

Newsletter



'A cheering time to get involved'

Ferdinand Mount, our new chairman designate, tells Michael Leapman what libraries and literary archives mean to him



When Ferdinand Mount (*pictured*) was approached early this year about becoming chairman of the Friends, it was not the first time he had been ambushed by an unexpected invitation. In his entertaining 2008 autobiography, *Cold Cream: My Early Life and Other Mistakes*, he writes of his “total surprise” at being asked in 1982 to head Margaret Thatcher’s policy unit at 10 Downing Street. (He accepted, and held the post for two years.)

Similarly, he told me that the invitation from Lord Hameed to succeed him as the Friends’ chairman “came out of the blue”. Yet the Trustees could scarcely have lighted

upon a better qualified candidate. An author, a political journalist and a former editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*, Mount has for some years been engaged in a campaign that is central to one of the Friends’ principal purposes: ensuring that important literary archives remain in Britain rather than being sold to American universities.

He serves on the UK Literary Heritage Working Group, established in 2005 with the aim of identifying the papers of important British authors and finding ways of keeping them on this side of the Atlantic. He is also on the committee of the Friends of the National Libraries which, like the Friends of the British Library, gives grants for acquisitions that would otherwise be beyond the reach of the beneficiaries.

Despite the dismal economic climate and cuts in Government grants to cultural organisations, Mount has positive thoughts about his new role. “I’ve got no preconceptions at all except that there is generally a rather more optimistic atmosphere about the possibility of getting more funds for all forms of heritage, and I think libraries can benefit from that. I think this is rather a cheering time to be getting involved with any library friends’ organisation. When I first got interested in the subject in the 1990s there was a slightly depressing feeling that our libraries were broke and we couldn’t hope to compete on acquiring

stuff with the great American libraries, and we had to graciously accept our decline.

“I thought we were accepting it rather too graciously and that in fact even then the British Library had rather more resources than it liked to claim. Now, the Library and other libraries in Britain are much more pro-active in seeking out acquisitions and new ideas. Although the Library is still terribly constrained, not least by the recent cuts, I think there is generally a more hopeful attitude prevailing.”

Until now, Mount’s association with the Library has been as a frequent user of its Reading Rooms over the last 20 years. “At the moment I’m in the Asian and African Studies Reading Room a couple of days a week. I’m writing a book about the role of the British army in India as seen through the eyes of a branch of my family who were all soldiers there. So I’m poring over the Bengal political consultations – a marvellous resource. The old India Office Library represents a whole history of a nation kept in one delightful place.

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Pictured top: George III (see page 4)

A fond farewell to Lord Hameed



Tributes were paid at the Annual General Meeting in March to Lord Hameed (pictured), who stepped down after five fruitful years as chairman of the Friends. Lord Salisbury, our president, spoke of the “atmosphere of calm deliberation” that the chairman had brought to our affairs, which had enabled us to give grants to the Library worth more than £350,000 during his term of office.

As a parting gift, Lord Salisbury presented Lord Hameed with a copy of the recently-published *The Book of the British Library*, inscribed to him in traditional calligraphy and signed by all members of the Friends’ Council.

The Library’s new chief executive, Roly Keating, in his first address to the Friends, spoke of the cordial relationship he had built with Lord Hameed in the six months in which they had been working together. Roly went on to outline the Library’s progress in the last year, including two successful exhibitions and the

acquisition of the St Cuthbert Gospel, to which the Friends donated £50,000.

Looking to the future, he announced that he was streamlining the organisation by reducing the previous six directorates to four – Audiences, Collections, Finance and Operations. But he warned that, following recent economies, further savings would be needed over the next year, with the expected deeper cut in the Government grant.

He reported on a recent visit to Boston Spa, where he was highly impressed with the new newspaper storage building, “a cathedral of journalism”. The transfer of the collection from Colindale has already begun and is expected to be completed within 18 months.

Lord Hameed, in his valedictory address, thanked Council members and volunteers who had made him welcome and who gave so much valuable time to the Friends. He announced that Ferdinand Mount, a former editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*, had agreed that he should be nominated for the chairmanship (see page one).

