

## Getting to Kennington Village Centre

The Village Centre, Kennington Road, Kennington. OX1 5PG.

**By bus:** from Oxford and Abingdon No.35 bus every 15 minutes

**Parking:** Village Car Park and on side streets

The Friends of Kennington Library would like to thank **Kennington Parish Council**, the advertisers sponsors: **Halcyon** and **James Leonard**, **Sylvia Vetta**, **Anne Skinner**, **Iris** and **David Butler**, **Cecillie** and **Charles Swaisland**, **G&D's** ice-cream cafes, and **Hilda** and **Bob Martin**, **Dominique Henderson**, **Dominique** and **Chris Henderson** and **Thomas Lloyd**.

### Kennington Library opening hours

Monday 2.00pm – 5.30pm, Wednesday 10.00am – 12.30pm, Friday 2.00 – 7.00pm and Saturday 10.00am – 1.00pm.

Tel: **01865 730763**

email: [kennington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kennington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Visit: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kenningtonlibrary](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kenningtonlibrary) for news of further events.

The Friends of Kennington Library would like to thank **Steve Crumly** for his generous support. Booklet design by **Steve Crumly** ([www.design-illustration.co.uk](http://www.design-illustration.co.uk))

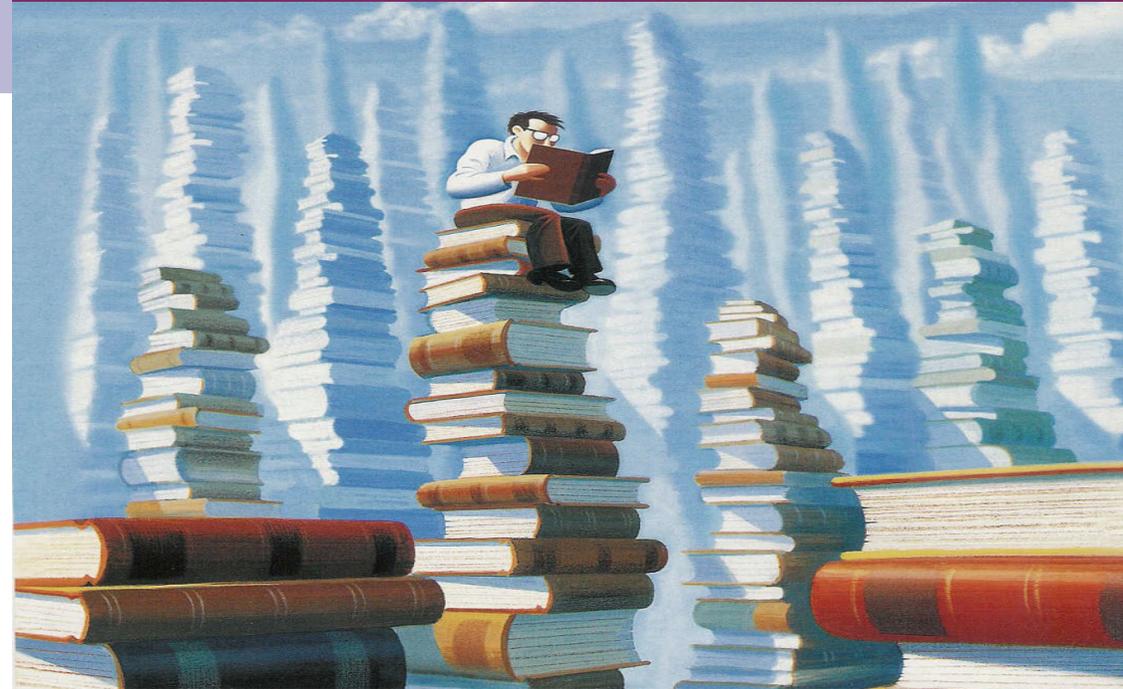


*Friends of Kennington Library present...*

# Kennington Free Literary Festival

**24th April 2010**

At the Village Centre



**Author talks, book sellers, stands and activities for all ages!**

Light refreshments available all day in the Village Centre

*Lunch and Bar at the The Tandem pub opposite*

**Booking form enclosed**

**Reserve  
Your Seat  
Today!**

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# Kennington Free Literary Festival

## Programme of speakers

10:00 am  
Opening by Charles Swaisland Main Hall

10:10 – 11:00  
**Michael Smith** (*Best-selling writer - Sunday Times award winning correspondent*)  
**Hunting Down Spooks; Tracking the real James Bonds.**

11:15 – 12:15  
**Colin Dexter (Inspector Morse) with Jane Gordon Cumming & members of the Oxford Writers Group.** Oxford Anthology of Short Stories.

