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'Accidental' author speaks on her latest sweet subject

By Lina Patel
News Reporter

VISITORS to a Great Barr library had the chance to meet a writer of short stories and non-fiction this week.

Fiona Joseph, who won the National Academy of Writing 2009 Prize for Fiction gave a talk at Pheasey Library yesterday (Thursday).

Her latest book is a biography, Beatrice – the Cadbury Heiress Who Gave Away Her Fortune, which she discussed in detail.

It tells the story of Beatrice Cadbury, a daughter of the world famous chocolate empire who grew up with all the privileges, a fine mansion with servants, a well rounded education and the chance to travel the world. But in 1921 Beatrice decided to give back all the Cadbury shares she had inherited to the Bournville factory workers.

Residents were invited to join Fiona to explore how Beatrice, a respectable Quaker girl, became a bold anti-capitalist and peace activist as she relentlessly pursued her vision of a fairer and more equal society.

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Fiona Joseph was born in Birmingham and became a writer by accident, after she signed up for her regular tai chi class only to discover the tutor had moved abroad – so she signed up for the creative writing class instead.

Fiona is a founder member of Acocks Green Writers Group in Birmingham and is also a member of the Society of Authors and the Biographers Club.

In 2012, she was accepted onto the "Room 204 Writer Development Programme" offered by Writing West Midlands.

Yesterday's event was part of a programme of monthly talks for Pheasey Library's Fifty-Plus group, which meets at the Collingwood Drive venue on the second Thursday of each month.

For more information contact Pheasey Library on 01922 654 865.

Fiona Joseph, pictured right, gave a talk on her latest novel at Pheasey Library.



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