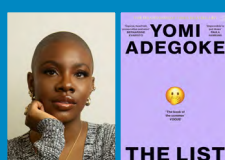


# Lambeth Readers and Writers Festival 2024

A guide to events in Lambeth Libraries

#LamLitFest24

Booker Prize Winner Marlon James



# ■ Lambeth Readers and Writers Festival

**Welcome to this year's Lambeth Readers and Writers Festival.**

The **2024** festival is here with another month-long programme of inspirational literary events. We hope you find something to enjoy.

For more information contact your local library or email [readersandwriters@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:readersandwriters@lambeth.gov.uk).



@ReadersWritersF #LamLitFest24



Lambeth Readers and Writers Festival

[www.lambeth.gov.uk/ReadersandWriters](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/ReadersandWriters)

I am delighted to welcome you to the Lambeth Libraries Readers and Writers Festival. For coming up to two decades it has been a regular highlight in the Lambeth calendar. In 2024 we have another month or more of events to suit all tastes - whether you enjoy reading, writing, discussion or simply sitting back and listening. Come and join us and express yourself! You'll be amazed at the fun you can have in your local library.

**Susanna Barnes,**  
Head of Libraries and Archives



We are proud that Round Table Books are our official bookseller for the month.

# Main Programme



**50th Anniversary** Commemorating the Fall of Fascism in Portugal

## The Carnation Revolution: The Day Portugal's Dictatorship Fell with Alex Fernandes

Monday 6 May, 6.30pm  
Tate South Lambeth Library, SW8 1QP

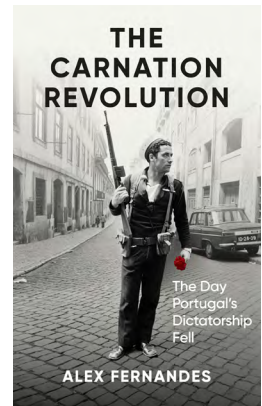
Booking via [Eventbrite](#)

On the night of 24 April 1974, at five minutes to eleven, a Lisbon radio station broadcasts Portugal's Eurovision entry. By 6.20pm the next day, Europe's oldest fascist regime has fallen. Hardly a shot has been fired.

As citizens pour into the streets, they offer carnations to the revolutionary soldiers.

For the first time in forty-eight years, Portugal is free.

The Carnation Revolution winds through the streets of Lisbon as the revolution unfolds, revealing the myriad acts of ordinary and extraordinary resistance that made 25 April possible. It's the story of daring escapes from five-storey prisons, soldiers disobeying their officers' orders and simple acts of courage by thousands of citizens. It's the story of how a group of young captains felled a globe-spanning empire.

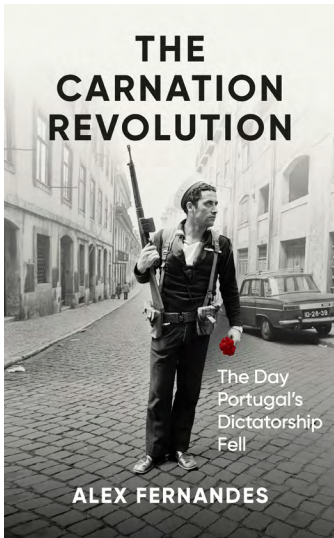


## The Radical Readers Discuss The Carnation Revolution: The Day Portugal's Dictatorship Fell

Friday 10 May, 7pm  
Brixton Library. SW2 1JQ

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)

As a follow up to Alex Fernandes book launch on Monday 6 May, the Radical Readers book group are discussing *The Carnation Revolution: The Day Portugal's Dictatorship Fell*.



All welcome, feel free to bring drinks and snacks. To borrow a copy of the book please contact the library on 020 7926 1056.



50th Anniversary Commemorating the Fall of Fascism in Portugal

## Storytelling with Ella Phillips

Saturday 11 May, 3pm to 4pm  
Upper Norwood Library. SE19 1TQ

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)



Embark on a captivating journey with author Ella Phillips in a multi-sensory workshop that blends storytelling, interactive fun, and creativity

to spark your imagination for Spring!

Gather for mesmerizing storytelling, brought alive with scents, sounds and textures.

*Grandma's Magic Recipes* is a joyful

celebration of food, family and the magic of cooking together. - Grandma knows that the longer days of spring are on their way, but Zee's not so sure. Luckily Grandma's there to show him how to pay attention to the flowers, the rain showers and the sunbeams that tell them that spring has sprung.



