

CILIP RPG

for those outside full-time work

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A Capsule in time

Post -Lib

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RPG, For people outside full-time work

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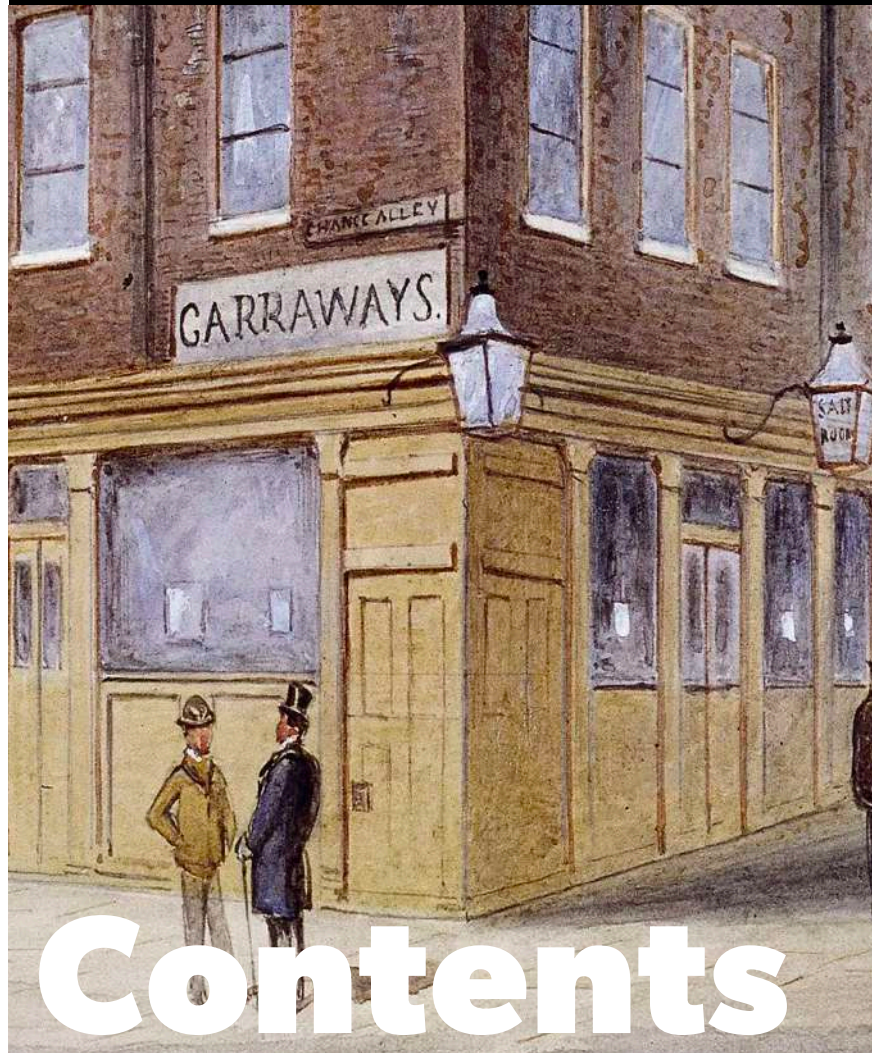
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Chair's Note Ian Orton

The fourth RPG and partners annual conference called the UnConference will be held from Friday 3rd October to Monday 6th October at Kents Hill Park, Milton Keynes – more details of the UnConference are in the Post Lib, but RPG are already planning our 2026 event. So far, we have met in The Lake District, North Wales, Glasgow and now Milton Keynes, but where should we meet next year? Any ideas will be very welcome – I rather fancy Norwich, but your suggestions are far more important!

The Annual General Meeting was held at Goldsmiths University and had the best attendance post Covid both in person and via zoom. The membership was interested in finance; events being planned are - the future role of libraries being very conscious of the benefits and concerns brought about by AI. It is likely the AGM next year

will be held on Tuesday 7th July – please consider attending or tuning in – the more we share the stronger RPG becomes.

Once again, times are tough for all aspects of public services, but not everything is doom and gloom. We may have to accept changes we do not necessarily support but there are still around 4000 public libraries, with Manchester Central Library, as an example: still issuing 2 million books a year.

As things have tightened up, public libraries have made every effort to maximise available space with facilities ranging from Lego Clubs (where booking is essential), through to police surgeries. Whitehaven Library provides a range of facilities for all ages.

The new Nottingham Central Library is situated close to the main railway station. So, the open plan vista is very inviting and you are met by one



Lego club



Nottingham Central Library

of the enthusiastic volunteers who will direct you to the Information, Recreation, Family History etc. Whitehaven Library provides a range of facilities for all ages.

The National Trust has more than 40,000 volunteers who contribute their time, energy and skills to the Trust, but in 2019-2020 more than 50,000 volunteers worked in public libraries! This enthusiasm has kept many public libraries open and RPG, which supports those not in full time employment have identified an area where we can work with volunteers to help preserve and enhance our existing network of public libraries. The National Trust freely admits that without volunteers the range of facilities would diminish or be mothballed. Public libraries are using the skills of volunteers to survive. As an eternal optimist, I hope that things will improve, and all recreational

facilities will receive the boost they deserve. Until then, on behalf of RPG I thank all volunteers!

But looking ahead, a date for your diary: the 2026 Annual Lunch will be held on Tuesday 21st April 2026 – please let me know if you would like more details.

Your RPG Committee members all work very hard, but we always could use more help with arranging site visits, zoom events and generally supporting CILIP. So, has anyone a few hours to spare a month? Please let me know! RPG is your committee, and I really would like your views on anything to do with our group, please let me know if we can do anything better!

I can be reached via ianorton5@gmail.com or on 07841 577 991

**Ian Orton
Chair Cilip RPG**



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NEXT ISSUE

Please send me your article in MS word by **12th January 2026** to the editor at the following address:
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Editor's Note

Christiana Ikeogu

Welcome to the third and final issue of the Post-Lib in 2025. What a year it has been, and what a wonderful summer we have had. We can view our world as passing through a very difficult period, but my perception is that humanity is creating mountains out of molehills, because personal values are taking precedence over service for our common good. Nature still gives us everything we need for comfortable existence, but greed and insatiable desire for wealth make our goals very unreachable. Life is full of benefits and comfort when we play our cards right.

I am however delighted that the library profession is still one of the respected and valuable services in our world today. One thing seems clear, to my understanding, and that is that our CEO, Louis Coiffait-Gunn is following the trend in information and digital challenges: inspiring the organisation to move with clarity and confidence in our service provisions. RPG is in no way lagging, considering all the activities we still run for our members, and more people joining the SIG.

On this note, I wish to thank everyone who has contributed articles and interests in so many ways. Our Chair continues to inspire RPG into looking at the positive aspects of the profession. For poetry lovers, you will be thrilled by what Dr Nazir Amad has in store for you. You might want to buy one of his books.

He has also written a book on how emotional wellbeing and attachments shape our lives, which is kindly reviewed by Dr Yasmin Nasir Ajanah. Another of the valuable friends we have is Nadia Kabir Barb. She has built a stronghold in the friendship by sharing her adventure in the literary world. So, explore her review on 'A Capsule in Time at the Pavilion by Marina Tabassum', and judge for yourself.