Three Council members retired at the AGM, having served the maximum of six years allowed under our constitution. They are Ed King, Robert

All their own work

The sequel to the Library’s collection of historic recordings of short stories read by their authors has just been published. Following the success of the first volume, *The Spoken Word: Short Stories volume 2* features, like its predecessor, exclusively stories read by their authors. They are all previously unpublished and afford a rare opportunity to hear a further selection British and Irish writers reading their work with the authority and understanding that only the author can provide.

Featured authors include Seán Ó’Faoláin, Fay Weldon, Beryl Bainbridge, Julian Barnes, E M Forster, W Somerset Maugham, Harold Pinter, Alan Sillitoe and Osbert Sitwell. The set of three CDs is available from the Shop or at www.bl.uk/shop, at the Friends’ discounted price of £18.

Kirton and Michael Leapman. Four new members were elected: Celia Gould, a former publisher who proof-reads this Newsletter; Dr Norman James, head of private archives at the National Archives; Anthony Payne, an antiquarian bookseller, and Professor Andrew Prescott, formerly the Library’s curator of manuscripts.

New Chairman

Continued from page 1

“I’ve never been a fan of the outside of the Library but I think that the inside is so splendid that it should encourage people to join the Friends. It’s more than a working space – it’s a splendid, heroic space encouraging you to think that here is a great national repository. That ought to encourage philanthropic vibrations. . . . Next year, our 25th anniversary, is obviously an occasion for a big effort of some sort and an opportunity to spread the word.”

Volunteers on the map



At the Volunteers’ quarterly meeting a fascinating presentation was given by Tom Harper, Antiquarian Map Curator. He brought along some of his favourite artefacts, including a book of Henry VIII’s military maps and a map of Western Europe given to Queen Mary by her husband King Philip of Spain. He is seen here with Margaret Wood. There are many opportunities for Volunteers to help the Friends. Anyone who thinks they can contribute should contact Jean-Anne Ashton on 020 8964 2292 or ashtonjeanne@aol.com.

How 'a torrent of books' inspires an author

At our AGM, **Dame Penelope Lively** (pictured), a vice-president of the Friends, gave an illuminating talk on the interaction between her reading and her writing. This is an edited version.

Reading and writing go hand in hand. Books give rise to other books. I want to talk today about how, for me, reading has become writing.

Childhood reading is seminal, vital. I believe that it is impossible to recover the reading experiences of childhood – that total immersion, that absolute suspension of disbelief, that abandonment of time and place, so that you look up and can't remember if it is morning or afternoon and time for lunch or bed. Later reading can be immersion, involvement, but without that pristine discovery that there is another dimension to the world you inhabit – a world hidden between the pages of books.

Not all readers are impelled to write. But all writers read for pleasure, for sustenance, to find out how others have done it, reading in admiration, reading in rejection. I did that, in my early adult years, finding out what and who I admired: concision, accuracy, the exemplary use of language.

A person's bookshelves tell you quite a lot about them; there's a reflection here of a frame of mind. But the invisible bookshelves in the head are the real identifying factor. A torrent of books has been poured in here:

grubby school text books, required reading and unrequired reading, chunks of Shakespeare, prose and poetry and paperbacks and books we never finished and books that are ours and books we forgot to give back and books we have lost and books we read in order to bond with someone else.

The nutritionists tell us that we are what we have eaten; we are also what we have read. Because once we chose this book, came across that one, these images and shreds of that information are forever there, in the head, a landscape of the mind.

I love libraries. They seem to me miraculous: the ultimate expression of civic society, free access to all knowledge, to the life of the imagination in time and space. I served on the board of the British Library for six years and felt hugely honoured. I have used the Library for serendipitous reading and also for research – the reading that is deliberate and focused but essential if your reading is to be properly grounded, tethered, persuasive. I never summoned up a book without a sense of awe at this inexhaustible resource that could satisfy every reading need or whim.

The stock question put to writers is: "Where do you get your ideas from?" We all have different answers, of course. I know that my ideas come from where I have been, what I have seen and heard, what has happened to me and – especially – from books, from what I have read. I've learned



to be circumspect with this reply. Children hate it. I remember saying this back in the days when I used to go and talk in schools, and there would be a disapproving silence. A child once said, crossly: "But you should think of things for yourself." I see what is meant; but it is difficult to explain to someone very young how it is that the reading experience actually becomes part of active, lived experience. The child is thinking of plagiarism, of cribbing; what she can't yet realise is how creative an activity reading is, how it grooms the imagination, how it is a springboard. She is probably doing it, but she doesn't yet realise quite what it is doing to her.