Join them as they celebrate a plant-powered spring in this heart-warming story and recipe book. Ages 3 to 8.

## Legacy Words & Images workshop with poet Lola Oh

Tuesday 14 May, 2 to 4pm  
Camberwell College of Arts,  
45-65 Peckham Road, SE5 8UE

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)



Poet  
Lola Oh's  
workshop  
titled  
'Legacy'  
enables  
participants  
to reflect  
on and  
develop  
their sense

of identity within the context of their lived experience and art practice. It is connected to the *Milk and Honey* exhibition running at Brixton Library and open to everyone.

Lola Oh is a Black British poet, photographer and facilitator. She was born to a Jamaican mother and a Nigerian father and is currently based in South London. Through her poetry, Lola uses her work to explore family, loss, and ideas of Black womanhood. Through photography, Lola uses her creative eye to document the world around her, distilling the essence of human emotions in the mundane, or intimate moments of everyday life. In 2023, Lola's poem *Bad Daughters* was shortlisted for The White Review's Poet Prize.

## Ruskin Park: Sylvia, Me and the BBC with Rory Cellan-Jones

Tuesday 14 May, 7pm  
Carnegie Library, SE24 0DG

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)



Rory Cellan-Jones knew he was the child of a brief love affair between two unmarried BBC employees. But

until his mother died and he found a previously unknown file labelled 'For Rory' he had no idea of their beginnings or ending, and why his peculiarly isolated childhood had so tested the bond between him and his mother. This is an emotionally gripping account of what Rory uncovered in the papers, letters and diaries; a relationship between two colleagues (two romantics) and the restrictive forces of post-war respectability and prejudice that ended it. Rory would never actually meet his father until much later in adulthood. Until then Rory's life was bound to the one-bedroom flat he shared with his mother in *Ruskin Park*.

Rory Cellan-Jones was the BBC's principal technology correspondent until 2021. He now writes an influential Substack column on medical innovation and tech. Join Rory and the Friends of Carnegie Library for a fascinating evening.



## The List with Yomi Adegoke

Wednesday 15 May, 7pm  
Streatham Library. SW16 1PN

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)

Yomi Adegoke is a multi-award-winning journalist and author. She is currently a columnist at *The Guardian* and *British Vogue*.



Credit: Yomi Adegoke © Mellana Burke

In 2018, she co-wrote the bestselling book *Slay In Your Lane* and the same year was named one of the most

influential people in London by the *Evening Standard*.

Join Yomi to discuss her new best-selling page-turner about the dark side of social media.



Ola Olajide, a high-profile journalist, is marrying the love of her life in one month's time. Young, beautiful, successful – she and her fiancé Michael seem to have it all.

That is, until one morning when they both wake up to the same message: 'Oh my god, have you seen *The List*?'

It began as a list of anonymous allegations about abusive men. Now it has been published online. Today, Michael's name is on there!

## How to put life onto the page with Julie Garton

Monday 20 May, 7pm  
Durning Library. SE11 4HF

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)

Have you ever thought about writing a memoir about your life?

Julie Garton, an experienced writer and teacher of memoir writing, gives practical advice on taking your first steps to putting your life onto the page. She'll also talk about favourite memoirs and books about the craft of writing.

Julie is an award-winning author who has written across a range of fiction and non-fiction disciplines. She currently teaches Memoir and Creative Non-fiction in London, and writes about landscape, heritage and nature.



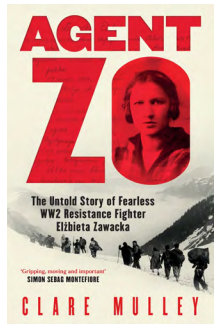
This event is organised with the Friends of Durning Library. Refreshments available (donation £3 suggested).

## Agent Zo: The Life of Resistance Fighter Elzbieta Zawacka with Clare Mulley

Tuesday 21 May, 7pm  
Clapham Library. SW4 7DB

Booking via 

Join award-winning author Clare Mulley to discuss the incredible story of Elzbieta Zawacka, the WW2 female resistance fighter known as *Agent Zo*, the only



woman to reach London from Warsaw during the Second World War as an emissary of the Polish Home Army command. In Britain she became the only woman to join the Polish elite Special Forces, known as the 'Silent Unseen', and then the only female member of these SOE affiliated forces to be parachuted back behind enemy lines to Nazi-occupied Poland.

