

Friends of the Library

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friend of the Library,

As William Makepeace Thackeray said, "Business first, pleasure afterwards."

Business First:

1. The Book Sale on June 22nd/23rd is fast approaching and we must start our busy-ness of sorting all those books down in the "dungeon" once again. We hope many of you will be ready and willing to help with this important task, enjoying an hour or two in good company and - who knows? - you might see something you want to buy - special arrangements can be made to enable you to do just that! Please phone Betty Neilsen (925-4453) to let her know you can help and she will arrange dates and times.

If you would be willing to help at the sale itself, please phone Pat Scrivener (922-2298) and let her know. Thanks, Friends!

2. Dates for the next two Art Receptions are May 30th and June 13th.
3. Casino Night: Owing to the number of applications received by the Provincial Government, our prospective date has been moved back to sometime in November this year; confirmation of the actual date is expected shortly.

Pleasure Afterwards: About Young People and Spring

The following thoughts are by Rachel Billington, the author of several novels including "A Woman's Age", "A Painted Devil", "Lilacs Out of The Dead Land" and "Occasion of Sin". She also writes weekly articles on Family Life in the Review section of the (London) Sunday Telegraph, and these are excerpts from her latest called "The Country Life is a Joy For Ever."

We must face up to the fact that pale bluebells in a gritty city garden do not put us in touch with nature in the same way as a carpet of blue in a beech wood, so deep as to be almost purple, perhaps intermingled with the starry flower of the wild garlic, clumps of primroses, wild orchid, cuckoo pint and Jack in the Hedge.

The knowledge that the fox has become a metropolitan scavenger should not obscure the magnificence of a fox prowling along the crest of a hill. Nor, it should be noted, does the pragmatic cuckoo strain its voice above the roar of the traffic.

Nature lays out her gifts for us at this time of year, and only the most insensitive would turn down the offer. Unfortunately, even intrinsically sensitive children do go through insensitive periods. "But what is there to do in the country?". "Walk. Paint. Play Tennis." "But I can do all that in London." "Oh, darling. Just think: last time I went to Granny's, I saw ten different sorts of wild flowers in one little copse." This information, so moving to yourself, so evocative of the changing seasons, re-birth, continuity, truth, beauty, etc. will almost certainly bring the discussion to a close with the child muttering, "Well, I suppose I can always watch television."