Now, towards the end of a reading life, and a writing one, I am supremely conscious of the way in which reading has nudged me this way and that, has sent me off on brief sprints after a new interest, has fostered abiding, lifelong preoccupations. And, above all, has provided the lightning strikes – given me the idea for a new novel. You read on, and will eventually write.

Women on the march towards liberation

A unique oral history archive telling the story of the Women's Liberation Movement was launched in March by the Library in partnership with the University of Sussex and the Women's Library. *Sisterhood and After* brings together interviews with 60 key feminist activists, including Una Kroll, the 87-year old campaigner for women's right to be priests, Susie Orbach, author of the 1978 polemic *Fat is a Feminist Issue*, and many others who fought on issues

including equal pay, equal rights, contraception, domestic violence and education. With over 350 hours of audio and video, plus a learning website, the archive captures the generation who challenged and changed women's and men's lives forever. The project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, was developed over the last four years in response to a demand from the activists themselves, who felt their stories had never been recorded in full.

Showcasing the dark art of persuasion

The Library's new exhibition, opening on 17 May, shows the myriad ways in which, down the ages, rulers and others in positions of power have sought to shape public opinion to their own evil or benevolent purposes. *Propaganda: Power and Persuasion* is the first exhibition to explore international state propaganda from the 20th and 21st centuries. It runs until 17 September and Friends are admitted free.

Propaganda is used to fight wars, combat disease, build unity or create division. Two of its most powerful – and contrasting – ingredients are horror and humour. On display will be posters, leaflets, films, sheet music and cartoons that cover both those extremes.

Among highlights is a selection of leaflets dropped on Germany and its occupied territories by the Allied powers during the World War Two, displayed in public for the first time. Treated as secret documents



in Britain at the start of the war, they encouraged the civilians of France, Italy and Germany to engage in resistance and urged the enemy's armed forces to surrender.

Another World War Two exhibit is a poster produced in the United States depicting a mask of Adolf Hitler being placed on a skeleton, with a quotation from President Franklin D Roosevelt: "The world knows today that the Fascists have nothing to offer the young except death." And from the British home front is *Potato Pete's Recipe Book*, featuring innovative ways of presenting the few available foods.

Going further back in history is a German cartoon drawn in 1523, depicting the Pope as a donkey, and a full-length portrait of Napoleon in imperial garb, painted in 1813. Amongst many items from the Communist world are a 1950 poster for a patriotic Chinese film and a badge honouring Mao Zedong, made in 1969.

A programme of talks, screenings and other events has been scheduled in relation to the exhibition. For details go to www.bl.uk and follow links to exhibitions and events.

Best of Britten



Britten at Crag House. Courtesy Rosalind Haupt

The new exhibition in the Folio Gallery, on the Library's upper ground floor, celebrates the 100th anniversary of Benjamin Britten's birth. On display are key items from the composer's archive, including the draft score of one of his most famous compositions, *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, acquired by the Library last year. The exhibition will run until September and admission is free.

Georgian splendours

Marking the 300th anniversary of George I's accession, the Library's major winter exhibition, opening in November, will examine the legacy of the Georgian period and its enormous influence on modern Britain. Drawing mainly on the Library's rich collections from the period, including highly illustrated books and ephemera, it will celebrate the age that gave us pantomimes, the ballet, the pleasures of shopping and an early taste of celebrity culture.



Charleston frolics

A set of hitherto unpublished stories by Virginia Woolf will appear in a new British Library book in June. In the summer of 1923 her nephews, Quentin and Julian Bell, founded a family newspaper, *The Charleston Bulletin*. Quentin asked his aunt Virginia for contributions, explaining: "It seemed stupid to have a real author so close at hand and not have her contribute." During the next four years Virginia wrote or dictated a series of supplements to the *Bulletin* – illustrated by Quentin – wittily and mischievously describing the escapades of family members, household servants and associates of the Bloomsbury Group.

The book will be published by the Library on 13 June.

Even on 9/11, research must go on

In our occasional series on Friends' adventures in overseas libraries, **Jennifer Butler** (pictured) tells of a visit to America on that fateful day in 2001.