After the war she was one of the most highly decorated women in Polish history. Yet the Soviet-backed post-war Communist regime not only imprisoned her, but also ensured that her remarkable story remained hidden for over forty years.



Now, through new archival research and exclusive interviews with people who knew and fought alongside Zo, Clare Mulley brings this forgotten heroine back to life, and transforms how we see the history of women's agency in the Second World War.

This event is kindly sponsored by Polish Cultural Institute London  
[instytutpolski.pl/london](http://instytutpolski.pl/london)



## Open Mic Poetry Night

Thursday 30 May, 7pm  
Minet Library. SE5 9QY

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)

Calling all poets and spoken word artists, come and share your words with us.



Sign up on the night, so get there early.

## LGBTQ+ book club discuss *Mona of the Manor*

Friday 31 May, 7pm

Online Event: [Eventbrite](#)

When Mona Ramsey married Lord Teddy Roughton to secure his visa - allowing him to remain in San Francisco - she never imagined she would end up the sole owner of a romantic country manor in the UK. Now, with her adopted son, Mona has opened the manor doors to paying guests to keep her inherited English manor afloat.



The result is a glittering and addictive comedy of manners that continues to beguile new generations of readers.

Join Lambeth Libraries LGBTQ+ book club to discuss the latest episode of Armistead Maupin's classic *Tales of the City* series.

To borrow a copy of the book please contact the library on 020 7926 1056.



## Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Booker Prize winning novel, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, with Marlon James

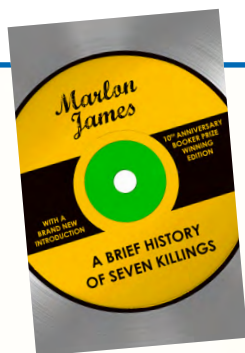
Friday 7 June, 7pm  
Brixton Library. SW2 1JQ

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)

In 2015 [Marlon James](#) won the Booker Prize with his Jamaican set novel *A Brief History of Seven Killings*. 10 years on Marlon is visiting the UK with a special edition of the award-winning title – join him at Brixton Library to discuss this and his exceptional writing career.

Jamaica 1976, seven gunmen storm Bob Marley's house, machine guns blazing. The reggae superstar survives, but the gunmen are never caught. Spanning three decades and crossing continents, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* chronicles the lives of a host of unforgettable characters – slum kids, drug lords, journalists, prostitutes, gunmen and even the CIA.

[Gripping and inventive, ambitious and mesmerising, the book is one of the most remarkable and extraordinary novels of the twenty-first century.](#)



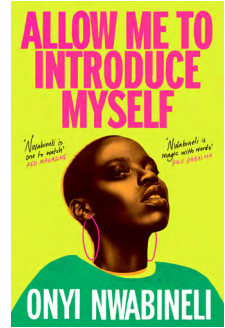
## Allow Me to Introduce Myself with author Onyi Nwabinele

Tuesday 11 June, 6.30pm  
Brixton Library. SW2 1JQ

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)

Every second of Anuri's life has been documented on social media. Now, it's time to take back control. Anuri's stepmother, Ophelia, is the ultimate 'mumfluencer'. Throughout Anuri's childhood, she catalogued every minute, milestone and carefully curated family outing on social media, cultivating a devoted - and sizeable - following. But the impact on stepdaughter Anuri is catastrophic.

And when she sees her little sister being pushed down the same rocky path by Ophelia, she decides to take back control. Her stepmother, however, isn't giving up without a fight. Put away your phone and get ready to rethink your 'harmless' social media habit, in this darkly hilarious page-turner from an exciting new voice.



Join us for a fantastic night with author Onyi Nwabinele and Jade Bentil to discuss one of the most pressing issues of the day – how can we navigate the dangers of social media on ourselves and those we love.



## Denmark Street: London's Street of Sound with Peter Watts

Tuesday 11 June, 7pm  
Carnegie Library. SE24 0DG

Booking via 

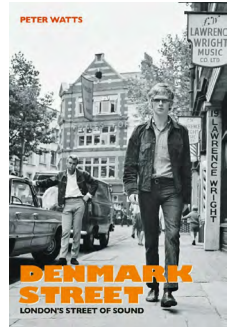


In his new book [Peter Watts](#) covers the history of Denmark Street from the arrival of the first music publishers in the early 20th century to the 21st-century gentrification threatening to erode this remarkable musical heritage. It was where The Beatles hung out when they first arrived in London and where The Rolling Stones recorded their first album; it was the home of the designers of Pink Floyd album covers.

