

THE
LONDON
LIBRARY

London Library *Supporters' News*

Stories from the Stacks

Welcome to the latest edition of The London Library's Supporters' newsletter. We include an update on the successful 2021-22 Library Fund appeal to members, a beautiful new book donated to the Library from Founders' Circle patron James Bartos, notes from the March Supporters' Director's Drinks, a thank you to The London Library's International Friends, a feature in *How to Spend It*, and the upcoming President's Summer Party.

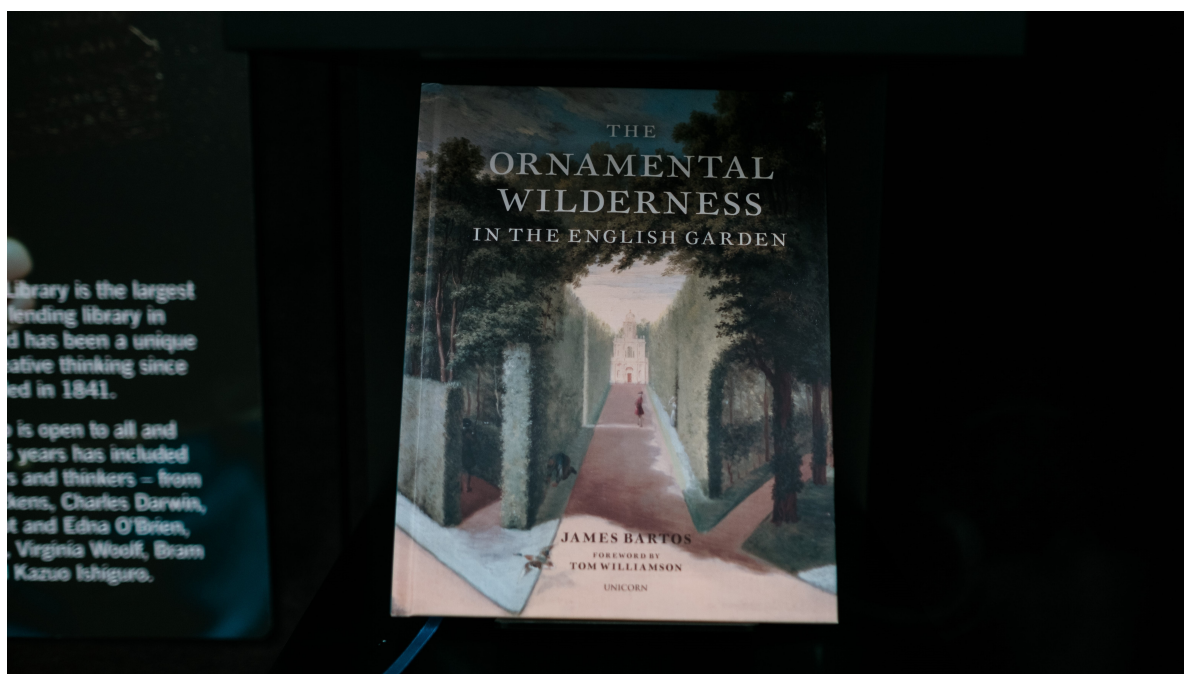
News and Announcements



Library Fund 2021-22: LED Lighting in the Stacks

I thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Library Fund, which raised money from our members to install a modern lighting system in the stacks. The new system will have several benefits, contributing to a reduction in the Library's environmental footprint, energy and money savings, protect books from heat damage and be much easier to use. Donations of all sizes from £5 to £5,000, as well as Gift Aid, played an important role. Thanks to your support, a total of **£87,000** has been raised, which should make it possible for us to light the entirety of the Back Stacks and the St. James's Building.

The Library Fund is an annual fundraising appeal to improve the Library's collections, resources, services and spaces to enhance enjoyment of the Library. Visit the **Library Fund webpage** to find out about past projects and updates on our 2022-23 Library Fund project.



James Bartos: *The Ornamental Wilderness in the English Garden*

We are delighted to announce that Library supporter James Bartos has recently published a new book, available now from Unicorn Publishing Group.

The Ornamental Wilderness in the English Garden reinterprets the English formal garden of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries through the perspective of a typical feature of those gardens, the ornamental grove, called a wilderness. In its mature form, the wilderness constituted most of the garden, shady and private, a place for retreat as well as social activity, with a seeming naturalness achieved through artifice, where cultural incident and nature were equally appreciated. A copy of *The Ornamental Wilderness in the English Garden* has recently been added to the Library's collection and can be seen on display in the

Mason's Yard window (pictured above).

Please let us know if you have had any materials recently published, or due for publication in the future, and if you would like to have details included in the next newsletter by contacting us at fundraising@londonlibrary.co.uk or telephone 020 7766 4795.



