

LONDON CLIP

Newsletter for CILIP in London

THE NEW BRANCH

Edward Dudley (Acting Secretary) introduces CILIP in London

CILIP in London, the new Regional Branch of CILIP, was hatched, along with the new South East Branch, a year later than all the other English Branches on 1 April 2004,



The story so far In 2003 London & Home Counties Branch formed a London Sub Branch which started to prepare for Hatching Day. A committee was cobbled together. Mayor Livingstone's Cultural Strategy was discussed and a response drew attention to its omission of mention of the rich variety of London's libraries and information services. The successful informal meetings in the Sekforde Arms in Clerkenwell, a legacy of the IIS, were continued, a meeting was held in the new Learning Resource Centre of the Cass Business School and at the launch party for the new Branch last November at Ridgmount Street some 75 members supped and nattered. Membership building was seen as a first priority and, with a small grant from CILIP, four committee members surveyed students at the four library schools (sic) to seek opinions of students of what they expected of a professional body. Not surprisingly a main concern was getting a job, so CILIP's recruitment agency INFOmatch was approached to put on a presentation to which some 40 students and job seekers came.

And then Flapping its wings the new Branch tried the phoenix bit as it arose from the ashes of the old L&HC Branch; it just reached unstick speed. A Committee was elected but there were no nominations of the required Officers, Chair, Vice Chair, Hon Sec and Hon Treasurer, so at its first meeting in April the Committee Acting

Officers were pressed into service. From different job sectors members were co-opted. The Committee has met since in May and September. Topics discussed included finance needed (it is lacking) to realise the potential of a Branch with c4400 members (c20% of total UK CILIP membership) and LIS of all kinds (except a county library) in great concentrations and response to the Framework of Qualifications which we thought cumbersome, labour intensive and unlikely to achieve uniform national standards; the plans for a mentoring scheme were welcomed. Two steps to improve communication to and from members were the production of this newsletter and the Branch input to CILIP's new website where you will find details of the present Committee and meetings. In common with some Branches we have decided to have a President rather than a Chair (the vocative when seeking a Chair's attention is O Chair!). The old L&HC Branch gold badge has been gracefully altered by craftsmen in Finsbury to show the new nomenclatures.

And next We shall soon elect a new Branch Committee to serve from April 2005 and later this year there will be a call for nominations of the Officers and new Committee members. The present Committee has a reasonable spread of members, but nominations from FE, HE, Youth and Industrial/Technical Libraries would be welcome. Look for a call for nominations in Library and Information Gazette later in the year.

And in the meantime if you want to tell us what you think the Branch should be doing, please get in touch with me.
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Tim Coates meets Librarylanders - A CILIP in London Coup

The author of the Libri report *Who's in Charge?* talked to an intrigued audience of librarians at the Sekforde Arms on 14 September. The author revealed that this was the first time he had been invited to speak to **any** group of librarians since the report was published earlier this year! For a fuller report on the evening see page 3.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



A note from our man at ALM London, Dermot Kennedy

Before joining ALM London, I was Information and ICT

Development Manager for L.B. Lambeth library services. My background is in reference and information and I have previously worked in Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Westminster.

As Library Development Officer at ALM London, I will be working with the London Libraries Development Agency (LLDA) and with the wider library sector in London to identify library development needs and to work towards the production of a regional library strategy for London.

I am excited by the progress made towards library co-operation across London in recent years through the partnership work developed by LLDA and the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries. I intend to build on partnership work with key agencies including London boroughs, GLA (Greater London Authority), GOL (Government Office for London), LDA (London Development Agency) and ALG (Association of London Government) to support libraries in delivering our regional strategy.

In addition, I plan to arrange a meeting with CILIP in London to brief you on my programme and to find out if there are any areas where we could work together.

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 020 7549 1703 Monday-Tuesday (ALM London)
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Tim Coates at the Sekforde Arms

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for all librarians and information workers in CILIP in London, the London Regional Branch of CILIP. All 4,000 plus of you! This newsletter will keep you informed of news, events and major issues impacting on the LIS sector and on occasions, the Museums, Libraries and Archives sector, in London.

We need your input to make this an effective and relevant newsletter so please do send in news of what is happening in your library, your views of what is current on the LIS scene and any forthcoming events which you want to advertise to the LIS world in London. We welcome short articles, photographs, letters and brief snippets of information (and any good gossip!).