The author Warwick Deeping (1877–1950) was born in Southend-on-Sea and, as an archivist in the Essex Record Office in the late 1990s, I was asked to write his entry for the *New Dictionary of National Biography*. I obtained a British Library Reader Pass for the first time and consulted the papers of the Society of Authors, which contained several volumes of correspondence with and about him; but I discovered that many of his manuscripts had been purchased by Boston University Library in the United States.

It was not until 2001 that I was able to arrange a trip to Boston. I was visiting a friend in Ottawa, Canada, and we arranged to fly to Boston for a week. Several months in advance I contacted the Department of Special Collections at the university for permission to consult the Deeping collection, and arrangements were made for my visit on 11 September.

Before we left our hotel on a beautiful sunny morning we heard a brief newsflash about an aeroplane hitting the World Trade Centre in New York; but there was no apparent reason to change our plans. Having arrived at the University's Mugar Memorial Library, I left my friend and made my way upstairs to the Department of Special Collections.

I introduced myself and signed the register. One of the archivists explained about the terrible events unfolding in New York, but assured me that I could stay and carry out my research. He showed me to a table and brought out on a trolley 15 boxes of Deeping's papers, together with a pair of white gloves for handling them. Through the glass

window of the director's office I could see most of the staff watching TV, visibly stunned and distressed as events unfolded. My time was limited so I concentrated on reading Deeping's papers, and the archivist came out of the office several times to see how I was getting on.

I found that 14 of the boxes contained manuscripts of some of Deeping's 70-plus novels, written in his rather spidery hand, and some unpublished plays and short stories. More interesting for me were his diary for 1907 and his account book for 1919–1923 which showed his passion for gardening and gave an insight into his social life. I was not aware of the huge loss of human life in the terrorist attacks until later that day, but reading the diary kept by Deeping's mother in 1917 reminded me of another tragic conflict, the First World War. The diary contained some poignant entries about Warwick's brief home leave from his service in the Royal Army Medical Corps and her sorrow at having to say goodbye to him.

I was grateful to the staff for letting me stay and carry out my research on such a terrible day. I felt I was intruding on their grief, and hurried to finish reading the documents by lunchtime, ordering photocopies of a few that I could not study there. We were due to fly back from Boston's Logan Airport to Ottawa the next day; but as the terrorists' planes had taken off from that airport it was still closed. The only option was to rent a car outside Boston and drive back to Canada, so that I could return to England on 14 September as planned.

Further contributions to this series are eagerly sought.

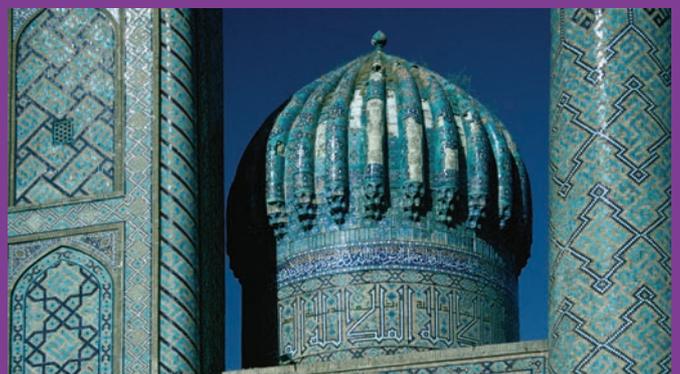


Travel discount offer

Friends can claim a 10% discount on two exotic and educational trips run by Jon Baines Tours.

Journey Along the Yangtze (11 – 27 October 2013) is led by former SOAS Professor Hugh Baker. After travelling from Shanghai to Suzhou comes a four-night Yangtze cruise to Chengdu. Next stops are the Silk Road city of Xian and finally Beijing.

The Golden Road to Samarkand (5 – 18 October 2013) involves a journey along the Silk Road in Central Asia to Tashkent, Samarkand (pictured), Bukhara, Khiva and into the Fergana Valley. Tour leader Jamie Veitch is accompanied by expert speaker Lavinia Byrne.



For further information visit www.jonbainestours.co.uk. To book contact Jon Baines Tours on 020 7223 9485 or email info@jonbainestours.co.uk, quoting the Friends of the British Library offer.

