to be a very difficult period for the Library over the next few years, and indeed for the Friends. If we can keep our current members and grow it even slightly, and maintain the grants at the level we've been achieving, it will be of huge benefit to the Library."

# Memories of postwar Cairo

At the AGM, **Marina Warner** gave an enthralling talk on **A Bookshop in Cairo**. She is writing a book – **Inventory of a Life Mislaid** – about the shop her father started in 1947, which was burned down in the nationalist riots of 1952. Here is an edited extract from the talk:



Marina Warner



W. H. Smith and Son, Cairo House, 1948.

When I wrote to W. H. Smith to discover what, if anything, they might still have on file about the Egyptian venture my father Esmond embarked on after the war, it turned out that he had made tapes of his memories, and that towards the end of his life, like Krapp in Beckett's play, he had recorded two old-fashioned spools for the book chain's archives.

Finding a machine which would play them was a challenge but eventually, 25 years after the tapes were made, I heard my father talk about his life as a bookseller, employed by W. H. Smith since 1945 till he retired in the seventies. The way he told the story gave me the frame for the collage I've been making of the time we all spent in Cairo, after the war, where he opened his first bookshop.

Esmond was the son of the cricketer Sir 'Plum' Warner, in his day

a man much loved and very famous. My father was brought up rich but became poor – or comparatively so – for reasons that will be told later in the book. W. H. Smith was a retail book and newspaper business, a family firm then, and he'd made friends with David Smith, the owner, and his friend Michael Hornby, a partner.

During the war, my father fought as a staff officer under 'Monty' (whom he adored) in North Africa and then continued into Italy; he was by now a lieutenant-colonel. During the liberation there he met and married my mother, Ilia Terzulli.

At the end of the war he found himself 36 years old and without a job, alongside thousands of other men in a similar position, looking for work in a world shrunken by war. He had enjoyed the high life in Cairo – whisky, cards, racing – during the Africa campaign, and he was a book lover, a wide reader and a high-spirited traveller. Besides, he had friends at Smith's, so he suggested to them that he open a branch of their business in Cairo to serve the English and French communities.

In his own words: "The plan was this: I would establish Cairo House, the head office for W. H. Smith's Middle Eastern operation. It would bring books and newspapers and magazines and indeed all printed matter of all kinds to the Egyptians . . . Egypt was crying out for European literature and opinion, as I knew from many happy days I had spent in Cairo during lulls and leave during the Africa campaign. . . There were lots of marvellous little antiquarian places, of course – the second-hand bookshops on Ezbekiah Square were – are – legendary, and rightly so. But we were going to provide the latest news, the latest novels, the latest history – and yes, the latest fashion magazines, dressmaker and knitting patterns."

For a while he was able to live that dream – until the tide of Middle Eastern politics overwhelmed it, along with much else.

## Maps are a big draw

The Friends' exclusive tour of the Magnificent Maps exhibition, led by its curator Peter Barber, proved so popular that two extra tours were laid on to cope with the demand. The Friends contributed significantly to the exhibition, donating £10,000 towards the cost of transporting loaned items to the Library. In addition, one of the maps on display – the 1582 estate map of Smallburgh, Norfolk – was purchased in 2004 with the aid of a Friends' grant.

The first tour group gathered in the Friends' Room for tea before being taken down to the exhibition by Peter – who, in addition to being the Library's maps supremo, is a member of the Friends' Council. He explained the basic theme of the exhibition, that maps have never been simply geographical tools but invariably have cultural and political significance.

The exhibition is organised into separate rooms, representing areas of palaces and other environments – such as schoolrooms – where maps might be displayed. We saw the largest item on show, a tapestry map of southern England, as well as the Klencke Atlas, some five feet high. By contrast there is an atlas of the British Empire that would fit into a matchbox, made for Queen Mary, the wife of George V.