One section of this magazine is always graced by the active life of our Visits Organiser, Charmaine Bourton. Here, you will see what RPG does behind closed doors. Her hard work connects us with the present practices in the Library and Information world. I find the tours awe-inspiring, opening doors to those areas in our profession that I was unable to reach during my nine-to-five years. I also invite you to peek at the life well spent in the sector by Genny Andrews, who never thought she would become a librarian. As you read her story, reflect on your own working life.

Finally, please see how well your SIG is performing financially through the report by our able Treasurer, Judith Allery. My personal appreciation goes to our Vice Chair, Sian King and Charmaine Bourton for taking their time to keep my editorial work on a straight and narrow path.

Please get on board! Share your stories! You can never tell how impactful it will be until you air it.

Christiana Ikeogu

Trending



A Capsule in Time at the Serpentine Pavilion by Marina Tabassum

Reviewed by Nadia Kabir Barb

A group of elderly people sit opposite me wearing party hats. They are celebrating the birthday of the gentleman in a wheelchair. One person offers a large chocolate chip cookie to the others. 'On the house by the staff,' I hear her say. They share their snacks and exchange laughter. It is hard not to be infected by their exuberance. Seated next to me is a young mother accompanied by her two children, a boy around nine years old and his sister who has already informed me she is two. The boy eats noodles from a thermos flask and attentively feeds his sister, who generously offers me

some of her meal. I politely declined as I am devouring a raspberry sorbet while my cousin finishes her mango sorbet with as much relish. We sat on the low wooden bookcases which elegantly double up as benches. Others mill around taking pictures of our striking surroundings, mostly with their phones, others with sophisticated cameras and equipment. My cousin and I ask the young mother to take our photo as we both lack proficiency in taking selfies.

The venue is both an unusual and remarkable one. We are in the Serpentine Pavillion in Hyde Park. The

exhibition titled *A Capsule in Time* is by Bangladeshi architect Marina Tabassum and her firm, Marina Tabassum Architects (MTA). I first experienced *A Capsule in Time* at its opening, and since then I have returned twice more. Each visit has offered something slightly different, whether it was the shifting light, the atmosphere, or simply the way people moved through the space. It is the kind of architecture that invites you back, revealing new layers with time. The café installed at one end provides an additional pull.

For me, there is an added sense of pride not only as this showcases the talents of a Bangladeshi architect but one who also happens to be my childhood friend. It feels not long ago that we were collaborating on science fair projects and running around in the playground under the scorching heat of the sun.

The Serpentine's annual architectural commission features temporary structures designed by internationally renowned architects. Situated within the verdant landscape of Hyde Park, the 2025 Serpentine Pavilion represents a notable contribution in contemporary architecture providing a space dedicated to reflection and communal engagement. *A Capsule in Time* by Marina Tabassum commemorates the 25th year of the Serpentine Pavilion commissions and invites visitors into its innovative architectural structure which is as much about human connection as it is about space and form.

Marina's core principles are anchored in a commitment informed by environmental conditions and geographic factors. Each of her projects reflect a thoughtful and sensitive approach to the unique conditions of its site, shaped by climate, culture and community. This principled approach has earned her numerous international awards and accolades recognising her ability to create architecture that is both locally resonant and globally relevant. It would be difficult to list all of Marina's achievements here as I would overrun my word count and probably make myself unpopular with my editor.

To put things in perspective, Marina has been awarded the Soane Medal (UK), the Arnold Brunner Prize (USA), the Gold Medal of the French Academy of Architecture, and the Jameel Prize from the V&A, London. She received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2016 for the



Bait ur Rouf Mosque and later served on its Steering Committee (2017–2022). A fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, she was also named one of TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People.

She is a Professor at Delft University of Technology and has held prestigious academic positions worldwide, including the Norman Foster Chair at Yale in 2023 and visiting roles at Harvard, the University of Toronto, and BRAC University (Bangladesh). She received an Honorary Doctorate from the Technical University of Munich and was Academic Director of the Bengal Institute from 2015 to 2021.



As I am writing this, I have just heard she is yet again the recipient of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2025. Frankly, being friends with such an overachiever would be depressing if it were not for the fact that she is humble, charming and deserving to boot.

Her latest accomplishment is *A Capsule in Time*. A design which addresses the relationship between the lasting and temporary elements of the commission. As Marina poetically puts it, “When conceiving our design, we reflected on the transient nature of the commission which appears to us as a capsule of memory and time. The relationship between time and architecture is intriguing: between permanence and impermanence, of birth, age and ruin; architecture aspires to outlive time. Architecture is a tool to live beyond legacies, fulfilling the inherent human desire for continuity after life.”

The minimalist Pavilion constructed from locally sourced timber marks a significant moment in Marina’s practice as it is her first building of this magnitude constructed predominantly from wood. The use of timber serves both practical and sustainable purposes, due to its accessibility and environmental benefits. This also means the structure can be easily relocated. It introduces a subtle, organic

quality to the Pavilion that blends seamlessly with the surrounding park landscape.

The Pavilion sits along the north–south axis of the park, with a long, half-capsule shape and a central courtyard that faces directly towards the bell tower at Serpentine South. It comprises of two semi-domes, separated by pathways and framed by two vaulted wooden canopies. One of the most intriguing parts of the design, which I am hoping to witness in action, is the ability of one of the capsule forms to move and connect to the other, changing its layout. This gives the structure a dynamic quality. Encountering it for the first time, it reminded me, strangely but unmistakably of a modern, upturned Noah’s Ark. But instead of rough timber and curves, it has a calm, geometric elegance that feels both ancient and futuristic.

As you enter, your attention is naturally drawn to the solitary Ginkgo tree standing in the centre of the courtyard. It acts as a reminder of our deep-rooted connection to the natural world bringing the outside into the interior of the pavilion. The choice of tree is deliberate. The first species of Ginkgo first appeared almost 290 million years ago and continues to survive despite climate change, pests and disease. It symbolises endurance, renewal and continuity, qualities that perfectly echo the Pavilion’s and Marina’s themes of transformation and memory. In autumn, before the exhibition ends, the changing colour of the leaves from green to a vibrant yellow, will also serve to remind us of the inevitable passage of time.

Light plays a quiet but powerful role in the Serpentine Pavilion. As with Marina’s earlier projects, most notably the Bait Ur Rouf Mosque, she continues her sensitive exploration of light and shadow. Here, coloured panels filter the sunlight, casting a soft, translucent glow that gently shifts throughout the day. The effect is almost dappled, bathing the interior in warm, ever changing tones that soften the structure and once again draw the outside world in. Her use of polycarbonate panels instead of glass, makes the structure stable and easy to dismantle and transfer to its next destination.

One aspect of the design that resonated with me was Marina’s decision to bring a touch of Bangladesh into the Pavilion. “I thought that since I come from a different context, I wanted to bring something to London that



referenced my own background, which is Bangladesh,” she explained. This inspiration refers to shamiyanas, temporary structures made from bamboo and colourful cloth, commonly used for weddings or religious gatherings. You could think of it as a variation on a marquee. She describes the beauty of how the light filters through the cloth in these traditional structures, creating a festive and atmospheric quality. Their impermanence, openness, and the quality of filtered light leave a lasting impression and the Pavilion quietly echoes those qualities.