Later, the street attracted the likes of Acid Jazz Records to the street, as well as specialist music bookshop Helter Skelter and legendary live-music venue the 12 Bar Club.

With the rock'n'roll came the sex and drugs, not to mention death: the darker side of *Denmark Street* includes gangster-run clubs and a largely forgotten arson attack that claimed 37 lives.

Join author and journalist Peter Watts to discuss musicians and music fans' street of dreams.



## Art is Magic with Jeremy Deller

Tuesday 18 June, 6.30pm

Brixton Library. SW2 1JQ

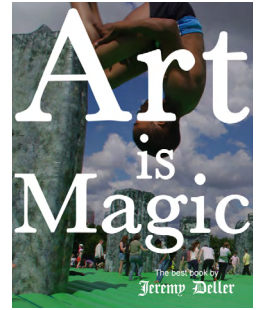
Booking via 



Join Artist [Jeremy Deller](#) for a revealing account of his inspirations, passions and practices in *Art is Magic*, from one of the UK's foremost contemporary artists.

In work that is playful, political and provocative, borrowing from many forms and produced over many mediums, Jeremy Deller enjoys critical acclaim in the UK and across the world. *Art is Magic* is the first book in which the artist reflects on the entirety of his career, his life and his art.

[Jeremy Deller](#) studied Art History at the Courtauld Institute and at Sussex University. He won the Turner Prize in 2004 for his work *Memory Bucket* and represented Britain in the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013. His projects over the past two decades, such as *Battle of Orgreave* (2001), *We're Here Because We're Here* (2016) as well as the documentary *Everybody in the Place: An Incomplete History of Britain 1984-1992* (2019) have influenced the conventional map of contemporary art.



## Revolutionary Acts: Love & Brotherhood in Black Gay Britain with Jason Okundaye

Thursday 20 June, 6.30pm  
Brixton Library. SW2 1JQ

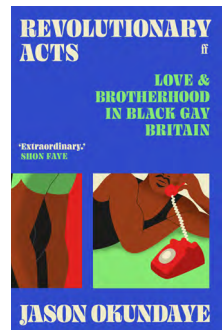
Booking via 



In this landmark work, [Jason Okundaye](#) meets an elder generation of Black gay men and finds a spirited community full of courage, charisma and good humour, hungry to tell its past - of nightlife, resistance, political fights, loss, gossip, sex, romance and vulgarity. Through their conversations he seeks to reconcile the Black and gay narratives of Britain, narratives frequently cleaved as distinct and unrelated.

Tracing these men's journeys and arrivals to South London through the seventies, eighties and nineties from the present day, Okundaye relays their stories with rare compassion, listening as they share intimate memories and reflect upon their lives.

*Revolutionary Acts* renders a singular portrait of Britain from the perspective of those buffeted by the winds of marginalisation and discrimination. It is a portrait marked by resilience and self-determination, inspired by the love and beauty Black men have found in each other.



## Private Rites with Julia Armfield

Monday 24 June, 6.30pm  
West Norwood Library. SE27 9JX

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)



Join [Julia Armfield](#), the bestselling author of *Our Wives Under the Sea* to discuss her latest book - a stunning, unsettling novel following three sisters navigating queer love and faith at the end of the world.

For sisters Isla, Irene and Agnes something sinister seems to be unfolding, something related to their mother's long-ago disappearance and the strangers who have always been unusually interested in their lives. Soon, it becomes clear that they have been chosen for a very particular purpose, one with shattering implications for their family and their imperilled world.



## These Letters End in Tears with Musih Tedji Xaviera

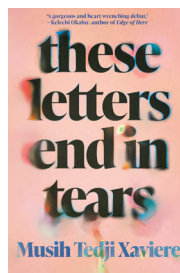
Thursday 27 June, 6.30pm  
Brixton Library. SW2 1JQ

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)

[Musih Tedji Xaviera](#) is a Cameroonian fiction writer based in the UK. Her debut novel, *These Letters End in Tears*, won the 2021 Pontas and JJ Bola Emerging Writers Prize and is flagged as one of the most anticipated LGBTQ+ novels of 2024.



Set in a country where being gay is punishable by law, *These Letters End in Tears* is the heart-wrenching forbidden love story of a Christian girl with a defiant heart and a Muslim girl leading a double life. Told mostly through unsent letters, it powerfully charts all the different ways that love, despite all odds, can persevere.