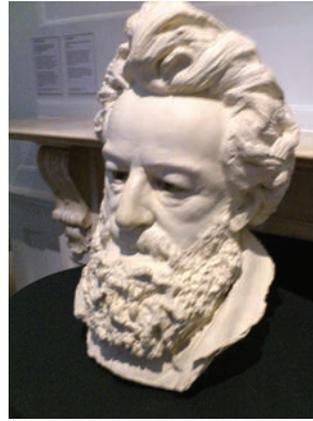
How we repulsed the chills of spring

Spring may have been a little late this year, but for the Friends there was a range of outings and events to keep us warm and active. Two of the earliest shared a musical theme.

In a crowded conference room in the Centre for Conservation, some two dozen of us were treated to an entertaining taste of the fruits of the £10,000 grant we gave last year to the Library's department of world and traditional music. The money has enabled the department to launch an online facility marrying newly digitised recordings of **British folk music** with details and photographs of the performances, based on the collection of Peter Kennedy. Among songs played for us by Dr. Janet Topp Fargion, lead curator in the department, was a dirge about a man about to be hanged, sung by Peter's father, Douglas Kennedy, a founder of the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

A few weeks later a dozen Friends visited the **Royal Ballet School Museum** in Richmond Park. White Lodge is a graceful Palladian building from the 1720s, built for the Royal Family and inhabited over the years by many of its members. The school, founded in 1926 by Dame Ninette de Valois, moved there in 1955. The small museum gives a concise history of ballet, from its origins in France in the seventeenth century to its current flowering at the Royal Opera House.

On another cold, sunny afternoon around 20 Friends visited the church of **All Hallows by the Tower**. There has been a church on the site since AD675 and some elements of the original Saxon building remain, along with a well preserved Roman pavement. Extensively expanded in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, it was badly damaged in 1650 by an explosion in a neighbouring gunpowder store and rebuilt in 1659. The present tower dates from then. It just escaped the Great Fire of 1666, when Samuel Pepys climbed the tower to look at the city's devastation; but it was severely damaged by bombing in 1940.



The **William Morris Gallery** (*pictured top left*) in Walthamstow, recently reopened after refurbishment, is one of London's lesser-known cultural venues. Some two dozen Friends made their acquaintance with it and with Morris, the designer, artist, writer, political activist and leading light of the Arts and Crafts movement that flourished in the late nineteenth century. Born nearby in 1834, he lived in the the Georgian house from 1848 to 1856. The gallery contains splendid examples of the fabrics, wallpaper, stained glass, ceramics, fine hand-crafted books and other items designed by Morris and his contemporaries.

Strawberry Hill (*pictured top right*) has a place in architectural history as the earliest manifestation in Britain of the Gothic Revival. In 1748 the author and antiquary Horace Walpole bought a cottage near the Thames in Twickenham and enlarged it to his eclectic taste, incorporating motifs that he and his architects had gleaned from some of the fine Gothic buildings of Europe. It has recently undergone a £9m restoration and 18 Friends enjoyed an illuminating tour. The ceilings are magnificent, their exquisite mouldings picked out in gold leaf, one based on the ceiling of the Henry VII chapel at Westminster Abbey. The Round Room, within the distinctive round tower, was decorated by Robert Adam. The mainly empty shelves of the library are badly in need of books from Walpole's era: along with the hundreds of medieval artifacts that he collected, his library was dispersed in a big sale in 1842

Sir Colin Davis: a generous Friend

The renowned conductor Sir Colin Davis died in April, aged 85. Here Geoffrey Newman, our former membership secretary, describes his links with the Friends.

Sir Colin was not only a great conductor but also a student of history and a man with a passion for literature and the arts in general. When the Library was trying to raise funds to buy the archive of the Royal Philharmonic Society he agreed to be one of the

appeal's sponsors, explaining: "The RPS Archive is a vital part of the musical heritage of the United Kingdom and Europe. It is essential that this resource is acquired by the British Library where it will be open to the public from all over the world. The Royal Philharmonic Society's long-term plan of using the funds raised to provide scholarships for young composers and performers . . . will have far-reaching implications for the development of musical accomplishment."

With his help and enthusiasm the money was raised and the archive saved. The Friends offered him life membership, which he gratefully accepted. We were especially pleased that the money we gave would not only help acquire the archive but aid future young musicians. Sir Colin thoroughly enjoyed receiving the Friends' Newsletter and was actively involved to the end in helping young musicians achieve their potential.