Throughout the summer, the Pavilion has come to life with a rich programme of readings, discussions, and performances. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds have crossed its threshold, taking part in moments of shared experience and thoughtful exchange. As part of her vision for the Pavilion, Marina hopes to transform the space into a library, a gentle act of resistance at a time when

books are being banned and access to knowledge is increasingly under threat. The collection, still growing, currently celebrates ‘Bengali literature, poetry, ecology, politics and culture, selected by Marina and her studio’ reflecting her cultural roots and commitment to amplifying underrepresented voices. It fills me with pride to have my book, *‘Truth or Dare’* (Renard Press), included alongside others that contribute to a broader conversation on place, identity, and memory.

At a time marked by global conflict, rising intolerance, and social unrest, A Capsule in Time is not simply an architectural statement, but a social one. It is a vessel for dialogue, for contemplation, and for collective presence. “How can we transcend our differences and connect as humans?” Marina asks. From where I am sitting the Pavilion becomes her answer: a place to gather, to listen, to speak.

Book review

#WeAreRPG
#WeAreCILIP

Emotional Wellbeing: Emotional Attachments Shape Our Lives Dr Nazir Ahmad

Reviewed by: Dr Yasmin Nasir Ajanah

Opening & Overview

In *Emotional Wellbeing: Emotional Attachments Shape Our Lives*; Dr Nazir Ahmad presents an insightful exploration of the emotional threads that weave through human life from the earliest bonds of childhood to the laughter and humour that enrich adult relationships. Drawing from psychology, ethnographic research, and lived experience, the book examines how attachments, relationships, and shared human emotions shape our development, our resilience, and our capacity for joy.

Brief Summary

Across nine chapters, Dr Ahmad delves into the foundational role of early attachments, the influence of socialisation, the emotional challenges of adolescence, the complexities of intimacy, and the cultural expressions of laughter and humour. He blends academic perspectives with personal reflections, notably a touching tribute to the unbreakable bond between

father and daughter and incorporates unique research, such as his ethnographic study on Arab university students' smiling and laughing habits.

Evaluation of Key Elements

Content & Themes:

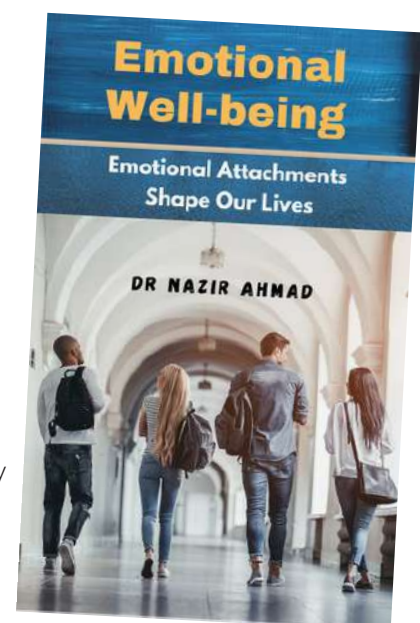
The central theme that emotional wellbeing is built through meaningful connections and shared emotional experiences, comes through strongly. The range of topics, from childhood attachments to literary humour, is broad yet unified by the underlying focus on human connection.

Structure & Pacing:

Each chapter focuses on a distinct facet of emotional wellbeing, making the book easy to navigate. Some chapters are particularly rich in detail (such as the sections on humour and laughter), while others are more personal and reflective. The flow between research-based discussion and anecdotal storytelling gives the work both depth and warmth.

Ideas & Perspective:

The author's willingness to integrate cultural observations, cross-national examples, and personal narratives adds



“The range of topics, from childhood attachments to literary humour, is broad yet unified by the underlying focus on human connection”



originality. The chapters on humour (Chapters 7–9) stand out for their vivid cultural references and the way they connect entertainment with emotional health.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its balance of academic grounding and human warmth. The section on the father–daughter bond is especially moving, while the research on laughter offers fresh, culturally rich insights. The diversity of topics ensures that readers with different interests from developmental psychology to humour studies, will find something engaging.

Writing Style:

The style is clear and accessible, with a conversational tone that invites the reader into both scholarly insight and personal reflection. The inclusion of specific case examples from on-campus socialisation to comedians across Europe, makes abstract concepts relatable.

“The research on laughter offers fresh, culturally rich insights”

Conclusion

Overall, ‘Emotional Wellbeing: Emotional Attachments Shape Our Lives’ is a thoughtful and wide-ranging exploration of the many ways our emotions are shaped, nurtured, and expressed. Dr Nazir Ahmad’s blend of scholarly research, cultural analysis, and personal narrative makes for a rich and engaging read. This book will appeal to readers interested in psychology, cultural studies, and the everyday ways that connection, compassion, and humour sustain human life. It is a work that both informs and, at times, warmly entertains.

Penny Universities: English Coffee Houses

By Professor Dr Nazir Ahmad, Chartered CILIP Member & UCL Alumni

At Oxford, We Ascertain Informal Learning Actions.
Predictably, People Observe Learners' Reactions
18th-Century Coffee Houses Take the Onus
For Local Communities, Marvellous Bonus

Alternative to Formal Education, Informal Base
Coffee Shops Attracted Common Men with Grace
Ideas Presented for Schooling Without School
Spreading Literacy Through an Unorthodox Tool

Thinkers Frequently Held Such Discourses
For Ordinary Citizens, Knowledge Sources
Full of Substance, Comprised Such Discussions
All Exchanges Had Productive Repercussions

Expanding Horizons of Thought and Vision
Avenues Galvanised with Utmost Precision
Learners Electrified, Roused Their Attention
Learning for the Masses was a Sacred Intention

Literacy Upsurge was a Genuine Undertaking
Indeed, Great British Nation was in the Makin
Curious Patrons were Shoemakers and Tailors
Coffeehouse Clients were Soldiers and Sailors

Whether Lloyds of London or The Royal Society
Coffee houses Generated Institutional Variety
17th Century Witnessed Learning Hubs Creation
Tracks Were Positioned for Avenues of Education

Intellectuals Gathered, Notable Elites Came
Anonymous Thinkers Savoured the Fame
As Emerging Talents Gathered for Erudition
Scholarship Attainment Became a Tradition

Anyone Could Learn, Anyone Could Teach
Creative Education Within Everyone's Reach
At Weekends Londoners, Headed for the Beach
Hyde Park Corner Labelled for Free Speech

Informal Institutes of Cultivated Thought
Chums and Buddies Unpretentiously Taught
Served Freshly Brewed Coffee, Tasty and Hot
Studying at Cambridge, Oxford, Rich Men's Lot

Debated Chemistry, Astronomy and Physics
Learned Men Formed Groups of Four and Six
After Coffee, Bow Street, Covent Garden Walk
Will's London Coffeehouse: Reserved for Talk

Authors and Artists Held Focused Deliberations
Animated Platform for Sparkling Conversations
Candlelit Interiors and Cozy Atmosphere
Scholars Whispers, You Could Easily Hear

Fervently Debated Matters of Enhancement
Modern Innovations, Britain's Advancement
No Laptops, Internet or Any Smartphones
But Coffee houses were Nuclei of Vital Forums