In the section showing maps designed to be exhibited in the street is one dating from 1943 headed TEA REVIVES THE WORLD (see picture). Peter explained that this was in part intended to

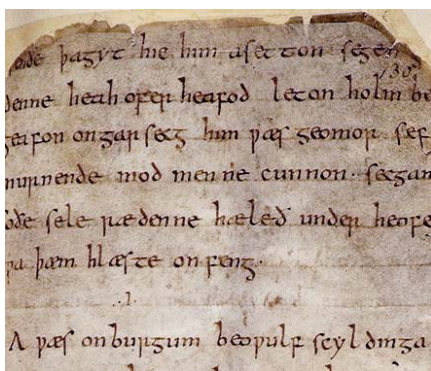


raise national morale during the darkest days of the Second World War. (The map also features on a souvenir mug available from the Library shop.)

The press has lavished high praise on the exhibition, some critics rating it at a four-star level. The *Daily Telegraph's* Sarah Crompton wrote: "This really is a show that turns the world on its head. I'll never look at a map in quite the same way again." In *The Times*, Rachel Campbell-Johnston declared: "This is a show to be interpreted at a deep cultural level. . . Maps, this show argues, are as much to do with philosophy as geography."

The exhibition continues until 19 September, and admission is free. The Library shop offers a wide range of map-related items, available to Friends at the usual ten per cent discount.

# The evolution of English



The Friends' Council has approved a grant of £10,000, subject to conditions, to support the Library's major winter exhibition, *Evolving English: A Journey from Text to Txt*. The money will go towards funding the rich programme of

talks, discussions, live performances and other events that will support the exhibition during its run, from November to April.

The exhibition will be the first to explore the English language in its national and international diversity. Drawing on the Library's collections of books, maps, newspapers and ephemera, it will show the many social, cultural and historical strands from which language is woven. It will also use its sound collections to show how English is and was spoken in Britain and around the world.

The events programme seeks to broaden the range and diversity of audiences that come to the Library by appealing to people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. Between 20 and 25 events are to be staged over four months. Among the speakers will be Professor David Crystal, the main consultant on the exhibition.

Other probable contributors are Steven Pinker, professor of psychology at Harvard University, the poet Benjamin Zephaniah and the radio and television presenters Stephen Fry and John Humphrys. Among the projected performances are readings of *Beowulf* (pictured above) and Chaucer's *The Reeve's Tale* in old English, and a presentation of Shakespeare in its original pronunciation.

One of the conditions attached to our grant is that the programme should include at least one special event for Friends. The Library has agreed to match our grant, lifting the events budget to £20,000.

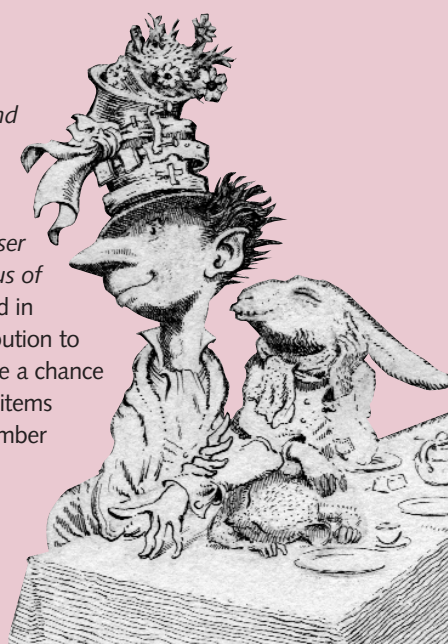
# Peake purchase finalised

The Library has now secured the archive of the artist and writer Mervyn Peake, author of the *Gormenghast* trilogy. In the last edition of the Newsletter we reported that the Friends had committed £20,000 to the proposed £400,000 purchase, but that there was still a small funding gap that had to be closed before the end of March.

In the event our contribution amounted to £25,000 thanks to the generosity of a Friend who wants to be known as A. Lert. On reading in the Newsletter of the need for extra funds, this member agreed to add £5000 to our contribution. This left only a small gap to be bridged, and the target was achieved in time.