Bells, books, barristers, Bloomsbury . . .

To reserve a place on these events, please use the booking form enclosed with this Newsletter.

Bloomsbury Walking Tour
London NW1
Thursday 11 July, 2pm, £15
Limit 20 places

This guided walk takes a north to south stroll through the Library's hinterland. The area is famous as the centre of artistic and intellectual activity in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the focus of innovative and elegant schemes for residential development in earlier years.

RHS Lindley Library
London SW1P
Thursday 25 July, 2pm, £10
Limit 24 places



The libraries of the Royal Horticultural Society hold the world's finest collection of printed material on gardens, gardening and related subjects. Their collections are invaluable source material for the study of all aspects of garden history, design and practical gardening. They also include botanical drawings and historic photographs, postcards, lantern slides, floral greetings cards and a wealth of fascinating items. Friends will be given a basic introduction to the library before going on to see the rare books and art collections. The visit should last around 90 minutes.



Whitechapel Bell Foundry
London E1
Saturday 10 August, 10am, £18
Limit 15 places

The Whitechapel Bell Foundry is Britain's oldest manufacturing company, established in 1570 and in continuous business since then. The present buildings date from 1670, four years after the Great Fire. The business moved there from the north side of Whitechapel Road and has remained on the site ever since, withstanding the ravages of bombs and development. Whitechapel's famous bells include the original Liberty Bell (1752), the Great Bell of Montreal and, best known of all, Big Ben at the Palace of Westminster. Cast in 1858, this is the largest bell ever made at Whitechapel, weighing 13½ tons. The tour gives a rare insight into a remarkable industrial survival.

Royal Society of Medicine
London W1G
Monday 19 August, 11am, £10
Limit 20 places

The Royal Society of Medicine Library is one of the largest postgraduate biomedical lending libraries in Europe. The collection, dating back to the fifteenth century, exceeds half a million volumes and includes portraits, photographs and manuscripts. Every year up to 1,000 new books are added and the Library subscribes to over 1,300 journals from around the world. The tour will include the rare items collection, archives and conservation

studio, and is expected to last about two hours.

Lincoln's Inn
London WC2A
Tuesday 17 September, 2.30pm, £15
Limit 40 places

Lincoln's Inn is one of the four Inns of Court, playing a fundamental role for centuries in preparing students for the call to the Bar and their progress to become fully qualified barristers. Today it performs many roles: a collegiate and educational institution, a membership organisation, a professional body, a landlord, a custodian of historic buildings, a banqueting venue and a tourist attraction. Our tour will include, subject to availability, visits to the Old Hall, Great Hall and Chapel, and we will be briefed on the history, the artworks and the current role of the Inn. It should last around 90 minutes.

Vintners' Hall
London EC4V
Wednesday 25 September, 2pm, £15
Limit 30 places



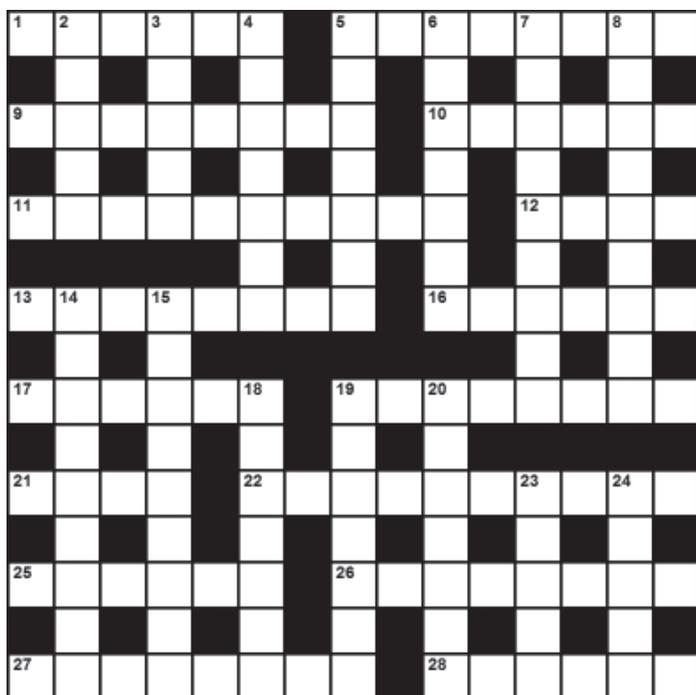
The Vintners' Company, which received its first charter in 1363, is one of the 12 great livery companies of the City of London. With its origins in the import, regulation and sale of wine, the company continues to maintain strong links with the wine trade. The hall in Upper Thames Street was built in 1671 after its predecessor was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, and it retains much of its original internal decoration.