10:15 – 12:00  
**Family activities for 3-8 year olds in The Committee Room**

12:15 – 1:00  
**Lunch Break**  
Light refreshments available in the main hall. The Tandem pub is opposite and serves food all day.

1:15 – 2:00  
**Helen Rappaport: Beautiful for Ever: Biography of Madame Rachel of Bond Street, a female Victorian con-artist and blackmailer** (*author of Ekaterinburg and Conspirator*).

1:15 – 2:00  
**Diana Sanders 'Will I still be me?' Life after a heart-lung transplant.**

2:00 – 2:50  
**John Ballam: 'From Creative Writing to Authorship.'**  
*John is Head of Oxford University Continuing Education Dept. of Creative Writing.*

2:00 – 2:50  
**M.G. Harris: Introduced by Bill Heine. The Joshua Files.**  
(*Exciting for readers aged 10 plus*).

3.00 – 3:30  
**Helen Peacocke: 'Paws Under The Table' Dogs, Pubs and Local Food**  
*followed by a walk along the river to Sandford Lock and back to the Tandem (drinks with Pythius. Helen writes for the Oxford Times.*

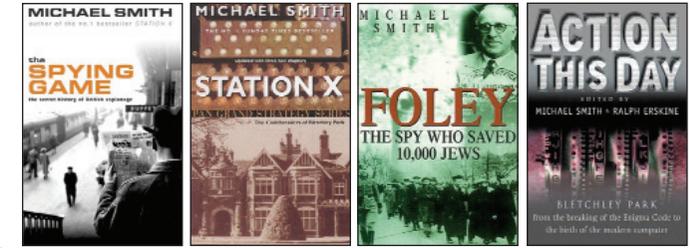
It is wise to reserve your seat to avoid disappointment but some will be available on the day, as will standing room at fully booked events.

Book  
Your Seat  
Today!



## Michael Smith 'Award Winning Author!'

Investigative Journalist and Best-Selling Author



Michael Smith writes on defence and security issues for the Sunday Times and New Statesman. He is an expert on espionage and how spies and special forces operate, with excellent contacts inside the UK's intelligence and special operations communities. Smith was Specialist Writer of the Year in the 2006 UK Press Awards and has broken many major exclusives, not least the so-called Downing Street Memos. He is the author of several best-selling books on intelligence, including the Number One bestseller *Station X*, and is an expert on the government intelligence services. **He is currently writing an unauthorized history of MI6.**

[www.michaelsmithwriter.com](http://www.michaelsmithwriter.com)

HELEN  
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Helen Rappaport is an acclaimed historian specializing in Russia and the role of women in history. Her account of the last days of the Romanovs, *Ekaterinburg* is a remarkable best-selling book. Her latest hardback is *Conspirator*, an account of Lenin's seventeen years in exile, but at Kennington she will talk about *Beautiful For Ever*, her biography of Madame Rachel, Victorian cosmetician, con-artist and blackmailer.  
[www.helenrappaport.com](http://www.helenrappaport.com)



**FORTHCOMING**  
**Beautiful For Ever:**  
**Madame Rachel of Bond Street-Cosmetician, Con-artist and Blackmailer**

Long Barn Books, March 15 2010



Helen Rappaport



## Colin Dexter and the Oxford Writers' Group

### *Oxford as a character in our Books*

Colin Dexter needs no introduction. The interests of the classics master, music lover and champion crossword solver resonate with his creation, Inspector Morse. Morse is so familiar, and well-loved, it is hard to believe he is fictional. Also, very real to us is the setting for those books, Oxford and its environs. The city is somehow transformed into the murder capital of the world! The Oxford Writers' Group has been fortunate to receive support from Colin. The stories in their anthologies all take place in the city and county. They have just produced their third volume *The Bodleian Murders and Other Oxford Stories*.



One of the members, Jane Gordon-Cumming, endows previously unthreatening places with a frisson of horror in *The Haunted Bridge' and Other Strange Tales of the Oxford Canal*. The Oxford Writers' Group has among its members two Kennington residents, Mary Cavanagh, author of *A Man Like Any Other – The Priest's Tale* [www.marycavanagh.blogspot.com](http://www.marycavanagh.blogspot.com) and Sylvia Vetta who writes for Limited Edition and Weekend in the Oxford Times [www.sylviavetta.co.uk](http://www.sylviavetta.co.uk). So it seemed appropriate for them to talk about 'Oxford as a Character in Our Books'.

