



The Dial

Leeds Library newsletter No 11 April 2009

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The Login screen from the Heritage Online Catalogue

It is now possible to log into our online catalogue available via our website and check your current loans, reservations and loan history. You can even reserve books and make enquiries! To log into the system you need to enter a four digit membership number. If your membership number is only 1,2 or 3 digits you need to precede it with zeros to make it up to 4 digits.

You also need a pin to be able to log in and this can be set by the counter staff. It can be anything you want, alpha, numeric or a combination of both. There is

no limit on length either. To do this you can ask at the counter when you are next in the library, email: counter@theleedslibrary.org.uk or phone us on 0113 2453071.

Once you've logged in as well as seeing your personal loan information any email sent while logged in will have your details on it to allow the staff to respond to you directly.

There will be some help sheets available on the website and in the library for anyone who needs any further help with this.

Changes to Dial distribution

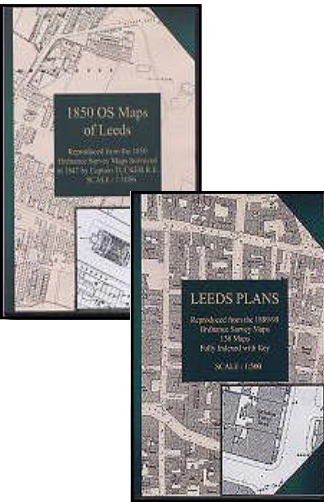
In the last issue of the Dial I mentioned that in order to save paper I would be only sending the Dial out by email to members who had provided us with an email address. Those who hadn't will still get it through the post. If anyone

would prefer a paper copy or an electronic copy then please let me know by phone or email me at: buckleyc@theleedslibrary.org.uk

Many thanks, *Claire*.



RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire



Maps for sale

There are two CD-ROM maps available to buy in the library. The first is Leeds Plans which has been reproduced from the 1889/90 Ordnance Survey Maps. It contains 138 fully indexed maps and costs £15. The second contains the 1850 Ordnance Survey Maps which were surveyed in 1847 by Captain Tucker R.E. and costs £12. The maps can be purchased from the counter and can be paid in cash or by cheque (made payable to Yorkshire Indexers). For more information on these items and others available visit:

www.yorkshireindexers.co.uk/forums/portal.php?page=page_maps

RAF Cranwell Trip

George Whitehead, Leeds Library President, has arranged a visit to RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire including a tour of the College on Thursday May 7th. The visit is open to members of the Leeds Library but places are strictly limited to a maximum of 20. A tour of the College is arranged for 13.30 and will take approximately 2 hours and in addition to this time will be spent in the library. Refreshments other than tea and coffee will not be provided but we understand that a packed lunch can be eaten at the Library there.

Those interested will need to make their own way there and meet at RAF Cran-

well for 12noon at the car park behind the main guard room. Please note that photo identification will be required. Either a current photocard driving licence or passport will suffice. Will members kindly register their interest with the library either in person, by phoning 0113 2453071 or emailing enquiries@theleedslibrary.org.uk.

There will be a small charge to go towards library funds of £2 a head. For more information on the college visit www.raf.mod.uk/rafcranwell. If the visit is over subscribed another trip may be planned in the future.

More events!

The events list for spring/summer 2009 has been arranged and there are many open to you, your family and friends to enjoy. Firstly the Stupidity Club kicked off on 18th April with Peter Brears' talk on 'Recollections of a food historian'. The rest of the events are listed on the back of this Dial and on the website.

Leeds Metropolitan University have linked with the Thoresby Society in holding a study day on Saturday 9th May. It is entitled Researching Local History and costs £10. Anyone interested should contact the library as it has to be booked in advance.

Michael Meadowcroft is back with another collection of talks on Leeds Politicians. These are weekly from Thursday 7th May and cover Robert Meek Carter, Bertha Quinn, Hyman Morris and T Edmund Harvey. The talks start at 17.30 with tea and coffee being served at 17.00.

Please check the library's website for more events: www.theleedslibrary.org.uk/news/events or contact the library on 0113 245 3071.

To Dewey or not to Dewey...

Never ones to rush into any new fangled ideas, Dewey Decimal Classification is at last coming to the Leeds Library! The system was conceived by Melvil Dewey in 1873 and first published in 1876. It is an internationally recognised system of classifying books used in many libraries in 138 countries around the world. DDC is divided into ten main classes, which together cover the entire world of knowledge. Each main class is further divided into ten divisions, and each division into ten sections.

The first section to be re classified is the modern science collection. This along

with other sections from the modern non-fiction collection will eventually occupy the New Room to create a more browsable collection.

It is fair to say that our current system does baffle quite a few people as the numeric system originally was based on which room, bay and shelf the book was assigned to.

Hopefully as we progress with this it should become easier to work out. In the meantime please ask any of the helpful staff if you can't find the location of any items.



Security Highlight

A request by the Librarian, Geoffrey Forster

We'd like to politely remind members and their guests to remove coats and to deposit bags (except small handbags less than A4 in size) in the free lockers in the downstairs foyer. This is to protect the members, the staff and the collection and is cited in the members rules (Section D - General Conduct, rule 3).