## Other Events

### The Black Men's Consortium Mental Health Awareness Week Performance Event

This community engagement event immerses you in film, interactivity and debate and includes improvisation. With a fantastic cast of performers, this interactive performance takes you into dimensions you have never seen, forcing you to consider the sometimes uneasy question of **“what is needed to improve the lives of Black men in the UK?”**

The Black Men's Consortium is a community-led exploration arts and health project in which Black & Brown men of African Descent meet to experience positive and meaningful interactions and discuss issues that matter to them.

**Wednesday 29 May, 5pm to 7.30pm**  
**Streatham Library. SW16 1PN**

Booking via 



### West Norwood Cemetery Literature Festival



Running during June 2024, West Norwood Cemetery, as part of the ongoing National Heritage Lottery Funded project: *A New Beginning*, will be hosting a series of literary events which will include walks, talks and workshops for all ages and interests.

All events will be free to attend, but you will need to reserve your place.

Visit [West Norwood Cemetery/Events](#) to find out what's on or see the notice board on the railings outside the main cemetery entrance.



*West Norwood Cemetery: A New Beginning* is a National Heritage Lottery Fund project that seeks to conserve the Cemetery's magnificent landscape and built structures, as well as to offer new experiences and facilities to increase community use.

**1 June to 30 June 2024**  
**West Norwood Cemetery**  
**and other venues**

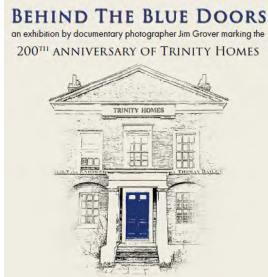
## Exhibitions

### Behind the Blue Doors

Friday 19 April to Saturday 1 June  
Lambeth Archives, SW2 1ET

Exhibition available during Archive opening hours

*Behind the Blue Doors* is a new photography exhibition by **Jim Grover**, the award-winning south London social documentary photographer.



It reveals the fascinating story of an alms-house in the heart of Brixton, endowed in 1824 by Thomas Bailey, a china and glass merchant, and which continues to offer accommodation for those in need, 200 years later. The exhibition documents the history of the alms-houses alongside the stories and portraits of many of its residents: a selection of residents' personal possessions highlighting the diversity of their lives, along with original archive documents extending back over 200 years.

### Louise Victoria Martin, Paintings 1961 to 2023

Showing 4 May to 22 June  
Carnegie Library, SE24 0DG

Exhibition available during Library opening hours



All are welcome to this retrospective exhibition from the **painter, librarian, and human rights activist Louise Martin**.

A long-term Lambeth resident, Louise's work was informed by her meditations on the natural world, her inner life in New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom and her South Asian heritage.

Louise's paintings will be on display (but not for sale).



## Jo Gibbs: Smashed Exhibition

Showing 6 June to 30 June

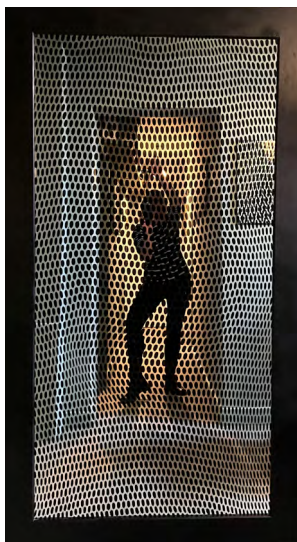
Brixton Library. SW2 1JQ

Exhibition available during Library opening hours

Arresting art works made from abandoned materials found on skips and street corners. Artist Jo Gibbs **“transforms the unwanted to the sublime”** (Vogue), with sculptures and collages that are a brilliant mix of fun, politics, surrealism and surprises.

From slates that billow with beautiful etching, to old mirrors transformed into optical worlds, to a (found) chair with spinning avocado balls

inspired by an Italian expletive, the common theme is her passion for the environment, recycling, and sustainable materials.