CILIP in London was newly formed on 1 April 2004 and as you will see from this newsletter we are seeking nominations for new members and officers to begin work on the Committee in 2005. Just get on the phone/email to our Acting Secretary Edward Dudley for further details. The formation of CILIP in London means that there is an avenue for your views and feedback on CILIP policy and practice at a local level and we intend to stimulate debate on matters of concern to you such as the Framework for Qualifications and feed these views into the national arena. Let us know what you think on the big issues of the day; your Branch Councillor (Barry Walkinshaw) can represent these views at CILIP Council.

Finally, why the title - London CLIP? We hope it is obvious, but just for the record CLIP means an article in journalist circles and the poetic resonance with our professional body is made complete by the use of THE endemic public art of the city (graffiti). We hope that it touches a chord with you and - while being part of the CILIP national organisation - demonstrates our unique, slightly renegade and distinctly London base.

John Lake/Monica Blake Co-editors

FUTURE EVENTS

2005

8 February, Information Literacy, Sheila Webber, The Sekforde Arms, Sekforde Street, London EC1, 6.30 pm. Contact Phillip Powell ppowell@iwm.org.uk, 020 7416 5345.

8 March, Freedom of Information, Heather Brooke, The Sekforde Arms, Sekforde Street, London EC1, 6.30 pm. Contact Phillip Powell ppowell@iwm.org.uk, 020 7416 5345.



Audience at the Sekforde Arms

The Branch runs a programme of highly-successful informal meetings at the Sekforde Arms, a Youngs pub in Sekforde Street, Clerkenwell. On the second Tuesday of each month (except August and December), we invite a key figure from the library and information community to speak on a topical professional issue. The talk is followed by a general discussion with the opportunity to question the speaker and raise other points. The evening ends with refreshments and a chance to socialise in a relaxed atmosphere.

Since CILIP in London was formed, speakers have included Peter Beauchamp, then Head of Local Government and Libraries and Chief Library Adviser at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; Charles Hughes, eManagement Limited; David Edwards, Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT); and Richard Pears, Principal Information Specialist, Learning Resources Department, Northumbria University. Reports on meetings addressed by Adrian Whittle, Head of Libraries, London Borough of Newham (8 June), and Tim Coates (14 September) are given in this issue.

The August event is different. We select an attractive venue in the South-East for an unusual behind-the-scenes professional tour. The day ends with drinks and a meal in an atmospheric venue. Opportunities for sightseeing are also provided. In recent years trips have included Brighton Library and Museum, Caversham (BBC Monitoring Station), Kew (Public Records Office), Windsor Castle and Cambridge.

Cambridge was the destination for this year's summer outing. On 10 August, Branch members met up at Jesus College Cambridge. After lunch in the Prioress Room (part of the nunnery that was suppressed to make way for the college), they visited very new and very old libraries within the college.

The Quincentenary Library was designed by the architects Eldred Evans and David Shalev in keeping with the other college buildings to which it relates, while at the same time reflecting contemporary architectural thinking. It was opened in 1996 to commemorate the quincentenary of the College. This fresh modern building was graced by artwork from Fellows of the College, notably Sir Eduardo Paolozzi and Antony Gormley.



Newton after Blake, by Paolozzi

The room now known as the 'Old Library' was the College Library until 1912. Housed on the second floor of the west range of Cloister Court, this long, low room with a fine oak roof still contains about 9,000 books, in oak bookcases of 1662. The collection is particularly strong in Theology, Classics, Law, History and Travels. An adjoining room contains the College's collection of manuscripts (including 78 medieval and 25 oriental) as well as the library formed by the father of T. R. Malthus (including all his son's printed works), and the Jesuan collection of books by and about members of the College.

The group went on to the University Library for a behind the scenes tour. The top floor provided spectacular views over the city. The day ended with drinks and a meal by the river.



View over Cambridge from the University Library



Isobel Thompson, Diana Grimwood-Jones, Ralph Adam

Who's In Charge?

Neil Davies discusses Tim Coates' talk to CILIP in London on 14 September

A stimulating talk by Tim Coates on his controversial report, *Who's In Charge?*, was followed by a full and frank question and answer session at the very lively September meeting of CILIP in London. Tim made a number of key points about the publishing industry, reading trends and the challenge for library services to adapt to meet customer demand. The publisher dominated book world that existed until the 1990s has changed and the relationship between publishers and booksellers has shifted dramatically. It is no longer the case that publishers dictate how business is going to

be conducted to booksellers, e.g. discount has increased from 33% to 50% in the last 15 years and distribution is now done by two or more wholesalers who can often supply books within a day or two of request. Although libraries have gone some way towards maximising the benefits of this sea change through purchasing consortia and stock contracts, Tim urged a further shake-up in purchasing arrangements and traditional acquisition methods. He cited market research done by Oxfordshire as well as his work with Hampshire in concluding that libraries were perceived as being out of date and not meeting people's needs. He accused library authorities of keeping members and councillors in the dark about how services were run and of not writing

business plans of a professional enough standard. Referring to the recently scrapped annual library plans, he suggested that many authorities abused the whole notion of the plans and merely filled 108 pages of paper with whatever they wished to include.

