

The Dial

Leeds Library newsletter

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This is just a brief reminder for those of you who are taxpayers and haven't returned your Gift Aid forms. The library would really appreciate it if you could return them as soon as possible please. We have claimed for Gift Aid for last year and it makes a difference to us at no extra cost to you. It is not too late to claim on subscriptions for last year. If you require a form please contact the library.

RAISING FUNDS AT THE LEEDS LIBRARY

by Celly Rowe (Trustee)



Remember the jam jar appeal in issue 13? Well this is what we had in mind to help raise money for conserving books and restoring furniture.

As a charitable organisation, the Leeds Library is responsible for continuing provision of excellent services to members, preserving the building and its contents for future generations, broadening its educational remit, and ensuring there are funds to do this.

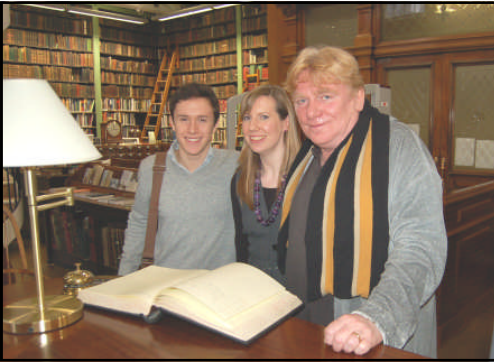
I was asked to act as fundraising co-ordinator for library members whose expertise in writing bids could help in our applications to grant making trusts. Some members have already given very helpful advice. We want to involve more people who can offer their time towards activities that support fundraising, so that everyone can find their own way of contributing to the library we are all passionate about.

To make this easier, the Board of Trustees has agreed to develop a fundraising strategy as part of financial planning. This will include volunteering, fundraising events and activities, seeking donations from individuals and local organisations, and bids to charitable trusts. The Librarian will set up a task force with the fundraising co-ordinator to bring these activities together, involving trustee subcommittees and library members as appropriate and reporting back to management and the membership.

Event

To launch this along with our Preserve our Words initiative you are invited to a fundraising buffet lunch at Club LS1 on Tuesday 25th May from 12noon until 2.30pm. The Leeds Library will close between 11am and 3pm to allow staff to set up and attend.

This is an open event, not limited to library members, so do bring family and friends. Simply call into the library or fill in the enclosed application form and send it to the library along with £15 per place (cheques made payable to 'The Leeds Library'). We expect it to be a social occasion and an opportunity for you to say how you would like to get involved if you wish to. The money we hope to raise at this event will go towards book conservation.



L to R James Byng, Claire Buckley, Gerard Murphy

The History Boys visit the Leeds Library. by Claire Buckley

It was my great pleasure to show round actors Gerard Murphy and James Byng. They were appearing at the W Y Playhouse in Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*. Gerard took on the role of Hector while James was playing Posner. I was lucky enough to catch the play which was marvellous. Gerard is well known for his work with the Royal Shakespeare Company. His television and film credits include *Doctor Who*, *Father*

Ted, *Vanity Fair* and he has starred in the films *Waterworld* and more recently *Batman Begins*. James has played Frodo in the stage version of *The Lord of the Rings* and his screen credits include *Goodbye Mr Chips* and *Hey Mr Producer!* The musical world of Cameron Mackintosh. The play ended its run at the Playhouse on 6th March and is touring theatres around the country. Gerard and James kindly posed for a photograph with me after the tour.



New Room Closure

The New Room will be closed to members each Monday morning until 10.30am from 12th April. This will enable the staff to work on the rearrangement of the New Room which will take several months to complete. This includes the expansion of the growing Dewey Decimal sequence and the introduction of other materials to make the collection more browsable and appealing to you, our members.

The life span of a book order by Helen Holdsworth and Jane Riley

Have you ever wondered how long it takes for each book to make it from the request book to you? Here's the answer:

Firstly the book is requested.

A decision is taken as to whether or not to order the item – based on price, book reviews, how many people have asked for the book, whether it fits into the collection.

The requested item is added to library database.

The order is placed at supplier.

An order is entered on the library computer system (Heritage).

Reservations are added to member record(s).

The book arrives and is checked against the invoice.

A receipt of the item is logged on library computer system (Heritage) and a barcode is allocated.

The book is annotated with number of pages, plates, book size etc is

written in the back of the book.

The book is then prepared for loan – and is stamped, embossed, the bookplates and date label are glued in place, the barcode number and date of receipt of the book are written on the back of the title page, the "in demand" pink/green strip is added, the book is jacketed and then security tagged.

The book is catalogued on Heritage – details added include ISBN, title, author, classmark or genre, subjects (non-fiction items), publisher information, loan period, language of item and collation/pagination details. The author must be verified on the Library of Congress or COPAC (the library union catalogue) websites.

The book is added to booklist.

The book is now ready to borrow!

So you see, far more goes on behind the counter than just stamping books!



AGM - Date Set

The Leeds Library Annual General Meeting will take place at Mill Hill Chapel on City Square on Friday 25th June at 2.30pm. All members are welcome to attend. Tea and biscuits will follow.



Support us while you shop

The Leeds Library has become an 'Amazon Associate' which means that the Amazon website is linked from the Library's website so anyone who gets to the Amazon site via our website and makes an order helps to earn us extra discount with no cost to you! You still get the great deals and the Library benefits which in turn means we can buy more.

Simply go in via our website: www.theleedslibrary.org.uk/online-catalogue and click on the Amazon banner.

Volunteers Wanted

Do you have free time on your hands?
Would you be willing to volunteer some of your free time at the Leeds Library?