These Cafes Carried an Air of Distinct Gentility
Politeness Set the Mode of English Sociability
11 May, 1703. Nicholas Blundell, Stayed for Drink
Well-Dressed Handsome, Known for His Wink

At Grecian Cafe, Gathered Scientists to Investigate
Isaac Newton, Edmund Halley and the Dolphin Debate
At Jonathan Coffeehouse, Traders and Exporters
Contemplated Economic Policies with Importers

Unfiltered Education was the Norm in England
Intelligentsia Intermingled with Semi-Literary Band
Penny Universities Seemed an Accurate Designation
Within Literate Englishmen, Constructive Sensation



**Image courtesy of Howard Doble, Senior Archivist,
Collections, Knowledge and Engagement, The
London Archives, City of London Corporation.**

London Coffee Corners, 1700s

By Professor Dr Nazir Ahmad, Chartered CILIP Member & UCL Alumni

London Libraries were Coffee Centres
Learning Augmented, Prompted Inventors
Locals Intermingled, Laymen and Banterers
Commercial Dealings, Pacts, Indentures

Coffee houses Welcomed Tradesmen, Poets and Whigs
Affordable Charges for the Custom-made Swigs
Opulent, Underprivileged, Middle-Class Population
Diverse Ideas Entertained with Respectful Adulation

Comedians, Authors, Versifiers, and Jokers
Most of the Attendees, Compulsive Smokers
Obviously, Conducted Dogmatic Conversations
Nazir Disregards Contentious Narrations

London Coffee houses Faced Temporary Ban
Perturbed Momentously, Coffee-loving Fan
Public Demand, Pressure, Intensive Campaign
With Self-Devised Regulations, Revived Again

Intellectually Invigorating Coffee-cup Effect
An Alternative to Alcohol as a Matter of Fact
Liquor, Expensive Whisky, Coffee was Cheap
Circumvent Intoxication, Introspection You Keep

Image Above Depicts a Corner-house Coffee Space
Daniel Edwards Promoted Pasque Rosee London Base
Photograph Captures Demonstrative Cultural View
Outside the Caffé, Well-dressed Englishmen Few

Solitary Individuals Lost in Contemplation
Idealistically, it was a Classless Integration
"The News-Monger Hall" was Delight of Frugality
Instigation of Representative Era was in Reality

Venice Inaugurated Coffee-Space in 1645
In London, in 1652, The Beverage Could Thrive
Brian Cowan's Rise of Coffeehouse Reconsidered
The Historical Journal, 47, no.1 (2004):21. Chronicled

London Coffee Corners Served as Talent Spotters
Best Known for Knowledge Sharing Library Quarters
Grecian Coffee was the Scholars' Favourite Brand
Lost in Contemplations with Their Cup in Hand



London Coffee Houses' Cultural Values

By Professor Dr Nazir Ahmad, Chartered CILIP Member & UCL Alumni

17th Century London Coffeehouse Civilisation
Classless Discourse, Cultural Cultivation
In Attenuation of English Class and Social Rank
Where Upper & Lower Class, Divisions Sank

Visible Mitigation of the Society Hierarchy
Uncomfortable, conceivably for the Oligarchy
Intermingled Native Guys, Patrons and Proprietors
Happily, All Nattered, Unschooled and Writers

Sitting Uniformly Around One Large Table
None is Superior, But Equal and Equitable
Courteous, Polite, Refined & Reasonable
Mixture of Wise, Semi-literate & Capable

No Standing Ovation for the British Elite
Sitting, Nodding, Just Gesturing to Greet
Coffee Cup Served, Nothing to Eat
A Few Hot-Tempered, But Mostly Sweet

Man's Café at the Charing Cross and Button's in Bow Street
Wills' in Russell Square, Where Samuel Pope and John Dryden
Meet Their Eloquent Dialogue Profoundly Generated
Intellectual Heat Historical London Learning Foundations, One
Loves to Tweet

Owners Displayed Rules and Regulations
To Withstand Pleasure and Public Relations
No Ladies Admitted, All-Male Manifestations
Productive Expressions, Little Sensations

A Sobering Substitute for Beer and Wine
Drinking Coffee was Perfectly Fine
Cultural Values: These Places Enshrine
Restaurants Opened for Visitors to Dine

London Clubs were the Rich men's Ground
For Common Folk, Too Dear by Pound
So, to the Coffee houses They Would Head
Where Kind Words and Thoughts Could Spread

Markman Ellis, Too, Revealed the Scene
The Code of 1674, Still Applied, Serene
Daniel Edwards, Gentleman of Means
Witnessed Aspirations of Youthful Teens

Scientists, Academics, and Dreamers Came
Swamped Coffee Digs, Inscribed Their Name
Popularity Among Common Folk was Surprising
The Coffeehouse Fame Precipitously Rising

Henry Fielding & William Hogarth, Well-Known
Collaborative Learning, Immensely Grown
Other philosophers, such as Edmund Halley,
Cultural Heritage was the London Old Bailey

The Cobbler, Baronet and the Shoemakers,
Many Religious Scholars and the Quakers
Provocative Individuals and the Ice Breakers
Traders, Insurance Brokers, the Risk Takers

continued on next page

Arrived Regularly, for Dialogue and Debate
Argued Assertively with Friends and Mates
The statue of Isaac Newton was Erected in 1858
Living Fairly Simply, the Atmosphere was Great

You Find Book-Coffee Dreaming Combinations
Interpretation, Imagining, Ideas Compilations
Analysing Theories, Philosophical Accumulations
Reading, Envisioning, Mental Permutations

Nazir Passed Through the Narrow Lanes of EC3
Capturing Photographs was Absolutely Free
Archaeological Recollections Diffuse Glee
London Cultural Heritage, One Could See

These Coffee Halls, Imbided in Thought
Now Appear Silent- Yet with Meaning-Fraught
Plaques Upon Walls, Tourists Can Observe
Historical Reminiscences, Notably Preserved

Lucky Jim's Coffee by Day, Cocktails by Night
Fresh Pastries and Cakes, They Served Upright
London Coffee Shops Transformed Society
Intellectuals Favoured English Values & Variety

By Professor Dr Nazir Ahmad

Making connections

Visit to Frederick W. Paine, Funeral Director, And The Museum and Archives 27/6/25

Reviewed by Charmaine Bourton

Frederick William Paine was born in Norbiton in 1870 and was the eldest of 11 children. His father founded a furniture industry, and Frederick, being interested in antiques joined forces with him to establish an undertaker. This infuriated rival undertaker, Charles Farebrother, who was recorded as saying "I can beat you in this business" and opened a shop in New Malden. Fred retaliated by opening a second branch in Kingston in 1908 which also became his

home and Farebrother had a branch almost exactly opposite. They remained rivals for ninety-two years! There were, at the time, fourteen other funeral directors, and Fred and Charles both had very similar adverts. Fred prided himself on giving excellent customer service with premises to reflect that. This tradition continues today.

