

# LONDON CLIP

Newsletter for CILIP in London

## Clive Lloyd at Brent BHM



Mayor Bertha Joseph & Clive Lloyd

This year's launch of Brent Libraries Black History Month programme of events took place at the Willesden Green Library Centre on 29 September. Among the guests to attend the launch was West Indian cricketing legend Sir Clive Lloyd, who was a special guest of Brent Mayor, Cllr Bertha Joseph. The evening's entertainment included author Patrick Augustus, storyteller Tuup, the Accapella singers, local fashion showcase FAB2, and the Adante dancers.

Among the BHM highlights in Brent were storytelling and craft workshops for children and family learning events, as well as a talk by historian S.I. Martin on the history of Black British sailors. A series of author talks included Alex Wheatle and Constance Briscoe.  
*Report by Bernie McManamon.*

## Strategy for Older People in London

MLA London has been identified as a key partner for the delivery of the Mayor of London's Older People Strategy, which was launched on 18 September 2006. This strategy aims to challenge stereotyping of older people and provide a framework to develop a

city in which older Londoners have the support they need to lead active, healthy and independent lives.

MLA London responded to the draft strategy by highlighting the existing work London's museums, archives and libraries do with and for older people. The Mayor's Office was particularly interested in the work our sector does to demonstrate the positive contribution older people make to London's life and culture, for example through intergenerational projects, reminiscence work and exhibitions.

The Mayor's Office is planning a major festival for older people for summer 2007, and envisages that MLA London will be a key partner to support the participation of museums, libraries and archives.

## Student Essay Prize

CILIP in London offers £500 for the best essay from a student, full or part-time, current or graduated since 2004, at one of London's four Departments of Library and Information Studies, on a London library and information services topic.

Essays on any aspect of London LIS will be welcome, e.g. historical, user studies, communities and clients served, government, staffing, workplace information services, virtual information services.

Essays of 2,500-3,500 words excluding references should be accompanied by a brief CV and sent to Anna Martin at [alm57@cam.ac.uk](mailto:alm57@cam.ac.uk). Closing date for applications is 31 January 2007.

## David Haynes Joins Atkins



David Haynes, formerly Head of CILIP Consultancy Services, has been appointed Principal Consultant at Atkins Management Consultants, where he

will be working on Information Management projects. Atkins Management Consultants is an award-winning consultancy with a strong public sector presence.

David continues to be an active member of CILIP, and will be speaking at the RFID in Libraries conference on 15 November 2006. In his spare time David is a keen runner and completed the London Marathon in April this year. He said: 'Thanks to the generous support of CILIP members and former colleagues we were able to raise £1,100 for Oxfam.'

## London Book Fair to Earls Court

Reed Exhibitions has signed a long-term agreement to run The London Book Fair at Earls Court with effect from 16-18 April 2007. In 2006, the event was held at ExCeL in East London.

## CILIP at the Seaside

This year's summer outing was to Bournemouth. Branch members visited the new library, which was designed by the architectural practice BDP.



See report on p. 3.



## Appetite for Reading

Appetite for Reading is a reader development activity organised by the London Libraries Development Agency (LLDA). Focusing on books inspired by food and drink, it is aimed at younger adults than usual (i.e. younger than 26-39). The promotion is scheduled to run from October 2006 until January 2007.



Brian Hall

## The Library Campaign – supporting friends and users of libraries

*Stephen Cook reports on the Sekforde Arms meeting on 11 July 2006*

A glorious summer evening and the wonderful Georgian streets of Clerkenwell engender a peaceful ambiance. All around people are going about their business, rushing here and there, perhaps dreading that hot, sticky train home. Me? I'm sitting outside the Sekforde Arms with a pint, quenching my thirst. But hark! What's this on yonder?

It's Brian Hall, Chairperson of The Library Campaign (TLC), and at 6ft 3ins he cuts an imposing figure walking towards me. Brian was the last person to be awarded the Certificate of Merit by the old Library Association for services to the profession, and after a pleasant introduction we venture upstairs for Brian to enlighten us about the activities of The Library Campaign.

