

Report (2019)

The English Department and its Literary Society organized a number of academic and extra-curricular activities during the year, 2019. On 30th January, the department welcomed Cypriot poet, critic and academic, Stephanos Stephanides for an interactive session with the students. He read out from his latest collection of poetry, and also spoke about the state of writing in the contemporary world. The Literary Society organized its annual department day Litluminous 2019 on 15th February, the theme for which was 'Detection Though the Ages', to explore how 'detection' as a genre in literature and cinema has evolved over the last two centuries. The event commenced with a panel on the theme. Prof Christel Devadawson (Department of English, University of Delhi) spoke on 'Historical Witness and Golden Age Fiction'; Mr Maxwell Pereira (Former Joint Commissioner of Delhi Police) discussed his book *The Tandoor Murder: The Crime that Shook a Nation and Brought a Government to its Knees* (Westland, 2018); Ms Namita Paul (Department of English, Kamala Nehru College) made a presentation on detection in spy thrillers in contemporary Hindi cinema. The other events of the day were: creative writing competition, student paper presentation, quiz competition on the world of detective fiction (in collaboration with Kaleidoscope-the Quiz Society of KNC) and a mystery room game. The event was supported by the contributions of Juggernaut Books, Wattpad and Shelfebook. On 9th March, the department organized a heritage trip to the Sunder Nursery. On 26th March, the students put up their biannual art exhibition, Collective Rubbish on the theme 'Mind Banter'. The students creatively attempted to redefine the ideas associated with Psychoanalysis in literature and visual arts. Continuing its association with IIT-Delhi's literary society, the department organised the prelims for the 'Spellathon' (spelling bee) competition as part of their annual literary festival, Literati, on 5th September. The faculty and students of the department visited the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art on 14th September for a curated walkthrough of their collection and an exhibition called 'Common Course'. As per its memorandum of understanding with Shelfebook, the society organized a 'Tell-a-Tale', a session on writing on 18th September. Shelfebook is a platform committed to enabling the reading habit amidst students and teachers at educational institutions, selling books at a price as low as Re. 1. The literary society organized its biannual art exhibition Collective Rubbish on the theme 'Best from Waste(land)' on 15th October. The focus of this edition of the exhibition was to explore Modernism as an art and philosophical movement and its impact on literature. The exhibits included painting, performance and digital art. On 23rd October, the English literary society collaborated with the Book Club to organize a lecture-demonstration on 'Daryaganj's Parallel Book History'. The lecture was given by Ms Kanupriya Dhingra, PhD Scholar, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, based on her research on the informal book markets in Delhi. The final event for the semester was the screening of Hanif Kureishi's film *My Beautiful Laundrette*, on 6th November.