We are looking for enthusiastic members to help out with events at the library in the form of tour guides and room guides whilst keeping a security presence. We also need help with setting out rooms for events like covering tables, washing up, registering people. These events can take place at various times and days such as lunch times, evenings and Saturdays. Full training will be given so if you are interested in doing this and helping at events such as Heritage Open Days, Book Launches and talks please contact Claire at the library for more information and an application pack (buckleyc@theleedslibrary.org.uk).

This Treasure House by Bob Duckett

In recent months I have been classifying books in preparation for making part of the New Room more browser-friendly. I now have the delightful occupation of browsing mountains of good books and allocating class numbers. What a wonderful selection of books we have in this library! Rarely do I go home without a book to study: sometimes because I need more time to determine the book's subject in order to classify it; at other times because the book might assist me in other projects I am involved with; sometimes, even, just because it offers a damn good read! What follows is a brief account of treasures I found and how some helped in my researches.

Firstly came Angus Calder's **The People's War: Britain 1939-45**. This struck a chord because local author, Nicholas Hawks, step-son of J B Priestley, has recently written an account of his step-father's morale-boosting wartime broadcasts, *The Postscripts*. (*The Story of J.B. Priestley's Postscripts*, by Nicholas Hawkes. The J B Priestley Society, 2008). There has long been controversy as to why Priestley's second series was never broadcast. Was it because Churchill was jealous of JB's popularity? I was keen to see if Priestley featured in what was obviously a detailed study of the London blitz. There were numerous entries to him in the index, so the book was clearly worth further study. Initially I was angered that some of the mentions were critical of Priestley. Had Nicholas read this book? On checking, it was clear that he had, and on further reflection I realised that Angus Calder was fair: he was

merely illustrating how Priestley was part of the propaganda policy of the time. Well, pretty fair, but this was not a fish for me to fry.

The next book borrowed was **Great Leeds Stories** by Leeds Library member, David Thornton. This time it was the format and subjects chosen that interested me more than the actual stories themselves. I was considering upgrading the *Bradford Antiquary*, of which I was Editor, from being a rather drab Society organ to making it available in bookshops. David's book was a good model to follow.

And just borrowed, for sheer pleasure, is **A Lifetime of Mountains: the Best of A. Harry Griffin's Country Diary**, edited by Martin Wainwright. A signed copy, indeed! This is a delightful pocket-sized selection of contributions to *The Guardian* newspaper's 'Country Diary' column from a Lake District resident who loved his mountains. Pure escapism! Glory me, how I'm boosting the Library's issue figures!

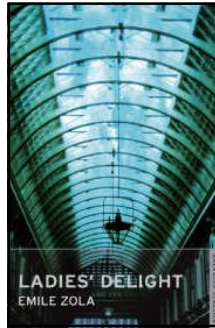
The full version of this article can be found at:
<http://www.theleedslibrary.org.uk/news/dial-newsletters>

(Bob Duckett is a retired reference librarian, UK Editor of *Brontë Studies*, Editor of *The Bradford Antiquary*, a regular contributor to *Reference Reviews*, and a founder member of the J B Priestley Society.)

Book Review

Ladies Delight by Emile Zola (2008), 453 pp., Oneworld Classics, £8.99.

Book reviewed by Reading Club member John Thackray, discussed at the March meeting of the Leeds Library Reading Club.



Au Bonheur des Dames (*The Ladies' Delight*) is the eleventh in the 20 novel Rougon-Macquart series by Émile Zola and probably the first sex and shopping novel. It is unlike Zola's other viscerally *naturalist* novels, containing none of the 'realities' that shocked his bourgeois readership (and pushed up sales). It even has a happy ending, unique among Zola's novels!

Superficially, the novel tells the story of Denise Baudu, a country girl who begins working at the *Au Bonheur des Dames*, a Paris Department store. Her life is one of unrelenting awfulness with its poverty wages and the malicious infighting and gossip among the staff. The other central character is Octave Mouret the store owner. Mouret is a marketing genius whose ferocious expansion is crushing the local artisan retailers and suppliers. Mouret has contempt for women, seeing them only as pliable customers or as tools for his financial and sexual advancement. Denise resists his advances and he finds himself falling for her, a feeling she eventually reciprocates.

However, the principal antagonist is the store itself, an unstoppable monster devouring then spitting out all those it consumes. Zola lays bare the forces of modernity transforming second empire France through the medium of mass retailing. We see the tricks we know as modern retailing and how this huge undertaking works in fine detail. The novel is full of fascinatingly detailed description, possibly too much for the modern reader, but a tour de force none the less.

The Reading Club generally meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the Library at 10.30am. If you are interested in joining please contact the library at: counter@theleedslibrary.org.uk or tel: 0113 2453071.

Issue 15 due out August 2010 : If you have any items for inclusion please send to Claire Buckley at buckleyc@theleedslibrary.org.uk

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Leeds Library Calendar

April 24	10.30	Stupidity Club Talk: Warren Smith - Leeds Grand Theatre. Five Managers, 132 years of Transformation!
May 3		May Day Closure
May 4	10.30	Reading Group
May 25	12.00-14.30	Leeds Library Fundraising Launch at Club LS1. Tickets available from the Library.
May 25	Due to the Fundraising Launch the Leeds Library will be closed from 11am to 3pm.	
End May Date TBA	10.30	Stupidity Club—TBA
May 31 - June 1		Bank Holiday Closure
June 5	09.30-13.00	Saturday Opening
June 8	10.30	Reading Group
June 25	14.30	Leeds Library AGM
June 26	10.30	Stupidity Club Walk: Stephen Chapman - Yards Of Wealth, a walk around Wakefield
July 3	09.30-13.00	Saturday Opening
July 6	10.30	Reading Club

Please see the website for further listings:
<http://www.theleedslibrary.org.uk/news/events>

Reminder

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

Please Note: We open at 9.30am on Saturdays NOT 9.00am.