Director's Drinks

We had a lively discussion at the recent Director's Drinks, where supporters joined Library Director, Philip Marshall, in the Reading Room, to hear about the Library's plans for the future and updates from the past year.

Supporters heard how, despite the pandemic, the Library's membership had grown again in 2021/22, the fourth year in a row, taking the total number of members to well over 7,300. Growth was particularly strong in our Young Persons Membership category, increasing by 30% in this year and now comprising more than 10% of our membership. Philanthropic support for free and subsidised membership for Emerging Writers and state schools, has also widened access to the Library.

The Director also explained how the Tom Stoppard Innovation Fund is being used to make vital improvements to the Library's systems. The Fund was raised through an appeal in 2017/18 to celebrate and commemorate the end of Sir Tom Stoppard's 15-

year term as Library President. The Fund was set up to give the Library the space, opportunity and time to explore and introduce new ideas and technologies that would best support its members and the journey to financial sustainability. Having already supported the introduction of a new Library Management System, the Fund is being used for the completion of the Library's long outstanding retro-cataloguing project and is also funding the introduction of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system later this year.

Supporters were warmly thanked for their generous donations that allow the Library to keep providing inspiration and support to readers and writers of all different kinds.

Archives

Our Library Archivist, Nathalie Belkin has been steadily working through an archive of letters from notable members and membership materials in order to preserve these and keep them safe. As part of this ongoing project, we are working with University College London looking at earlier borrowing records which not only hold academic interest, but opportunities for Library publicity following interesting discoveries.

We are actively seeking funds to pay for the Archivist's salary for three years from August 2022. For more information, please get in touch with us via fundraising@londonlibrary.co.uk or telephone 020 7766 4795.

This position has already been supported by Library Trustee Alain Aubry, who has written about the position below.

I've seen some of the amazing discoveries the Library's archivist has made – revealing the Library's rich and important literary heritage and impact. I've donated £5,000 towards the archivist's salary to help ensure this immensely important work can continue and I hope some of you will join me.

- Alain Aubry, London Library Trustee and Founders' Circle Patron

International Friends of the London Library

Thank you to the International Foundation of The London Library, which through donations from John & Kiendl Gordon, Gretchen & James Johnson, Simon Lorne, Deborah Goodrich Royce, and Sarah & Hank Slack, has funded the salary of the newly created post of Programmes Assistant for three years to January 2024. Annie Werner is supporting Claire Berliner, Head of Programmes, who delivers the public programme and is building the Library's Outreach, Learning and Participation programme.



New York Chairmens' Dinner

On 2 May, the International Friends' Chairman John Spurdle, hosted a special dinner at The Knickerbocker Club in New York in honour of London Library Chairman **Sir Howard Davies** and President **Sir Tim Rice**.

Over 40 of the Library's US Founders' Circle patrons, International Friends and special guests attended. Celebrating Sir Tim's work, biographer, historian and trustee of the International Friends Dr Amanda Foreman led a fascinating and entertaining discussion with Sir Tim about his life and his many famous musical productions.

If you travel frequently to or are based out of the United States and would like invitations to future US events, please get in touch with us via fundraising@londonlibrary.co.uk or telephone 020 7766 4795.





The London Library Featured in *How to Spend It*

This weekend, The London Library was featured in the latest edition of 'How to Spend It' in the *Financial Times* magazine, in an article about the most wonderful private libraries in the world. Alongside Senate House, we are the only library in London included, with The Portico and Bromley House for the UK at large. The print edition of the magazine saw the Library singled out in the Editor's letter, with a quote from Philip Marshall and a photo of the Library's own front door.

From the magazine: *What at first glance appears to be a single slim townhouse on St James's Square is actually seven, knocked into one reading and writing emporium.*

To view a digital version of the article, you can check out the website [here](#).

Events



The London Library President's Summer Party

Thursday 7 July 2022

6.45pm - 9.00pm (BST)

The London Library

We hope you have received the recent Save the Date for our Summer Party in July,

hosted in person by our President Sir Tim Rice. The event will include musical performances and readings and is an opportunity to thank and celebrate our amazing supporters.

Invitations will be sent in the coming weeks with full details; but if you have not already, please RSVP via rsvp@londonlibrary.co.uk.

Join The London Library Patrons' Programme

The Founders' Circle Patrons' Programme brings together a group of donors who regularly give to The London Library and enjoy access to Library experts, behind the scenes updates and exclusive events, patrons gain a deeper involvement with the Library, its people, collection and its work.

Patrons' support is vital to ensuring that The London Library continues to inspire future generations of readers, writers and thinkers, and that the collection remains available to all.

To find out more please contact the Fundraising team via fundraising@londonlibrary.co.uk, by telephoning 020 7766 4795, or by clicking on the button below:

FIND OUT MORE



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The London Library
14 St James's Square
London SW1Y 4LG
Charity No. 312175