The purchase was noted in an article in *The Guardian*, whose arts correspondent Vanessa Thorpe reported that letters in the archive show how Peake's dark vision, as displayed in his drawings, was shaped by his experience as a war correspondent, travelling through the devastated heart of Germany at the end of the Second World War. "Terrible as the bombing of London was, it is absolutely nothing – nothing compared with this unutterable desolation," he wrote.

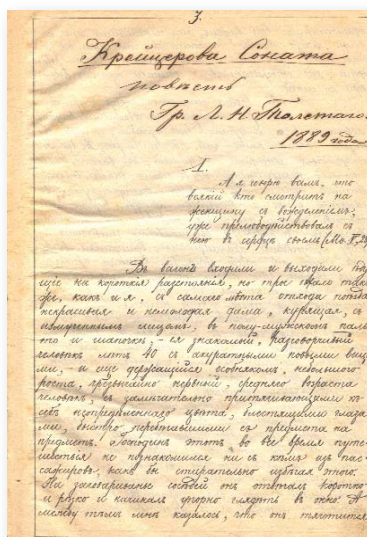
One of Peake's surreal pen-and-ink illustrations for Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is now on display in the Library's Sir John Ritblat Gallery as part of the special exhibition, *Curiouser and Curiouser: The Genius of Alice In Wonderland*. And in recognition of our contribution to the purchase, there will be a chance for Friends to view some items from the archive in November in the company of the curator and archivist and of Sebastian Peake, Mervyn's son. See page 6 for details.



# How Tolstoy beat the censors

A substantial donation from the Friends has allowed the Library to acquire a rare mimeographed edition of Leo Tolstoy's controversial short story, *The Kreutzer Sonata*. With a plot that hinges on sexual attraction, adultery and contraception, it was initially viewed as an attack on the institution of marriage and for that reason was promptly banned by the Russian state censors.

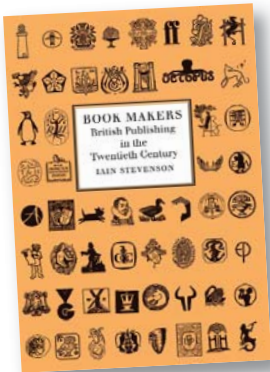
After a private reading in November 1889, the manuscript was copied and within three days some 300 illicit mimeographed copies were in circulation in St Petersburg. The copy acquired by the Library is one of these. The following year the story was published in Berlin and in translation in London, but the United



States Post Office prohibited the mailing of newspapers containing serialized instalments of it. Not until 1891 was Tolstoy's wife, Sofia Andreevna, granted permission by Tsar Alexander III in person for publication in Russia.

The Friends' grant of £4000 accounted for more than three-quarters of the item's cost price of £5400. Katya Rogatchevskaia, head of the Library's Russian collections, says: "This supplements our holdings on *The Kreutzer Sonata*: a draft fragment from the manuscript of the story, the two Berlin uncensored editions of 1890 and later editions included in Tolstoy's *Selected Works*. This is an important acquisition which was made possible due to generous help from the Friends."

## Of books and birds



Two new lines on sale in the Library shop should be of special interest to Friends. The first is a book about books. *Book Makers: British Publishing in the Twentieth Century* includes tales of creative genius, idiosyncrasy, occasional duplicity and bad behaviour, as well as of the far-sighted vision that over the century made British book publishing the best in the world.

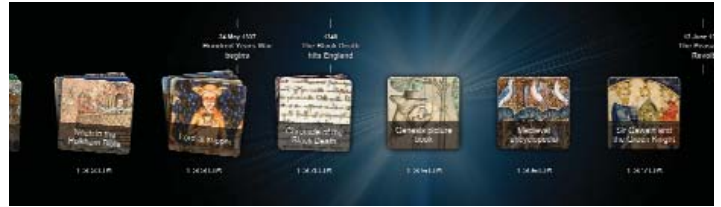
The book explores how publishing companies and their owners and staffs were organised and how their output responded to the wider social, economic and cultural trends of the period. It highlights the key figures such as William Heinemann, Allen Lane, Paul Hamlyn and Robert Maxwell but also looks at less well known publishers whose contributions were vital. The book is published at £25, but the Friends' discount at the shop brings it down to £22.50.