Paine opened a third branch in Twickenham in 1914, and he included his prices in his adverts, which was quite revolutionary



at the time. An average funeral then would have set one back £4.10s – old money! The next branches to open were Worcester Park, Surbiton, Raynes Park, Sutton, Norbiton, Hook, Tolworth and Hampton Hill to make a total of thirteen branches by 1942. All the branches were served by the main Kingston branch and when one of the branches acquired a client they would liaise with Kingston to arrange coffins and transport etc.

Coffins were made from oak or elm wood. Elm was used for its water-resistant qualities and bendability. Paines made all their own coffins, and the cost of a funeral was largely dependent on the type of coffin. When cremations were introduced, oak was deemed unsuitable as the coffin needed to be easily combustible. Paine realised that the opening of the Northern line would bring more residents to the area, so he made a point of advertising at railway stations. Indeed, there is a large poster at Kingston station – a very short walk away.

Many undertakers at the time had second jobs e.g. in carpentry and it was common for the undertaking work to be carried out from a small house. There were many avenues for undertakers – even places like Bentalls had an undertaking department! However, Paine thought that there should be locations where only undertaking took place and he tried to make all his branches similar in appearance inside and out – what we would now call a corporate image. He would have clocks at the front as he considered them to be a symbol of life passing and ending. He made sure there was an office to meet

the family, a Chapel of Rest and a display of brass handles and other items. The Chapel of Rest came into its own as it became less popular with families to keep the deceased at home. Families could assemble in the Chapel prior to the funeral service. The presence of a new branch was always considered an achievement, and the vicar would solemnise the Chapel of Rest.

There were four means of transporting the coffin to the cemetery – walking, horse, wheel bier or in cases of distance, the train. When railways began to carry freight, they carried coffins, and this was particularly useful during times of petrol rationing. Railways stopped accepting coffins in 1988. However, the horse was the most important mode, and it was usual to have a single horse or two horses although four horses was not unknown. From the 1920s, coffins could be transported by air.

Paine liked to run a tight ship and instructed his staff to inform him of any problems – big or small. They worked 9am–10pm Monday to Saturday, and 9–1 on Sunday. However, he appears to have been a good person to work for as he arranged a yearly outing for his employees and in his will left £3,000 to twelve of them.

Masonry was an important part of his business as prior to WW2 most funerals ended in a burial. At that time, Cemeteries requested that the maker of the stone memorial was printed on it and this was mostly completed at the funeral home although



**Frederick W Paine
Funeral Directors**

some masons visited the cemetery and engraved the stone in situ. However, when cremations were introduced, far from being resistant to change, Paine embraced cremation and had no hesitation in advertising it.

The first crem was built in Woking in 1885 with the Chapel added in 1889. This crem does have "open days" and I went on one recently – another fascinating visit and I would highly recommend it. Famous people associated with Woking crem are John Langdon Down – who was the person responsible for identifying the cause of Down's syndrome; Edward Muybridge, the pioneer of moving pictures; Isaac Pitman (shorthand), Hubert Parry who wrote "Jerusalem", Dr Barnardo and Thomas Hardy. London's first crem was Golders Green built in 1902. Famous people cremated or buried there include Marc Bolan, Enid Blyton, Kingsley Amis, actor, Barry Evans and Arnold Bennett.

Paine died suddenly in 1945 and having no children the business passed to his sister and her husband. He realised, however, that it was huge undertaking (pun intended!) for her and arranged for the business to be sold if she wished. He was cremated at Streatham. Today it is becoming less popular to scatter ashes – they are often made into glassware, fireworks or jewellery. Chipboard is now mostly used for coffins, and it is possible to have coffins in various modes. we were shown photographs of a coffin with a motorbike design, a lorry, a barge and even a box of Maltesers! This is done by using a film covering on the coffin! We did ask if a book shaped coffin

would be possible and the answer was "of course!" Oh, and there is no colour barrier pink coffins are popular!

We then looked at the museum full of interesting documents, brass plates, masonry, and an exquisite model of a horse-drawn hearse containing a miniature coffin. The archives were the final part of the day, and we were shown funeral records that go back to 1909. Obviously, these were handwritten but when the typewriter became popular the details were typed. These records have not been reproduced digitally partly due to time and expense constraints and the feeling that while they do get enquiries from family history researchers, there aren't enough to justify full digitalisation.

However, they are very concerned about loss if there was a fire, or if the branch had to be closed where they would find a home for this unique resource. Interestingly, recently a couple of students of museum studies did placement work using these records. Other researchers were working on the Spanish flu epidemic. A visit to a funeral director may not be something you would think of as an afternoon outing, but please let me reassure you that it is not all "doom and gloom". We were even given a fascinating talk with slides and tour with very enthusiastic and dedicated staff. They are very keen to give these talks and have asked that I pass on contact details – for anyone who would like to visit - dawn.trigg@dignityuk.co.uk The talk is completely free – includes tea and biscuits and they aren't even allowed to accept donations!

By Charmaine Bourton

Making connections

Visit to Highgate School Museum

Reviewed by Charmaine Bourton

Highgate School was founded in 1565 by Sir Roger Cholmeley. He had no sons to carry on his name, and concerned about the judgement his soul would face, he decided to open a free school grammar school in Highgate "for the good education of boys and young men."

He had to write to Queen Elizabeth I for permission and the reply from her is on display in the museum. The Bishop of London, Edmund Grindal (c.1519 – 1583) granted Cholmeley a chapel and two acres of land from his hunting park.

The governors declared that the first Master, Johnson Charle, was to instruct 40 poor boys from approximately a five mile radius "in the A.B.C. and other English books" and in grammar. The School Master was to read services in the Chapel, which would serve both the school and local villagers. By 1719 the School's Governors had paid for the construction of almshouses (the outside of which we saw) for poor women as well as clothing for 24 poor girls and the appointment of a School Mistress to educate them. In 1731, they permitted a fire station to be built in the yard next to the School Chapel which was large enough to house two fire engines. By 1737 School Governor, John Edwards, was administering the Village Robbers Fund which offered rewards to anyone who caught a highwayman and brought him before the law. The Central Hall was built in 1899 and the Science block in 1928. By the mid-1970s, there was a Chemistry and Einstein Society, the latter formed to celebrate what would have been Einstein's 100th birthday.

While of course many former and older pupils were lost in WWI the rest of the village life went on much as before, except for food shortages. Notable alumni include Sir John Betjeman, Gerald Manley Hopkins, and T.S. Eliot. T.S. Eliot taught French, Latin, maths, drawing, and geography for 3 terms. The Headmaster thought it was a good idea to have people



leading in their field to teach the boys. In 1939 two thirds of the school were evacuated to Westward Ho! in Cornwall, while about a hundred pupils remained. Most of the big

buildings were requisitioned by the Admiralty. In 1942, most of the pupils came back. They still have an annual residential trip to Westward Ho! so that the children can see where their predecessors went to during the war. In the 1990s, the school ceased to have boarding facilities and the Pre-Preparatory School was opened in 1993 and was officially opened by Quentin Blake. It is now co-educational and there are about 1800 pupils ranging from 4 – 18 years.

If you are tempted to send your children to this wonderful School, the fees are in the region of £9 – 10,000 a term, depending on age of child and the prospective student must pass an exam to get in, and there are only about 80 new admissions per year. If you are further interested there is a history tour available as follows:

11-11.30: Meet at the Entrance Lodge for refreshments

11.30 – 12.30: Tour of the School (Big School, Chapel, Central Hall and Science Quad) Library.