Win tickets to see *Private Lives*

The senders of the first three correct solutions opened will each win a pair of tickets to see *Private Lives* at the Gielgud Theatre in the West End, following its sell-out run at Chichester. Noël Coward's most celebrated comedy stars Toby Stephens and Anna Chancellor as Elyot and Amanda – the glamorous, rich and reckless couple who, five years after their divorce, find themselves in adjoining suites of a French hotel while honeymooning with their new partners.

The tickets will be for Monday to Thursday performances until 2 July, subject to availability.

Send entries to the Friends' office at the address below, marking the envelope "Crossword" and including your name, address, membership number and an email address or telephone number, so that the winners can be contacted quickly by the theatre's representative. Closing date is 30 May or seven days after delivery of your Newsletter, whichever is the later.



Solution to spring puzzle

Across: 6 Cowslip, 7 Crook, 9 Type, 10 Archetypal, 11 Nuthatch, 13 Utopia, 15 Rada, 17 Femme, 18 Page, 19 Whiter, 20 Radishes, 23 Great Lakes, 26 Trip, 27 Eaten, 28 Nervous.

Down: 1 Sweetheart, 2 Pliant, 3 Epic, 4 Schedule, 5 Tory, 6 Coypu, 8 Keating, 12 Homer, 14 Opposition, 16 Ash tree, 17 Far-flung, 21 Desire, 22 Edits, 24 Arts, 25 King.

Winners of spring crossword: Ruth Kitching of London NW6, J.C. Mayor of London NW3 and Dr. Greg Wells of Stratford-on-Avon.

Across

- 1 In Egypt, the creature is divine (6)
 5 Stormy sunrise on approaching this city (8)
 9 Tricky entrance allows vertical exit (4,4)
 10 You French held in inverted den for ceremony (6)
 11 Spread the word about the Library's new show (10)
 12 Chaotic vote prevents progress (4)
 13 It's debatable whether this is a place for the elderly (4,4)
 16 I start to become a painter (6)
 17 No trace of Balls or Miliband after very many years (6)
 19 The best of everything reviewed (4-4)
 21 The eye has it – though usually lacking direction at the end (4)
 22 Dean phoned in confusion: he'd been too generous (4-6)
 25 Nervous at the outer limit (2,4)
 26 Reverse pass might be part of a dodgy deal (8)
 27 R's alter ego, as she liked it (8)
 28 Oddly, it's not how this is done (6)

Down

- 2 Nurturer's working life loses direction (5)
 3 Grave blessing raised to shred (3,2)
 4 Prolific communicator adds little weight to disturbed world (7)
 5 Her brave new world was replete with goodly creatures (7)
 6 What every Buddhist seeks (7)
 7 I save tact to spread around as it gets started (9)
 8 Crazy devil adds a whole continent to find ill-starred princess (9)
 14 Kingdom of Hope (9)
 15 Paul believed in it 38 years ago (9)
 18 Bishop rules here with garbled words (i.e. codes) (7)
 19 In your face? Spot on (7)
 20 Show for a star to shine in – moving, too (7)
 23 Brutus was the most (5)
 24 Ninety do really well in the fish course (5)

As others see us

"The mere juxtaposition of the words 'telephone' and 'library' is enough to make me shudder. I have an all too clear memory of being disturbed in the Humanities 2 Reading Room at the British Library by a man who answered his mobile phone with an announcement that mixed the serious and the alarmingly jocose: 'You'll be glad to know the doctor says my swellings are nothing to worry about.'" Henry Hitchings in the *Literary Review*.

Membership Secretary Nichole Chapman
Editor Michael Leapman
Volunteer Co-ordinator Jean-Anne Ashton
 T +44 (0)20 8964 2292

Friends of the British Library
 The British Library
 96 Euston Road
 London NW1 2DB
 T +44 (0)20 7412 7734
 F +44 (0)20 7412 7017
 friends@bl.uk
 www.bl.uk/friends

Registered charity number 328095