The aims and objectives of TLC are first and foremost to advance the lifelong education of the public by the promotion, support, assistance and improvement of libraries through the activities of friends and user groups. All members are volunteers and public libraries in England are the group's main focus at present though they have had some success in both college and university libraries. They fight attempts to close libraries and raise awareness and concerns at the increasing trend of de-professionalisation.

TLC was formed in 1984 and gained charitable status in 2004, an important development both for obtaining sponsorship and for tax purposes. Funding and support comes from membership subscriptions, pledges, donations, conferences and merchandise plus an annual grant from Unison. TLC's website ([www.librarycampaign.com](http://www.librarycampaign.com)) is useful for supporters to keep up with the latest news and campaigns.

Brian revealed that he is passionate about libraries. After all, he's worked in them and taught the subject for 36 years at the University of Central England. Having taken early retirement he still carried on teaching Public Librarianship for a further two years

because 'there was no one else left to do it'. Retirement has brought other benefits. It means he's not afraid of treading on people's toes and it comes as no surprise that he shoots straight from the hip when local authority aficionados inform him that 'there are no votes in libraries'. His encapsulating and robust retort on this slur is 'just try closing one down then' to which the inevitable reply after a few months is 'I didn't know libraries were so popular'!

First elected Chairperson two years ago Brian travels up and down the country representing the Group and helping local groups in their efforts to stop library closures. Having first got involved in this work 20 years ago, Brian is fully aware of the hard work that National Secretary Andrew Coburn and the other officers have done. Campaigning politically is all part of the process but TLC stress it's very important to remain politically independent of all parties. Contrary to expectations, a recent meeting with David Lammy left Brian with a very good impression of the Minister, who he says is acutely aware of the current situation. 'He knows his stuff.'

Brian admits that sometimes it's not always possible to save a library or the jobs that go with it and that very often this is done despite the best efforts of local chiefs. The Group does what it can. This involves giving advice to local people on how to fight to save their library and setting up and coordinating user groups and their activities.

At a time when the government has issued a statement supporting public libraries in what they do to aid neighbourhood renewal, local authorities are still going against the grain in their attempts to close them down. This has the effect of limiting learning opportunities for all. For example, Lancashire earlier this year closed down eight branches to make a saving of just £160,000! Elsewhere, Dorset is proposing 13 closures and Devon another 12.

On a balmy night in Clerkenwell the large audience were left with plenty to discuss, aided by, as ever, excellent refreshments.

There is plenty to do and support. If you feel you would like to join the Library Campaign Group details are available on their website. Individual membership is £15.00. Members can also attend meetings and receive newsletters. Please check the website for details.

## Land Registry - the journey so far and beyond

*Jacki Gill reports on the Sekforde Arms meeting of 12 September 2006*

Peter Collis, the Chief Land Registrar and Chief Executive of the Land Registry gave a very interesting talk at the Sekforde Arms in September. He gave an overview of what the Land Registry does, and then went on to talk about what the department is planning for the future.

The Land Registry is non-ministerial government department, an Executive Agency and a Trading Fund. This means that all the income to the department comes from fees charged, other than a recent one-off grant which was to upgrade infrastructure; therefore the state of the property market is very important. There is also a dividend paid to the Treasury which amounts to about £12 - £14 million each year. The Land Registry only covers England and Wales, as in Scotland this duty is covered by the Registers of Scotland, and in Northern Ireland it is called the Land Registers of Northern Ireland.

The Land Registry was founded in 1862, and until 1900 registering property was voluntary. Currently the Land Registry has about 20 million property titles, out of about 26 million property titles, although the surface area of the country that is registered only amounts to about 48%. The remainder of the areas that have not been registered includes land owned by such bodies as the Crown, the Forestry Commission, local authorities and the aristocracy, which means that this land is less likely to change hands or have a mortgage raised on it. A current project is to liaise with these bodies and to persuade them to voluntarily register the land - this has added an extra 10% of land to the register in the past two years alone. The department hopes that by about 2014 the register will be comprehensive, although not fully complete.