## Official opening and drinks reception

Thursday 6 June, 6pm  
Brixton Library. SW2 1JQ

Sponsored by Brixton Brewery



## Get Creative

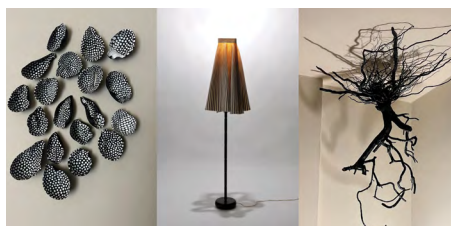
Thursday 13 June, 6pm to 8pm  
Brixton Library. SW2 1JQ

Booking via [Eventbrite](#)

Join Jo for a workshop where you'll be able to make your own art with avocado skins! (max 20)

Further information:  
[jogibbslondon.com](http://jogibbslondon.com)

Instagram:  
[@jogibbslondon](https://www.instagram.com/jogibbslondon)



## Milk & Honey

Showing 7 to 24 May  
Brixton Library. SW2 1JQ

Exhibition available during Library  
opening hours



*Milk and Honey* is a group exhibition, by Camberwell College of Arts BA Hons Painting Year 2 students of artworks inspired by poems.

In preparation for this exhibition students have been exploring the relationships between words and images in workshops with artists and poets on the themes of identity; home; belonging; unbelonging; family; the body; community; history and personal history; cultural heritage and storytelling.

Students were invited to create visual artworks showing their personal interpretations of one or more of these themes, or others inspired by their own reading and writing.

Further information: [www.arts.ac.uk](http://www.arts.ac.uk)

## Staffan Gnosselius: 'Bear'

Showing 8 May to 22 May  
Durning Library. SE11 4HF

Exhibition available during Library  
opening hours



A solo exhibition of etchings by London based artist and **illustrator Staffan Gnosselius**. *Bear* is a striking series of etchings about a bear struggling with depression and a hare trying to help him fight his way out of it.

***“A character appeared in my sketchbook. A bear with a cone on his head. At the time someone very close to me was fighting both depression and alcoholism and I was struggling to find a way to help them...”***

The project developed into an 80-page picture books of etchings with no text, to enable the viewer/reader to make up their own interpretation of the images.

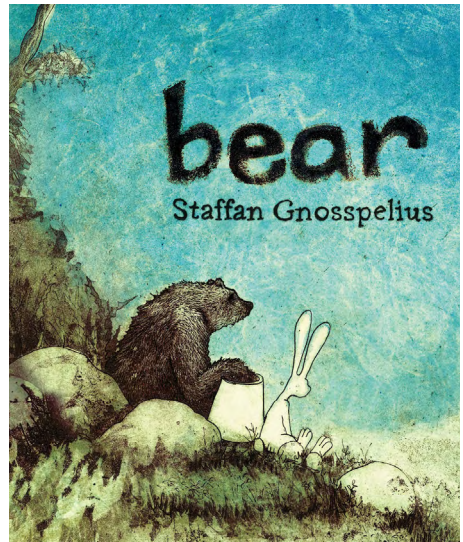
## Official opening and private view

Wednesday 8 May, 6pm to 8pm

Booking via **Eventbrite**

This show is the first exhibition hosted by the newly refurbished gallery room at Durning Library in Kennington Lane.

Further info: [www.gnosselius.com](http://www.gnosselius.com)



# Lambeth Libraries

## Libraries contact details:

### **Brixton Library,**

Brixton Oval SW2 1JQ.  
Tel: 020 7926 1058

### **Carnegie Library,**

192 Herne Hill Road SE24 0DG.  
Tel: 020 7926 6050

### **Clapham Library,**

Mary Seacole Centre,  
91 Clapham High Street, SW4 7DB.  
Tel: 020 7926 0717

### **Durning Library,**

167 Kennington Lane SE11 4HF.  
Tel: 020 7926 8682

### **Minet Library,**

52 Knatchbull Road, SE5 9QY.  
Tel: 020 7926 6073

### **Streatham Library,**

63 Streatham High Road SW16 1PN.  
Tel: 020 7926 6768

### **Tate South Lambeth Library,**

180 South Lambeth Road SW8 1QP.  
Tel: 020 7926 0705

### **Upper Norwood Library,**

39-41 Westow Hill. SE19 1TQ.  
Tel: 020 7926 1063

### **Waterloo Library,**

The Oasis Centre,  
1 Kennington Road, SE1 7QP.  
Tel: 020 7926 8751

### **West Norwood Library,**

1-5 Norwood High Street SE27 9JX.  
Tel: 020 7926 8092.

*This information was believed to be correct at the time it was published but may be subject to changes and circumstances outside of the control of the organisers.*

For more events and information visit  
[www.lambeth.gov.uk/events](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/events).

For Library bookings:  
All library events can be found at  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/lambeth-libraries-17776185319>

Otherwise for further details please phone the local library or email  
[readersandwriters@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:readersandwriters@lambeth.gov.uk)