12:30 – 1pm: Complete tour and visit the Museum.

Price is £100 + VAT and refreshments are £4.00 per head + VAT. However, 15 people can be accommodated on the tour. So split between 15 the cost would be £6.66 + VAT + refreshments and split between 10 the cost would be £10.00 + VAT + refreshments. I would be very keen to organise a full tour next year, so if you would be interested, *please contact Charmaine on charmainebourton11@hotmail.co.uk or 0208 395 9209. Please note they can only do these tours in the school holidays, so I would be looking at the Easter break.*

By Charmaine Bourton, September 2025

People

My Wonderful World of Work

By Genny Andrews



I had never dreamed of having to work when I left the Grammar School. As my mother's two aunts who lived in Sussex had houses with large grounds and staff, I reckoned that the way forward was to marry a rich man. My best school friend and I had ideas of training to be nurses in a large London hospital where we would meet rich, young doctors, marry and have a meal ticket for life. But on delving into the work further, I realised that I would not stand the sight of blood and so on. My father became anxious, so I thought that archaeology was for me having visited the Roman remains at St Albans on a school trip. Then of course the sticking point was that I had dropped Latin after a year as it was too much like hard learning, all those declensions. I opted for German having started with French and that went well. A librarian whom father knew suggested that I went into Librarianship though warned that it involved much study for exams. I qualified to take the first exam as I had two modern languages. When D'Arcy started at Grammar School, I embarked on full-time study for two years in Birmingham. Having had experience of working before study and being older than some applicants, I had no problem in being selected as deputy lending librarian at Solihull Central Library. I was then given my own branch to manage at Knowle. I had to keep records of library use, book issues and so on. After a relatively short space of time, I was suddenly given Hobs Moat, a much larger branch almost on the Birmingham border. It had not been well-managed, and I was put in as a trouble-shooter. There was huge scope for improvement, so it didn't take long to see results. I had first to get the staff behind me to work as a team after I had asked for a member of staff who was not going to fit in with the new regime to

be transferred to Central Library. I also asked for a qualified deputy and a librarian who had recently moved to the area from London was soon welcomed.

The idea of keeping up to date with new ideas and developments, always with the aim of climbing higher up the ladder, meant that I took every opportunity to attend meetings and conferences. There was sometimes more to be learned from serious networking than from some of the lectures. So it was that after ten years since my last move, I was asked to take on the management of a purpose-built library about the size of the second largest after Central. This was at Chelmsley Wood, an over-spill area of Birmingham. The new housing was soulless, rows of terraces and tall blocks of flats. The Library was failing to return satisfactory statistics but had the potential to be a dynamic hub of the community. I had a big think but was ready for another challenge. As neither the chief Librarian nor his deputy was talking about a substantial rise in salary, I certainly did. The first thing that I had to do was to get the staff behind me. I explained that there would have to be many changes to become the dynamic library service that they would be

“The idea of keeping up to date with new ideas and developments, always with the aim of climbing higher up the ladder, meant that I took every opportunity to attend meetings and conferences”

proud to be part of. Again, I asked for a qualified deputy and that soon happened. Branch librarians were responsible for health and safety in the building. There were statistics to submit every month of library use and activities, numbers of book issues, reservations, use of a meetings room, story times for under-fives, class visits, outreach visits by the librarian to groups wanting a speaker, school visits to tell the older pupils what facilities we could offer them. I had a reference library with space where older pupils could come and do their homework. I would sort out books for them, ask them to settle down and say that I would be checking that they were getting on with it. One girl, a spokesman for the group told me, "We're glad you int our teacher Miss Andrews" when I asked the reason I was told "Cause you make us work too 'ard". My reply to this was that if I were, they would be looking at much better marks. It was all good-hearted and they came in at Christmas time to give me a large Christmas card.

This was in the eighties when many men in the area were unemployed, and some would wander in looking at a loose end. As there was lots of tables and chairs and general space, I was able to welcome them and invite them to read the newspapers and books. Asked by one man what he should call me I replied, "Mrs Andrews or Genny", anything so long as it was polite. He used to call out "Mornin' chief" as he passed me. Another man bemoaned the fact that he now realised that had he not got in with the wrong crowd at school, he could have been in my position and earning a good salary. During my relatively short time in post there, about three years, I managed to turn it round. It was a time of great satisfaction but tinged with sadness having seen the emptiness and hopelessness of many people's lives. This all hinged of course on a good education, giving children hope and vision. When I was saying good-bye to members of the public for the last time, one out of work man came towards me with tears in his eyes, shook my hand and said, "the people of Chelmsley Wood will never see the likes of you again Genny".

My husband, David, had taken a post at Cambridge University, and we were about to move house. My

professional life suddenly took an unexpected turn when with no background in the NHS, I had the good fortune to be appointed librarian for NHS Management Information Services for Cambridge Health Authority. At first, it had been for six weeks and at the formal interviews later, I was up against candidates from other health authorities. I was told by the panel that the manager of the Information Unit wanted to keep me on. At the interview I said that I very much wanted the job. It was a huge change for me, with goodbye to the responsibilities for public safety, buildings, staff, caretakers and cleaners. Talk about a steep learning curve at fifty! I was now looking at shelves full of reports, research papers, statistics, journals and some books. As if that wasn't enough, the classification system was new to me. I had to anticipate what certain members of the medical, clinical and heads of departments would need. This was done by scanning pre-publication lists received by standing order. Suddenly, I had to do work that was completely new to me. This was before information was available at the touch of a button on my desk. This included writing abstracts of reports, and listing the latest statutory instruments and statistics received. These lists were sent out to the relevant departmental heads and requests came by 'phone or the internal post. I added my own select dissemination of information (SDI) service to individuals responsible for small but important services e.g. for Crohn's disease. I was asked to put on short tutorials to update several nurses who before taking a career break, had worked on the hospital wards. Now, their work was going to be out in the community and some of the NHS information would probably be very new to them. 'Patch Profiling' was the order of the day.

Cambridgeshire is a large county, so I hardly ever saw other librarians of medical or nurse education units. There were only a very few NHS Management Information Librarians in post from other health authorities when I started but we used to meet regularly, usually in London. Problems to do with finding where to slot new topics into the existing classification scheme had to be solved. My work depended on up-to-date-ness and continuity so that I could not take my

People (Continued)

eye off the ball. At one time I had to advertise for a librarian to hold the fort while I was going to be off work for six to eight weeks following an operation. I was fortunate to find among the heap of hopeless replies, one from an applicant who was looking for an opportunity to return to work. She was used to working in specialist libraries and she came and worked with me for a week. My wonderful career came to an end when I developed problems with my blood. I arranged to have early retirement as I was determined not to lose my professional credibility.