There are two current online services from the Land Registry. The first is Land Registry Direct, which is a business-to-business offering attracting companies that deal with conveyancing and mortgage lenders. The other main online offering is through Land Registry Online, which is primarily for individuals to access information. These make up a large amount of the more straightforward

## CILIP in London in Bournemouth

Ralph Adam describes the branch summer outing on 8 August 2006



The interior of Bournemouth's award winning Library

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services that the department provides. An interesting aside to this is that, as well as being able to search for property using the postcode and address, you can also search for it by using maps and aerial photographs, which is particularly useful if you are unsure of the address or postcode of a property.

The next large project for the Land Registry is electronic conveyancing. It is hoped that this will make property transactions easier, quicker and more transparent, for both the businesses involved and eventually individual sellers and buyers. The future plan for e-conveyancing as an individual is that buyers and sellers will be able to see exactly what stage the conveyancing process has got to, and will therefore be more informed and up to date as to how this process is going. The initial testing phase should be released in November 2006, and the whole process should be completed by early 2009.

The Land Registry also provides its expertise internationally, and has recently provided consultancies to Iraq, Bermuda and Nigeria.

Bournemouth, according to that Bible of fashion, *Harper's Bazaar*, is Britain's coolest town, and they weren't referring to the sea temperature.

Each year we have an excursion to somewhere providing a mix of social and professional interests. And some August sun and fun.

Not wishing to be outdone for coolness, CILIP in London made Bournemouth this year's summer away day destination - with the town's new central library the main feature of the trip.

After a journey of contrasts, past the deer and ponies of the New Forest and the giant container ships in Southampton Water, we arrived in Bournemouth on a perfect summer seaside day, just in time for a quick lunch before setting off for the library.

There has been much talk recently of using libraries for local regeneration and as a means of combating social exclusion.

Bournemouth has done just that by building its new Central Library (which won the Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award) in what had been a run-down area, and, it is claimed, introduced a new level of IT to the town.

The project was an innovative Public Finance Initiative (PFI). This arrangement allows the local authority to spread the library's costs over the life of a long contract and reduce risks: instead of owning and operating the library itself, the assets are controlled for a fee by a Service Provider. Thus, every time a computer is faulty or a shelf bends, the operator is obliged to carry out repairs or provide a replacement.

The old library (now a college) was in the town centre; the new one is in an area that had gone downhill. It is a building that was designed to be visually striking: it embraces the latest thinking on energy efficiency. The innovative design is intended to reflect the way a library is used: the building is 'flooded' with natural light, offering quiet nooks for solitude and an intriguing layout. The main floor of the library is designed in such a way that after hours it can be used for exhibitions or entertainments: the

shelves (which are on castors) can easily be moved out of the way by the contractors. And, one hopes, re-assembled in the correct order before the library re-opens!

As well as providing a level of service that had hitherto not been available in Bournemouth, the new library's arrival encouraged local rehabilitation by shifting the commercial focus of the town and attracting shops, restaurants and bars to the area.

Our afternoon began with an introduction to the library and its role in the community from Shelagh Levett, Head of Information, Culture & Community Learning. Then, Gerardine Bodey, Area Manager, took us on a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour. While the Government has commended the library's design as a model to be used elsewhere, not all members of the group agreed. Perhaps the PM should refresh his library design knowledge!

After a brief refreshment break in the library's café (fruit shakes are obligatory on the Bournemouth 'scene') we headed for the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum. This is the town's main gallery, as well as being a nationally-important museum. The house is a bizarre Victorian edifice, kept in much its original state. The owners designed it as a live-in museum, surrounding themselves with cultural relics from their travels. There is even a plaster copy of the Elgin Marbles! The owners converted their personal library into a museum dedicated to the tragic actor, Sir Henry Irving.

Attached to the house is a newer extension which includes a sea-themed café and several exhibition areas. At the time of our visit, displays included one on the 'graffiti of the soul' (the cultural significance of body-tattooing), another on Japanese metalwork, an MLA-funded exhibition of sea paintings and an interactive feature on the Russell-Cotes' world travels.

After all that mental stimulation we were ready for some physical nutrition. Harry Ramsden's provided just what we needed. Cool or what?

## CEO Surgeries at National Archives

For the first time ever, The National Archives will be holding a 'Meet the Chief Executive' day. On 16 November, Natalie Ceeney will be holding surgeries in each of the main reading rooms at Kew. This is a chance to put views or questions direct to her, about the management and future direction of The National Archives.