It came as no surprise that the question and answer session was not one of the gentle and reflective variety. Many members of the audience felt that the report failed to appreciate the very different roles of libraries and book shops and paid scant attention to political agendas such as social inclusion and the People's Network. Neither was it felt that the wide range of formats and languages provided by library services was recognised in the report, nor was the fact that many authorities have been dealing with many of the issues raised in the report for some time. Tim responded to all these points in an open and candid manner and emphasised that he wants to work with libraries to improve services and ensure a healthy future.

The Gate

Tegwen Williams reports on the Sekforde Arms Meeting of 8 June

Despite being on one of the hottest summer evenings, June's evening meeting proved to be very popular. Many new faces turned up to hear Adrian Whittle, Head of Libraries, London Borough of Newham, speak very enthusiastically about 'The Gate', the new branch library in Forest Gate.

Opened formally this summer 'The Gate' is leading the way for new concepts in public library provision. It is designed as a 'one-stop shop', incorporating not only the library, but also a local service centre, which provides vital amenities to local people such as the housing benefit office and an advice bureau.

The London Borough of Newham is one of the most ethnically diverse in London and one of the few that has a growing population. Its citizens also have the youngest profile with 60% of the population under 25 years old. With this in mind and a basic skills gap that needed to be addressed, the authorities designed their new library service. One of their main goals was to attract new users to the library by making people feel that the library is open to everyone and a visit should be a keenly anticipated activity.

The Borough carried out a lengthy public consultation process about what users wanted and needed from their public library service. Feedback was sought from various stakeholders, including councillors, local traders, non-users and existing users. Some suggestions were common amongst those surveyed, like longer opening hours and more books. However, some responses, for example, somewhere nice to sit, refreshments and more assistance proved to be a bit more controversial. The functions of the library had to be rethought to accommodate the needs of prospective users and to achieve the stated goals. As a result, adult book lending stock was

reduced by 30%, more new stock was bought and is now rotated more frequently between all the branch libraries. In addition, there is now a large collection of audiovisual material, which also turned out to be a good profit-making operation. There is also more foreign language material targeted at the local population and an increase in children's stock.

Many of Newham's citizens would expect to take advantage of the local service centre on a regular basis, as 55% of people in Newham claim benefit in one form or another. Thus the combining of these services with the library has proved to be an inspired one. The library has seen a sharp increase in usage and a very high rate of satisfaction amongst users has been recorded: visitor numbers have risen by 315%, book issues have grown by 64% and the service centre has had to deal with 25% more enquiries.

In addition 'The Gate' is working in partnership with different bodies to help provide useful activities for the local population. Initiatives like the weekly homework and breakfast clubs, the storytelling sessions and the employability sessions, run in conjunction with Reed, have proved popular. There are also open-door sessions designed to help mothers return to work.

These changes have meant some big transformations in how services are delivered, not least for the library staff, who now share a reception desk with those of the local service centre and are encouraged to interact more with the users. One of the key ways to do this is by floor walking, which has meant a big re-thinking of the roles of the staff within the library.

Adrian painted a picture of the challenges and obstacles that such a project can bring, but also one where great excitement is generated. One which has proved to be very popular amongst the local community and a model that is sure to be copied elsewhere.

CDG NEWS

Stephen Cook (Treasurer, CDG London and South-East Divisions) reports on the CDG

The Career Development Group, London and South-East Divisions have been undertaking a full and varied programme of events. These have included Chartership registration courses in London and Strood, training events on topics such as Searching the Internet, library visits to the Imperial War Museum, Institute of Mechanical Engineers, Royal Geographical Society and Winchester Cathedral, and planning the forthcoming annual Management Seminar Series being held this winter. Topics include Team Building, Impressions Management and Mentoring.

Also in the offing is the CDG National Student Conference being held on 13 November at Birkbeck College, University of London, where current professionals are available to give the benefit of their experience to students completing their studies, excellent for planning the next step in their careers. A library visit to the Royal Asiatic Society has also been scheduled together with other social events for Information Professionals to socialise and network. Details can be found on our website at www.careerdevelopmentgroup.org.uk/divisions/londonsoutheast.htm.