We also ask that members close the door behind them after entering or

departing the library. There have been occurrences of non-members gaining entry to the building by following in members. As the public are becoming more aware of our presence they are approaching the library to gain entry. While we welcome new applications for membership we can't allow everyone of the street entrance due to reasons of security. Non members should be encouraged to ring the door bell and speak to someone on the counter.

Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

Closed week Update

The closed week in February was very successful as fiction was recalled from Squirrel Storage and relocated to the basement. This is just a small move to help provide you with a better service. Most fiction published from 1900 is now located in the library. We hope to recall more fiction from Holy Trinity in the future so we have it all under one roof.



Troops on duty in Afghanistan

Gift Aid & Donations—Thank you!

giftaid it

Following on from our mail shot in February we would like to send a big thank you to all of you who donated money to the library. The current total stands at £7,000 as of April 2009. This invaluable support will help towards funding projects in the library. There is no time limit for donations and anything you can give would be grate-

fully received.

We would also like to say thank you to all our members who have returned Gift Aid forms. This allows us to claim 28% of the cost of your subscriptions and gifts back from the taxman which will in turn help with our finances. For those who haven't submitted one and pay tax there is no deadline to return it and we would be very grateful if you would consider filling out a Gift Aid form.

Books for the Boys and Girls

An update by Mike Barber

Peter and Christine Throp have asked me to thank you all most sincerely for the generous donations received so far. Last year they were able to send out 1000 parcels. They are currently preparing another 500 for 2 Rifles (Yorkshire Regiment) who are going to Afghanistan in March. Because of weight restrictions, light paperback books, sweets, biscuits, toiletries (but no aerosols), etc are the most likely things to be sent to the troops.

However, please continue to donate heavier books as these will be either:

sold to raise funds (The Throps raised £300 selling books and magazines at the Morley Literary Week Festival in September)

or donated to Lister House, The Royal British Legion Care Home in Ripon which cares for terminally ill cases. The matron has recently started a library which now houses 400 books most of which were donated by the Leeds Library.

To raise further funds, Peter Throp is organising a Sportsman's Lunch at The Headingley Experience on May 17 and tickets are on sale at £30.

If any one would care to donate money to this cause cheques should be made out to 'BOXES FOR THE TROOPS' and sent to Peter Throp The Hollies Sunfield Close Pudsey Leeds LS28 6DT Tel. 0113 2576037.

The book donation box is located in the downstairs foyer of the library under the notice board.

Book Review

All the names
by Jose Saramago
252pp, Harvill, £7.99

Book review by Reading Group member, Martin Staniforth, to be discussed at the September 2009 meeting of The Leeds Library Reading Club.



Despite winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1998, the Portuguese novelist Jose Saramago is little-known in this country, though the recent film of his novel *Blindness*, the story of what happens when the inhabitants of a city are struck by a plague of blindness, may start to change that.

I first came across him seven or eight years ago when I picked up a copy of *Baltasar and Blimunda*, which tells of the love between a maimed soldier and a clairvoyant in 18th century Portugal, and the help they give to a priest trying to build a flying machine, while around them thousands of men labour to build the great convent of Mafra under the grim eye of the Inquisition. I was immediately captivated by the mix of realism and imagination which marks all Saramago's work, and by his underlying theme of the conflict between the individual and authoritarian structures, religious, political or economic. I also enjoyed the unmistakable style of his writing, with its long sentences mimicking human thoughts and conversation, its often startling humour, and its obsession with following an idea or a comment to its logical conclusion.

Unlike most writers, Saramago's starting point is not "Once upon a time" but "What if?". From his usually impossible premises (that the Iberian peninsula is severed from the European mainland, in *The Stone Raft*, or that death goes on holiday, in *Death at Intervals*) "more or less logical consequences follow, more or less fabulously narrated; with light digressions, tense asides and much moody self-reflexiveness". *All the Names* follows the pattern, telling the story of Senhor Jose, a clerk in the city's omniscient central registry of births, marriages and deaths, who secretly borrows the filecards of the famous to create his own parallel registry. One day he accidentally picks up the card of an ordinary woman and decides to find out all he can about her, to establish the reality behind the bare record. We follow him through a series of encounters to a conclusion which it would spoil the book to reveal, but which undermines the power and authority of the Registry. Fabulist, allegorist, teller of tales for our times, Saramago is one of the indispensable writers of the last 50 years.

Issue 12 due out August/September 2009 : please send any items for inclusion to Claire Buckley at

buckleyc@theleedslibrary.org.uk

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Leeds Library Calendar

May 2	09.30-13.00	Saturday Opening!
May 4	Library Closed	May Day
May 5	10.30	Reading Group: One day in the life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsen
May 7	17.30	Leeds Politicians Lecture Series: Robert Meek Carter by Michael Meadowcroft
May 9	9.45-16.45	Researching Local History Study Day— contact the library if interested
May 14	17.30	Leeds Politicians Lecture Series: Bertha Quinn by Michael Meadowcroft
May 21	17.30	Leeds Politicians Lecture Series: Hyman Morris by Michael Meadowcroft
May 25 & 26	Library Closed	Spring Bank Holiday
May 28	17.30	Leeds Politicians Lecture Series: T Edmund Harvey by Michael Meadowcroft
June 2	10.30	Reading Group: The blue flower by Penelope Fitzgerald.
June 6	09.30-13.00	Saturday Opening!

Please see the website for further listings.

Reminder

We don't open until 10am on the 1st Wednesday of the month to allow for staff meetings.