The surgeries will be held on a first-come-first-served basis, with no advance booking needed.

Earlier this year, the National Archives announced plans to merge with the Office of Public Sector Information in 2006, and relocate services from the Family Records Centre to Kew by the end of 2008.

## LLDA Initiative in New Handbook

*Welcome To Your Library* is one of just five case studies included in a chapter on developing responsive public services in *Understanding the Stranger: Building Bridges Community Handbook*. Published by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Handbook's authors are Neil Amas and Beth Crosland from the Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees.

The Handbook profiles innovative initiatives from across the UK that aim to mediate tension and build bridges between local host communities and asylum seekers and refugees, with examples drawn from statutory and non-statutory sectors, including very small-scale grassroots projects. In their introduction the authors explore the common messages revealed by these initiatives as well as other relevant research and projects.

*Welcome To Your Library* aims to increase opportunities for active participation by refugee communities in public library service planning and delivery and in so doing, to improve access to and quality of services for all. The project is funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and coordinated through the London Libraries Development Agency (LLDA).

## Velson Horie to Work on Conservation Research at the BL

The British Library has appointed Velson Horie as Project Manager for two conservation research projects funded by a grant from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation. The first project is to assess copies of the same books held in different libraries, and to relate their condition to differences in their storage environments; the second is to analyse the volatile organic compounds emitted by books and to relate them to the degree and mechanism of paper degradation.

## Move for MLA London

MLA London moved offices on 25 September 2006. It is now at: Fourth Floor, 53-56 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DG. Tel 020 7549 1700. Fax 020 7490 5225. Email [info@mlalondon.org.uk](mailto:info@mlalondon.org.uk). Recently the organisation announced that Geoffrey Bond has been re-appointed as Chair of its Board of Trustees for a further period of three years.

## CILIP in London Survey

This month a survey will go out to all members asking for your views. It is important to us to know how well we are meeting your needs and how we can meet them even better in future. The survey can be accessed online at <http://fs3.formsite.com/cilip/form801240285/index.html> or via the CILIP in London website ([www.cilip.org.uk/branches/byregion/london](http://www.cilip.org.uk/branches/byregion/london)). There are 20 questions, and you can be entered into a prize draw to win one of three £50 Amazon vouchers. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Whitechapel Idea Store on Stirling Prize Shortlist

The Whitechapel Idea Store has been nominated for the 2006 Stirling Prize. Opened in September 2005 (see London CLIP No. 5), it was designed by the architect David Adjaye and constructed at a cost of £12 million by William Verry with engineering by Arup.

### Evening meetings

These meetings are held in The Sekforde Arms, Sekforde Street, London EC1, 6.30pm. Contact Phillip Powell [Phillip@montanaroad.plus.com](mailto:Phillip@montanaroad.plus.com)

#### 2006

14 November,  
The Essex Book Festival - partnership and promotion, Alan Stevens

### Other CILIP in London events

#### 2007

22 March,  
Networking as part of professional development, Spread Eagle pub, Katharine Street, Croydon, 6.00pm. Contact Anna Martin [alm57@cam.ac.uk](mailto:alm57@cam.ac.uk).

### OTHER EVENTS

#### 2006

15 November,  
RFID 2006, QEII Centre, London. Contact 020 7255 0544, [conferences@cilip.org.uk](mailto:conferences@cilip.org.uk)

15 November,  
Building For Excellence (course for library staff), Raynes Park Library, London SW20. Contact Andy Hill on 020 7641 5266, [andy.hill@llda.org.uk](mailto:andy.hill@llda.org.uk), [www.llda.org.uk/cms/contentpage/events](http://www.llda.org.uk/cms/contentpage/events)

23-25 November,  
Textual Scholarship and the Material Book, Institute of English Studies, University of London. Contact Dr Wim Van Mierlo, [wim.van-mierlo@sas.ac.uk](mailto:wim.van-mierlo@sas.ac.uk)

28-30 November,  
Online Information 2006, Olympia Grand Hall, London. Contact [www.online-information.co.uk](http://www.online-information.co.uk)

#### 2007

16-18 April,  
London Book Fair, Earls Court, London. Contact [www.londonbookfair.co.uk](http://www.londonbookfair.co.uk)

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