The committee are always looking out for new members so just come along to a meeting. We are committed to the new geographical area we represent and seek closer collaboration with the branches within and we will continue to meet our objectives to support, represent and promote the development needs of new and existing library and information workers and students.

New Appointments at ALM London

ALM London has appointed three new Development Officers, one each for archives, libraries and museums in London. Isobel Siddons is the new Archive Development Officer; she joins ALM London from The National Gallery. Dermot Kennedy becomes Library Development Officer, and Ben Travers, former Research Archivist for Kent County Council, is Museum Development Officer.

Graham Fisher, Chief Executive ALM London, welcomed the new appointments: 'ALM London is already beginning to make a difference to London's archives, libraries and museums through our recent grants programmes and with key project developments in diversity, learning and neighbourhood renewal. We are also building effective advocacy partnerships with a range of key stakeholders in London. These additional domain development posts will mean that we are now able to further develop our partnerships and support with each of the domains, to understand their needs better and ensure that our regional strategies make a real impact.'

ALM London - www.lmal.org.uk - was established in April 2004 to ensure that the unique cultural, knowledge and learning resources of archives, libraries and museums are made accessible for the benefit of all Londoners and contribute to London's status as a world-class city. ALM London is core funded by MLA, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

The Joy of Text

26 Letters : Illuminating the Alphabet is an exhibition at the British Library that opened on 29 September as part of the 2004 London Design Festival. This new illumination of the alphabet offers a lens through which to view the world today. Twenty-six posters - each representing a letter of the alphabet - are located throughout the Library, forming an A-Z typographical treasure trail. The twenty-six writers are members of 26, a not-for-profit group to inspire greater love of words in business and the wider community. The twenty-six designers are members of the International Society of Typographic Designers (ISTD), which establishes and maintains standards of typography and encourages debate. The exhibition runs until 1 January 2005.

Celebration at Homerton Library

This year Homerton Library is celebrating its 30th anniversary. It was opened on 1 June 1974 by Lord George Brown, a minister in Harold Wilson's Labour Government. To mark the occasion, the Homerton Library User Group organised an Information Day on 25 May and a series of events on 1 June.

On the Information Day, local community groups set up stalls and displays in the library foyer and provided information about their activities. Hoxton Manor Allotment Site presented a photographic display bringing to life the allotment scene through the seasons. The Information Day also saw the launch of a special exhibition, Public Libraries in Hackney: Past, Present & Future, put together by the Homerton Library User Group.

Events on 1 June included a party for under-fives, unveiling of a new mural in the Children's Library, tours of the library building, a talk on growing your own food and window box gardening, and computer training sessions for older people. In addition, there was an evening event of live jazz and poetry featuring Jazz Arc and Abe Gibson and friends.



Donovan Lee, Chair of the Homerton Library User Group, and Anita Kane, from Hackney Library Service, look on as Cllr Linda Kelly, Deputy Speaker of Hackney Council, cuts the birthday cake



New Idea Store

Tower Hamlets Council opened a new Idea Store on 19 July. Idea Store Chrisp Street is the second such service in the borough - the first was at Bow. Through its Idea Store strategy, Tower Hamlets aims to create a network of adult education, library and information services, in state-of-the-art buildings in local shopping centres.

The Council describes Idea Stores as 'more than just a library or a place of learning'. As well as the traditional library service, they offer a wide range of adult education classes, along with career support, training, a crèche, meeting areas, arts and leisure pursuits. According to the Council, 'The unique, branded image of "idea" is used to attract customers used to sophisticated branding techniques on the high street'.

The flagship Idea Store in Whitechapel, designed by Adjaye Associates, is due to open in late summer 2005. Work is also underway to develop Idea Stores at Canary Wharf, Isle of Dogs, Watney Market and Bethnal Green.

Idea Store Chrisp Street was funded by London Borough Tower Hamlets, Leaside Regeneration, Lloyds of London Charities Trust and UK Online.

What is Wi-Fi?

Wi-Fi stands for 'wireless fidelity'. In its broadest sense it is a way of connecting up anything computerised, whether it be your computer or your stereo, without any wires.

However, it is most commonly referred to for connecting up laptops to Wi-Fi 'hotspots' to receive the Internet while on the move or without a network or telephone line to connect to.

Where can you connect to Wi-Fi in London? Look no further than this website to reveal all! http://informal.org.uk/people/julian/publications/the_state_of_wireless_london/



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