The Library has also launched a CD that puts birdsong under the acoustic microscope, revealing its hidden detail. Many birds such as the skylark, icterine warbler and grey fantail produce songs of astounding complexity and speed of delivery. It is almost impossible for the human ear to distinguish the wealth of hidden notes and surprising melodies that make up these compositions.



*Secret Songs of Birds: The Hidden Beauty of Birdsong Revealed* features 24 original recordings played alongside digitally mastered versions where the natural speed has been slowed down to reveal the intricacy of each song. These extraordinary recordings are combined with an expert account of the latest theories about birdsong and its meaning. The CD is available from the Library shop at the special Friends' price of £8.95.

## Award for Timeline



The Library has won the coveted Innovation Award for *Timelines: Sources from History*, in the 2010 Museums & Heritage Awards. The award is for the most innovative use of technology, including use of social media and the web, within the world of museums, galleries and heritage attractions.

*Timelines: Sources from History* allows users to explore the Library's collection items chronologically for the first time, through their computers. They can discover historical connections in an exciting multimedia experience, allowing students to get a sense both of change and continuity when studying historical events.

Roger Walshe, the Library's Head of Learning, said: "*Timelines* demonstrates how we can mesh traditional historical sources with new technologies to support future teaching methods, allowing users to pursue their own research."

The facility was developed by the Library's learning team with historians, curators and writers. It includes some key collection items from medieval times to the present day. Through the use of innovative Flash programming, users can visually travel through time, finding sources, viewing transcripts, adding items to favourites, and switching timelines at the click of a button. To use it go to [www.bl.uk/timeline](http://www.bl.uk/timeline).

## Theatre Offer see ENRON for less



After sellout runs in Chichester and at London's Royal Court Theatre, *Enron* is now at the Noel Coward Theatre in the West End. A satirical take on the scandal that triggered the world economic meltdown, *The Times* called it "the political theatre of the 21st century", while *The Guardian* enthused over "Rupert Goold's brilliant production".

Friends can buy the best available seats at £39.50 – a discount of £11 on the regular price.

To book, call 0844 482 5140 and quote 'British Library Offer'.

Offer valid 28 June to 7 August, Mon-Wed at 7.30pm, plus Wed and Sat at 2.30pm. Subject to availability.

## Can you help us?

If you have time and enthusiasm, and want to make an extra contribution to the support we give the Library, please contact Frances Hawkins on 020 8868 3499 or email her at [fhawkins@onetel.com](mailto:fhawkins@onetel.com) for information on how to become a volunteer.



## Choose from this rich menu

This is the largest number of visits we have ever listed in the Newsletter, and they include some rare and exclusive treats. Please make your reservations on the booking form enclosed.

### **APSLEY HOUSE**

Hyde Park Corner, 149 Piccadilly, London W1  
Wednesday 23 June, 18.00

**Guided tour, £20 including brochure**

There are still a few places left on this guided tour of the Duke of Wellington's London home, one of the capital's finest Georgian buildings, described in the last issue.

### **HIDDEN WONDERS OF KOREA: KOREAN ART AND CULTURE – FILMS**

Korean Cultural Centre, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2  
Wednesday 21 July, 18.30, £8

'Hidden Wonders of Korea', presents three of Korea's greatest works of art, and elucidates the connection between the country's creative past and its current prosperity. Its past contains many rich treasures, embracing the arts and sciences.

### **JEWISH MUSEUM**

129-131 Albert Street, London NW1

Thursday 19 August, 14.30, £12 including refreshments.

**Limit 50 places**

The new Jewish Museum London, which opened in March, holds one of the world's finest collections of Judaica, featuring objects used in all areas of Jewish religious life. The social history collection is made up of objects, documents and oral histories charting the many stories and experiences of British Jews.