After a few weeks, I was offered and accepted a short-term consultancy post, to obtain NHS Management Information documents to update tutors in the Nurse Education Department at Addenbrooke's Hospital and update book stock in the library. Not only this, but to obtain books for several other health libraries in the county e.g. the Rosie Maternity Hospital on the Addenbrooke's site, and hospitals in Peterborough, Huntingdon and the heart hospital then at Papworth. This was a fascinating short-term project, and I worked when I was well enough. The challenge here was that all the libraries had different classification schemes. So, I had not seen the back of that steep learning curve experience! There was lots of routine work to be done in the Nurse Education Library and if I had finished dealing with the new books and had time to spare, I busied myself tackling that. I was asked if I could take on some evening work as the librarian for student nurses coming in to study. This unfortunately was not possible as I could not guarantee to be there because of my health.

Since an emergency operation that I had in 1988, life has not been the same. However, I determined to live as if nothing were causing me problems. I had been aiming to climb up that professional ladder as far as I could. Being a woman never held me back and I can look back satisfied that I did what I could to help people from all walks of life. I had a very sound secondary education at Ware Grammar School for Girls, followed by my professional qualifications and I also had a very wide general knowledge. I felt it a privilege to be able to help people. Finding information was always part of my working life and I am still doing it but mostly for myself now of course. I can honestly say that for someone

whose teenage plan was never to have to work, I have no regrets about that push into a profession about which I knew nothing. To anyone who might be wondering about all those goings-on behind the book stacks. Sorry to disappoint you but nothing ever happened. A member of staff from Central library suggested that he could come one evening after closing time at Knowle Library. There was a large stack area on the first floor used for the storage of newspapers from Central library. He needed to check on the remaining space. I told him that he would need to come during opening hours. Quite what a bottle of wine had to do with it, Hmm? One thing that I learned very early on, was to be on my guard and make sure that I had an escape route from any-one planning to paper me into a corner. For instance, I never had one end of my enquiries desk against a wall. As for working so hard and needing to relax at lunchtime with a drink across the road at the Viking pub. Well, I declined the offer politely of course.

Addendum

While I was working in the public sector and trying to search out a specific item of information for the person standing by me, I would find the book. However, when turning to the end found that it had no index. After a while, I knew that there must be an answer but cannot remember how I discovered the existence of the 'Society of Indexers'. I soon embarked on a course of study to enable me to become one. This was a tough assignment which I worked on during the evenings and weekends as I had to succeed. In those days, one read the page proofs and wrote the entry on a 5x3 index card which was filed A-Z of course and divided by commercial A-Z header cards in a shoe box/es. I submitted my index for a book on the life of the Rev. Kilvert. It was accepted at my first attempt which I was informed by the society's Registrar, was not always the case. I was told that I must now contact publishers who specialised in the subjects that I felt competent to tackle. I have not been able to find what topics I offered and listed in the Society's journal. I think they were music, gardening / farming and biography. It was the editor of the work who made contact usually by 'phone. The first offer of work was for a substantial work on psychology which I had to decline as I knew nothing on the subject.

Between 1979 – '83, I accepted commissions to index 13 books from 5 different publishers. Of these, 8 were handbooks on general health and social topics from the same publisher. There were 2 on music from another publisher, the first 'An Illustrated Guide to Composers of Classical Music' and the second 'An Illustrated Guide to Composers of Opera'. These sounded like a dream job for me except that my then state of the art small typewriter could not 'do' diacritical marks, so I had to enter them by hand! A change of direction came when a publisher of 'partworks' sent me page proofs of a colourfully illustrated weekly crafts magazine. It included instructions for knitting, sewing, embroidery etc. and with patterns and ideas of items that one could make. Well, this was a new venture, but I saw the project through. One day, I was surprised to receive an invitation to be held in London to mark the launch of this part work along with one on science. For this, I bought a new suit, blouse, shoes as I felt that on

meeting my editor for the first time, I would need to look the part. I was asked by a couple of casually dressed guys who were from the world of science if I was connected with the fashion world. I did

meet my editor who thanked me for coming but the bottom line was that I didn't feel at ease knowing no-one. Yes, there was plenty of food, but folks were soon getting some-what inebriated from all the drink being brought round. I dared not drink anything and when the two guys appeared again telling me that their mate in the flat over the road had given them the key...I left rather hurriedly by my planned escape route. I hailed a taxi, there were plenty passing, and gasped 'Euston Station fast, please'.

One day when talking to the Registrar of the Society of Indexers at her home in London, she took a call from an editor asking if she had some-one who could index a music biography. She turned to ask me, and I said 'yes'. I was yet to find out what I had said 'yes' to so enthusiastically. First, I was required to contact the author and arrange to meet her at her London home where all would be explained to me. There was also the proviso that after hearing something about my

work life, she thought that we could work together. So it was that I phoned the author Arianna Stassinopoulus, born in Athens, an author, journalist and broadcaster. I found her apartment number at a mansion block in London, pressed the bell and she came down to greet me. I had told myself that on no account must I appear to be fazed by this new experience. I didn't quite take to the Greek fish soup that was served at dinner time. Arianna told me that the subject of her new biography was none other than the American born Greek soprano Maria Callas. Being an opera enthusiast, I knew that she had been the most renowned and influential opera singer of the 20th century. I remember hearing on the news that she had died on my birthday in 1977 aged only 54. The book, entitled '*Maria Beyond the Callas Legend*' was a substantial work dedicated to Bernard (Levin). It was published in 1980 and my name as the indexer was included in the acknowledgements. I declined the opportunity to

"Being a woman never held me back and I can look back satisfied that I did what I could to help people from all walks of life"

appear on TV with Arianna. As I knew that our chief librarian was interested in music and opera, I took a copy to show him, pointing out my name as the indexer in the acknowledgements. No-one

had any idea what I had been doing on top of my day job, and he now saw me as a special member of his staff and the news soon got round. Arianna often 'phoned me to see how things were progressing with the index. I sent her cuttings from local newspapers, and she thanked me in her Christmas card. This was the first time that I had ever met the author, and I did enjoy the experience. I declined the invitation to appear on BBC TV and BBC Birmingham TV.

We were still living in Solihull and used to take 'The Birmingham Post'. I always read the letters section. One day there was one from Phillida Ballard, a professional historian, brought up in Birmingham, who was intending to write a book on Birmingham Botanical Gardens. She was asking for readers to send in memories, photos etc. for possible inclusion in the book. I saw this an opportunity to be part of it and wrote to her offering my service as a registered indexer of The Society of Indexers and that one of my listed subjects

People (Continued)

was gardening. Very soon, she was visiting me to talk over her plans. She had a local small publisher in mind. I pointed out that botanic gardens were worldwide and that to achieve wider publicity and therefore sales of the book she would need to contact a mainstream publisher, one who listed this subject. I used a special handbook of publishers and suggested Duckworth in London and that this would ensure that publicity would reach a wider readership perhaps even interest from other countries.

Sometime later, Phillida visited me again, to show me several page proof chapters which I scanned through and came to my conclusion. As there were as many plant names in Latin as there were in English, the book would need two indexes. As I had only had Latin lessons for one year, I realised that I was not capable of tackling this. However, Phillida assured me that her father would be able to deal with it. As is usual, editors give a deadline for delivering the index to tie up with the projected publication date. I was quite used to working into the small hours and this was no exception. I was required to hand it in to Duckworth's address at the Old Piano Factory in North London first thing one morning. They agreed to pay for a first-class rail fare from Birmingham International station to Euston. We lived at Solihull at the time, and the station was only a short drive from home. From Euston, it was a taxi ride ('quick as you can please') and the index was delivered. One day Phillida phoned me to say that she would like to visit me to give me a copy of her book. First published in 1983, it was entitled 'An Oasis of Delight. The History of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens'. It had a delightful jacket probably a photo of an old painting of the garden. I was named as the indexer of the general index in the acknowledgements. I declined Phillida's invitation to appear with her on TV.