## Kennington History Society

Welcomes new member to our monthly meetings in the Methodist Church on Third Mondays @7.45pm

## The Tandem supports the Kennington Free Literary Festival...

Pythius will bring Helen to the saloon bar for drinks & 'Paws under the Table' at about 4: 30 after their short walk to Sandford Lock.

## Al-Khyam Restaurant

5 Playfield Road, Kennington  
**OPENING HOURS**  
Mon.-Thurs: 6pm to 11pm  
Fri & Sat: 5.30pm to 11.30pm  
Sunday: 12 noon to 3 pm & 6pm to 11pm

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**Sunday Buffet Lunch**  
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## Helen Peacocke & Pythius



Helen Peacocke writes for the Oxford Times. For the past year her Border Collie Pythius-Peacocke has been attending events such as this to discuss the book

he has helped his mistress write. It highlights some of the great pubs they have visited together. By popular demand, he has been visiting more Oxfordshire pubs that will appear in another book to be published in 2010. Having been awarded full membership of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale), Pythius is particularly proud to discover that his first book, *Paws under the Table*, really is encouraging people to plan their days out round a pub visit and doggie walk. Pythius will allow Helen to say a few words at this prestigious event, as she is keen to promote local food.



**Why not join Helen and Pythius on a short walk ending at The Tandem for a drink?**



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## M.G. HARRIS will be introduced by Radio Oxford's *Bill Heine*

M.G. Harris (M.G. stands for Maria Guadalupe) was born in Mexico City. When her parents split up, five-year old M.G. moved to Frankfurt, Germany, with her air stewardess mother and younger sister, and later to Manchester, England.

As a teenager, during regular visits to her father in Mexico, M.G. became fascinated by Mayan archaeology. She made several trips to Mayan ruins in Yucatan and Chiapas and one such trip gave her the seed of the idea of what would later become *The Joshua Files*.

M.G. lives in Oxford with her husband and their two daughters. She was the fastest-selling UK debut children's author of 2008 and rights for the first two books of *The Joshua Files*, *Invisible City* and *Ice Shock* have been sold to at least 17 foreign publishers.

[www.mgharris.net](http://www.mgharris.net)



## Fun time for the under 8's

Three sessions from 10:15am – 12:15pm (approx) there will be story and rhyme-time activities. Full details will be available in the library in March. Free but please book as spaces are limited, and all children **must be accompanied** by an adult.



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OCC Library services, especially Kennington Library would like to thank the Friends for organising this event.



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## Dr J. D. Ballam

**From Creative Writing to Authorship**

Over the past twenty years Creative Writing courses have proliferated in the UK. These courses vary tremendously in aims and character, but they share the common goal of enabling aspiring authors to fulfil their potential. But how successful are they? What is a realistic set of expectations for such courses? How are they viewed by the industry? And how does a creative writing student become an author? Dr J.D. Ballam, Director of Oxford University's Diploma in Creative Writing, will address these topics and others in *From Creative Writing to Authorship*.



## Diana Sanders

**Will I Still Be Me? A journey through a transplant**

by Diana Sanders

Who asks 'Is there Life after Death?'

Seven years ago, Diana Sanders could hardly walk across a room. She was on oxygen all day and night, used a wheelchair and was facing the end of her life.

Today, she is fit and well, walks miles and is back to work as a psychologist in the health service. Born with a congenital heart condition she was not expected to live beyond her teens; and making the decision to go through a heart-lung transplant, with an uncertain outcome and future full of medication. For a few months after the operation, all Diana wanted to do was have her old organs back and do what she always expected to do: die young. Diana Sanders is a Counselling Psychologist working at the Radcliffe and Churchill hospitals. In 'Will I still be me?' we see a heart lung transplant, through the eyes of a psychologist used to listening to other people's pain and vulnerability, and now having to face up to her own. Diana will read extracts from her book, and discuss why it is important to have information and debates about transplantation: what does it mean to live with someone else's organs, and how does organ donation affect the relatives of donors?



Day Books, 2006 ISBN: 978 0953 2213 87

## Mostly Books

'Good luck to the Kennington Literary Festival' from Mostly Books, Stert Street, Abingdon