### **BENTLEY PRIORY**

Stanmore, Middlesex

Thursday 9 September, 14.00, £10. **Limit 30 places**



A rare opportunity to visit Bentley Priory, the Grade 2\* listed mansion designed by Sir John Soane that was home to Lord Dowding's Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain. The Priory has been

closed to the public for over 80 years but the Bentley Priory Battle of Britain Trust is running tours as part of their work to open a museum and education centre. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

### **ST PANCRAS STATION**

London, NW1

Tuesday 14 September, 14.00, £15. **Limit 40 places**

As well as the stunning design of the station and its famous hotel, this tour of our distinguished neighbour will look at the impact of the coming of the railways, the armies of men who built them and the efforts being made to preserve the architectural and industrial heritage of an area previously known as one of London's most deprived inner-city neighbourhoods.



St Pancras Station.

### **LONDON LIBRARY**

14 St James's Square, London SW1

Thursday 23 September, 14.30, £15. **Limit 20 places**

The world's largest independent lending library, now containing over a million volumes, owes its foundation in 1841 to the vision of Thomas Carlyle, who sought to establish an institution that would let subscribers enjoy something of the wealth of a national library for use in their own homes. The Library's largest development project in over a century has been launched to ensure that the research needs of its 21st-century members are as well met as those of previous generations.

### **ST BRIDE'S LIBRARY**

Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London EC4

Wednesday 13 October, 14.30, £10. **Limit 20 places**

Something for everyone in the world of graphics. All the classic works on printing technique, visual style, typography, graphic design and calligraphy, plus a matchless range of artefacts that bring the history of print to life. Type is one of the highlights, with punches, matrices and founders' type from the seventeenth to the twentieth century.

### **HOUSE OF LORDS AND ITS LIBRARY**

London, SW1

Friday 29 October, 14.00, £10

This combines a standard tour of the House of Lords with a behind-the-scenes look at its library, led by one of the librarians. It is housed in a suite of rooms close to the chamber where daily papers and periodicals are available, and the Queen's Room, accommodating the research and information desks and computing facilities. (The event is dependent on the political timetable. Payment will not be taken until places can be confirmed.)

### **PEAKE ARCHIVE PRIVATE VIEW**

British Library

Thursday 4 November, 17.00, £10, including reception.

**Limit 40 places**

A unique opportunity to see some of the items of the newly acquired archive of Mervyn Peake, creator of the Gormenghast trilogy. As reported on page 4, the Friends gave a substantial grant towards the purchase. The curator and archivist will give an overview of the archive and Sebastian Peake, Mervyn Peake's son, will also attend and say a few words. The talks will be followed by a drinks reception.

## ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN

21 Albemarle Street, London W1

Wednesday 10 November, 14.30, £15, including refreshments

The Collections of the Royal Institution include the original apparatus and papers of many of those who have researched, lectured and lived in the building including Humphry Davy, Michael Faraday, John Tyndall and James Dewar. In addition the Institution has important collections of iconographic material in various media, as well as a large administrative archive.

## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE

Craven Street, London WC2

Wednesday 24 November, 14.00 and 15.15, £10

Limit 30 places

For nearly 16 years, between 1757 and 1775, Dr Benjamin Franklin – scientist, diplomat, inventor and a founding father of the United States – lived in this central London house. Built about 1730, it was opened to the public in 2006 as a dynamic museum and educational facility.

## FRIENDS SHOPPING EVENING

Thursday 2 December, 15.00–19.00, FREE

A date for your diaries. Final arrangements are still being made but we expect to run our usual offering of an extra discount in the shop and drinks and socialising in the Friends' Room. Last year was a great success, with over 200 Friends joining us for a successful evening, and we hope even more can be with us this year.



## HANDEL HOUSE and ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, with recital

25 Brook Street, London W1

Wednesday 8 December, 14.00, £15.