The Chief Librarian was interested to see the results of my latest and last foray into the world of end of book indexing. Because of pressure of work, I had to resign my role as a first stage Assessor for the Society of Indexers. That had been a thankless task at times when I had not passed an applicant who questioned my report. However, it would be passed on to another assessor who would not know, but the result was always the same. Soon indexing would be leaving the

cards and shoe boxes as it would be done on computers. For me though, it had been an interesting experience that I would have to leave behind as I had accepted the challenge of managing Chelmsley Wood Library. As I said earlier on, I intended to make this library into a dynamic hub of the community, and I did just that.

As a child, we lived in the same town as my father's parents and my sister, and I enjoyed spending time with them. Sometimes I went there by myself, to escape from my mother who was always telling me that I was leading my little sister into bad ways. The idea of helping others came from Grandma who often helped her elderly and less able neighbours. Their washing was done in the communal wash house. I used to watch while Grandma put clothes through a large wooden mangle. On other days, we would buy items of food which Mrs Smith or Miss Lambert had asked for and I would help to carry it back. When I knocked at their door to hand things over with the change, I would be thanked. So, the idea of service to others seemed a natural thing to do.

As children, my father had taught us so much from the books at home, information about wildlife from our Saturday walks through a wildlife park (meanwhile mother had a break from me, a rather strong-willed child). I had enjoyed a good Grammar School education and with my professional qualifications I felt privileged to be able to help others. In 2004 we moved to Chipping Norton into a McCarthy & Stone development, and I have helped residents in many ways. I was known as the facilitator and finder of information. Our elderly next-door neighbour had always been stone deaf, but she could lipread me or I would write it down. I arranged with her contacts, doctor, optician etc to 'phone me and I would relay the message. I managed to arrange a visit from her estranged son when she was in a care home. I asked her for his 'phone number and when I made contact and had his address, I sent him two photos of her looking happy. She couldn't wait to tell me on my next visit. After he had been to see her, he came to meet me. It is just not true that all elderly people are connected to the internet and are pounding the keyboards of their computers or are glued to their tablets. I am still here to help.

Genny Andrews

Reports, events, and announcements

FINANCIAL REPORT (CILIP RPG 2025 Accounts) Since 1st January 2025

Prepared by Judith Allery (Hon. Treasurer) for Committee Meeting 23rd September 2025

Current Account (Unity Trust Bank)	
Income	£
B/f 1.1.25	£2,346.75
UnConference 2024 Day Delegate	£100.00
UnConference 2024 K&IM Group Sponsorship	£630.00
CILIP Award	£2,000.00
UnConference 2025 CILIP East Midlands	£500.00
Sponsorship	
UnConference 2025 CILIP London	£500.00
Sponsorship	
Riviera Travel Commission	£159.80
Annual Lunch	£1,218.00
2025 UnConference 18? Delegate Payments	£5,224.00
1 UnConference 2025 Full Delegate	£399.00
CILIP re VAT Refund	£1,388.98
TOTAL INCOME AT 19.5.25	£14,067.53

Current Account (Unity Trust Bank)	
Expenditure	£
2025 UnConference Reconnaissance Travel	£381.59
2025 UnConference Coach Travel	£495.00
2025 UnConference Bletchley Park Fees	£440.00
Zoom Subscription	£155.88
Post-Lib 105/106 Design	£400.00
Post-Lib 106 Packing, Postage and Printing	£374.00
Annual Lunch	£1,104.40
Writer in Residence Fee	£150.00
Writer in Residence Annual Lunch Travel	£50.00
Bank Charges	£2.60
AGM Goldsmiths Room Hire and Refreshments	£336.18
AGM Travel and Subsistence (so far)	£445.05
TOTAL EXPENDITURE AT 15.9.25	£4,334.70

Balance at 15.9.25 £14,067.53 – £4,334.70 = £9,732.83 (£4,093.06
Main RPG + £5,639.77 UnConference Designated Fund)

Reports, events, and announcements

1. Designated Fund - RPG UnConference (formerly RPG Weekend)

The sum of £2.36 from the 2024 RPG UnConference was carried forward to the 2025 RPG Weekend as a Designated Fund.

Income	£
B/f 1.1.24	£2.36
2024 Weekend Day Delegate	£100.00
2024 Weekend K&IM	£630.00
2025 18 Delegates?	£5,224.00
Sponsorship	£630.00
2025 CILIP East Midlands	£500.00
2025 CILIP London	£500.00
1 x UnConference Full payment	£399.00
TOTAL INCOME AT 19.5.25	£6,956.36

Expenditure	£
B/f 1.1.24	£2.36
2025 UnConference	£381.59
Reconnaissance Travel	
Balance	£1,749.77
TOTAL INCOME AT 19.5.25	£2,131.36

2. RPG Annual Lunch 2025

Income		Expenditure	
Payments	£1,150.00	Civil Service Club	£1,104.40
Raffle	£68.00	Writer in Residence Travel	£50.00
		Balance	£63.00
TOTAL	£1,218.00		£1,218.00

3. RPG Budget 2025 (excluding the UnConference Designated Fund) at 15.9.25

A) Income

£4,093.06

B) Expenditure

Post-Lib – Design for Issue 107	£200.00
Outstanding AGM Subsistence payments	£200.00
Any other expenses but not major grants	£1,193.06
Emergency Reserves	£2,500.00
Total	£4,093.06

Judith Allery
RPG Hon. Treasurer
15th September 2025

**Kents Hill
Park**



CILIP Unconference

Date: Friday, 3rd to Monday, 6th October 2025

Time: 10.00am

Address: Kents Hill Park, Swallow House, Timbold Dr, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes MK7 6BZ

The Unconference 2025 weekend is at Kents Hill, Milton Keynes and has the theme Connecting, Influencing and Inspiring. CILIP members can join as day delegates for just £50 per day.

Unconference 2025 features:

- Workshops with actor, researchers, and KM leaders
- Thought-provoking panel on AI, information literacy & leadership
- Sessions on marketing
- Writing workshop

Plus - exclusive tours of local libraries and Bletchley Park's Age of AI exhibition. For all enquiries about Unconference 2025 please contact Ian Orton I can be reached via ianorton5@gmail.com or on 07841 577 991

Great Ormond Street Library

Date: Thursday 30th October

Time: 2.00pm

Address: 30 Guilford St, London WC1N 1EH

Description: Short talk and tour of library

No of places: 10-15

Cost: Free and apparently donations not needed!

Full details of CILIP RPG visits are available on the CILIP RPG website.



If you are a CILIP member interested in our activities, you can join CILIP RPG for free.

We are the voice for those from the UK's library and information sector not working full-time. Our members include those on career breaks, part-timers, retired and semi-retired, portfolio-career people, consultants, the unemployed, volunteers and those on parental leave.