Limit 20 places

The house was home to George Frideric Handel from 1723 until his death in 1759, and was where he composed some of his greatest music. The museum celebrates his life and works in finely restored Georgian interiors. This event will begin with a tour of nearby St George's Church, where Handel played the organ (pictured): it is reopening in October after extensive repairs, so our group will see it at its finest. Then we head back to the House for an hour-long guided tour and a harpsichord recital lasting about 30 minutes.

## VISIT REPORTS

### The right stuffing



Pat Morris began his lecture defensively. "Mention the word taxidermy," he observed, "and most people leap up on their chairs and say: 'I don't want to know about it!'"

That was decidedly not the view of the 30-plus Friends who turned out to hear him speak on "Tigers, logbooks and the world's largest taxidermy factory". He stressed that the production of stuffed creatures, and the

trade in them, were now subject to strict international controls.

Such was not the case in the late nineteenth century, when the Van Ingen family established their factory in Mysore, southern India, principally to process tigers and leopards hunted by wealthy Indians and British expatriates.

A naturalist and member of the Mammal Society, Pat visited India three times to research his detailed book about the factory, which closed in the 1990s. He showed us pictures of the skulls and skeletons that were still there when he made his first visit. He also visited the Van Ingen family home, whose walls are lined with stuffed heads and horns (pictured).

Tigers are now an endangered species and it is illegal to trade in any that have been stuffed since 1947. Those that were processed earlier than that are classed as antiques and are extremely expensive: one recently changed hands for £18,000.

## A fine day out in Oxford

**Amanda Benton reports:** On a beautiful April day, more than 50 Friends and guests toured the Bodleian Library, including the exquisite late medieval Duke Humfrey's Library. The tour included the beautiful Radcliffe Camera, the first rotunda library built in Britain. The FBL party wandered along the hidden underground tunnels and passages leading to the stacks where over seven million volumes occupy nearly 120 miles of shelving. This was particularly intriguing and provoked comparisons with the more modern stacks at St Pancras.

A number of Friends had travelled from London to Oxford, while others joined us from Manchester, Doncaster and Surrey. Many made a full day of it, viewing the dramatically remodelled Ashmolean Museum before attending the lecture at Rhodes House given by Sir Colin Lucas, chairman of the Library and a former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University.

We are very grateful to Sir Colin, who gave a fascinating talk on the French Revolution, focussing on the events that led to the abolition of the monarchy and its consequences. A short but sociable reception followed.

## Engineering feats

Some two dozen Friends went to the Institute of Civil Engineers in April and were welcomed by the archivist, Carol Morgan. The Institute was founded in 1818 by eight young engineers, long before engineering was taught at universities, and it is the oldest professional engineering body in the country.

While we walked through the magnificent building in Westminster, a stone's throw from Big Ben, Carol regaled us with fascinating anecdotes about the construction, and failure in some cases, of lighthouses, bridges and tunnels. The library is the oldest civil engineering library in the country, containing 130,000 volumes. The librarian, Mike Chrimes, showed us some fascinating historical material, including an Italian architectural manual of 1535 and the notebooks of Thomas Telford.

## Make the most of your membership

Right is a list of the privileges of Friends' membership – in addition to the knowledge that you are helping to support a magnificent national institution.

Make sure you make as much use of them as you can.

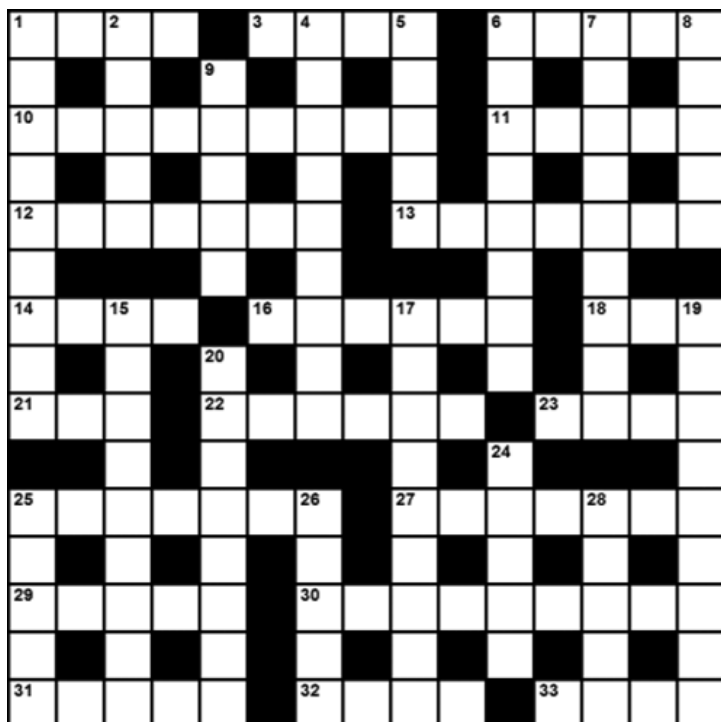
- Private guided visits to leading libraries, museums and collections
- Exclusive tours within the Library
- Free admission to Library exhibitions when there is an entry charge
- Quarterly Newsletter and *Exhibitions and Events* brochure

- Comfortable Members' Room with newspapers and magazines
- Discount in the Library Shop
- Discount on lectures in the Library
- Discounts on outside cultural events



## Crossword

A prize of £25 worth of vouchers to spend in the Library shop will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened. Mark the envelope "Crossword" and send to the office at the address below. Include your name, address and membership number. Closing date: 9 July 2010



### Solution to winter puzzle:

**Across:** 1 Treats, 5 Hispanic, 9 Platform, 10 Amazon, 11 Conservation, 13 Zero, 14 Annually, 17 Governed, 18 Cosy, 20 Disqualified, 23 Ablaze, 24 King Kong, 25 Necklace, 26 Sister.

**Down:** 2 Rule, 3 Artichoke, 4 Sloane, 5 Hammer and sickle, 6 Starving, 7 Apart, 8 Iconoclast, 12 Negotiable, 15 Archdukes, 16 In camera, 19 Giants, 21 Quack, 22 Knee.

**Winner:** Keith Stephenson of Ealing

### Across

- 1 Some do it at 10, a few at 16, but most at St Pancras (4)
- 3 River exists twice (4)
- 6 This reptile counts (5)
- 10 The newspapers are here – but not for long (9)
- 11 Varied notes about to be filmed? (2,3)
- 12 Look, I only ever sob when confused (7)
- 13 Putting the Queen between stakes should attract attention (7)
- 14 I deceive to create an image (4)
- 16 (with 18) What's in 10 for now will soon be here (6,3)
- 18 See 16 (3)
- 21 (with 22) The deposed Scot is 21 no longer – indeed he's reeling (3,6)
- 22 See 21 (6)
- 23 Munro – his works are short and spooky (4)
- 25 They map haphazardly to achieve rapport (7)
- 27 Henry's palace was never like this (7)
- 29 Taking the NCO to a health resort causes a convulsion (5)
- 30 Stuff from across the pond (9)
- 31 Beam in portal – a serious matter (5)
- 32 Northerly tree for the beauty of Bath (4)
- 33 A good queen, so they said (4)

### Down

- 1 The day when we must settle up (9)
- 2 French city gets 31 in a twist (5)
- 4 Where Johnny went after the show? (5,4)
- 5 According to Milton, glancing skyward fails to cure their pangs (5)
- 6 A sour gin cocktail is oddly inspiring (8)
- 7 Pepys said it makes for a stomach upset (9)
- 8 What our Council Tax used to be (5)
- 9 Dodgson's inconceivable beast (5)
- 15 They'll be here in a couple of years (9)
- 17 This rose doesn't come up to scratch (9)
- 19 Chide a sad, mixed-up lot who've gone to pot (4,5)
- 20 Hard boiled? Not if properly set (3,5)
- 24 Access this nation's treasures on Floor 3 (5)
- 25 Dodgy lease holds up the board (5)
- 26 Crave to overturn honoured artist in desire (5)
- 28 The American era is how it's usually expressed (5)

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