



**Libraries  
Connected**

# **Libraries Connected Annual Seminar 2026**

Building Belonging: The Values that Shape Our Libraries

9 - 10 June, Chesford Grange Hotel

**#LCSeminar2026**



# Contents

Page

- 3 [Seminar programme](#)
- 6 [Workshop sessions](#)
- 8 [Speaker biographies](#)
- 13 [Sponsors](#)
- 17 [Libraries Connected Awards](#)
- 19 [Venue](#)
- 20 [About Libraries Connected](#)

# Seminar Programme

## Day 1 - Tuesday 9 June

**09:00** *Registration, networking and refreshments*

**10:00** Welcome from Ed Jewell, Libraries Connected President & Presidential handover to James Pearson

**10:20** How we live our values - Brett Terry, Director of People, NSPCC  
Chaired by James Pearson, President of Libraries Connected & Head of Libraries, Registration & Archives, Kent Libraries

**11:00** Sponsor's Flash Film - OCLC

**11:05** Breakout sessions (see page 6)

**12:15** *Lunch break*

**13:25** Sponsor's Flash Film - Axiell

**13:30** Embracing responsible AI - Dr Reem Refaat Talhouk, Associate Professor Northumbria University  
Chaired by Peter Gaw, CEO, Inspire: Culture, Learning & Libraries & Libraries Connected Trustee

**14:10** Sponsor's Flash Film - Solus

**14:15** Social Value - Richard Carroll, Head of Procurement, Sales and Business Services (Interim), Durham County Council  
Chaired by Paraic McKenna, Libraries Connected Trustee

**14:55** Sponsor's Flash Film - Lorensbergs

**15:00** *Tea and coffee break*

**15:20** Breakout sessions (see page 6)

**16:30** *Sponsors' reception*

**19:00** Seminar Dinner

**21:00** Awards Ceremony

## Day 2 - Wednesday 10 June

**9:00** *Registration, networking and refreshments*

**09:30** Welcome to day two & Libraries Connected update - Isobel Hunter, CEO Libraries Connected

**09:45** Censorship and the role of librarians in the fight for democracy - Amanda Jones, Educator, School Librarian and Grassroots Organizer in Louisiana.

Chaired by Isobel Hunter, CEO Libraires Connected

**10:25** Sponsor's Flash Film - OverDrive

Ignite Talks: Raising Awareness & Changing Perceptions

- 10:30**
- Much Ado About Data: evidencing the impact of libraries - Lucy Carlton-Walker, Warwickshire Libraries
  - From Page to Podcast: Using Audio and Conversation to Shift Perceptions and Deepen Engagement in Libraries - Sharon Elliott, Inspire Culture
  - Chat, Stitch, Click & Grow: how volunteers are cultivating kindness and connection in Sandwell Libraries - Melissa Guest, Sandwell Libraries
  - Seed Hubs - Sarah Cockburn - North Yorkshire Libraires
  - AI Agent - Emily Jewell, Vision Redbridge Culture & Leisure
  - EVOLS and Revoe Library - Molly Grundy, Blackpool Libraries

Chaired by Kelly Saini Badwal, Head of Cultural Services, London Borough of Sutton & Libraries Connected Trustee

**11:10** Sponsor's Flash Film - Interleaf

**11:15** *Tea and coffee break*

Panel Session: Are "neutrality" and "impartiality" achievable - or even desirable - for public libraries today?

- 11:40**
- Amanda Jones, Educator, School Librarian and Grassroots Organizer in Louisiana.
  - John Pateman, PhD Researcher.

- James Pearson, Libraries Connected President & Head of Libraries, Registration & Archives, Kent County Council.
- TBC

Chaired by Isobel Hunter, CEO, Libraries Connected.

**12:50** 'Our Values' led by Helen Drakard, Membership Engagement Manager, Libraires Connected.

**13:00** *Lunch break*

**14:10** Baroness Twycross, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Museums, Heritage and Gambling, and Lords Minister)

Chaired by

**14:30** Libraries Alliance: collective voice and values - Dr Jessica Gardner, University Librarian, Cambridge University

Chaired by Ben Holden, Chair of Trustees, Libraires Connected

**15:10** Closing remarks from James Pearson, Libraries Connected President

**15:30** *Seminar ends.*

## Extras

### Morning Run 10 June, 07:30, meeting in the hotel reception

Join colleagues for a morning run, this year there will be the option of two routes depending on how energetic you are feeling.

# Workshop sessions

The following breakout sessions will be taking place on Tuesday 9 June at 11.05 and repeated at 15.20.

## **1. Libraries Insight Tool: demonstration and user testing**

The English Libraries Insight (ELI) Service is Arts Council England's most advanced initiative to establish a national digital infrastructure for public libraries. Join this workshop to find out more about how it works in practice.

Led by Sophie Lancaster, Senior Manager, Libraries Development Team, Luke Burton, Director Libraries, Oliver Newcombe, Tech Lead - Library Insights, Arts Council England.

## **2. Public Library Values**

Join this workshop to explore why values are important and how we stand firm when they are challenged. Together you will define a set of unique 'public library values' and consider how they could be embedded into everyday practice.

Led by Helen Drakard, Membership Engagement Manager, Libraries Connected.

## **3. Measuring Social Value**

The session will cover the broad steps of how to measure Social Value and then have a panel featuring library leaders and academics talking about the specific methods they have used.

Led by Chad Bentley, Regional Development Administrator, Libraries Connected, Vicky Clarke, Head of Libraries, Blackpool Libraries, Prof John Gordon, UEA and James Pearson, Head of Libraries, Registration & Archives, Kent or Russell Allen, Head of Libraries and Heritage, West Sussex.

## **4. Book Challenges and the Role of the Stock Policy**

This is an opportunity to explore the principles and legislation that underpin our work, and how that relates to book challenges and complaints. We will also look at the value of a good stock policy.

The workshop will explore a real-life example of a library service challenge and its impact, and there will be a chance to share your experiences in a peer setting.

Led by Emma Hoddinott, Director of Policy, External Affairs and Research, Libraries Connected and Ayub Khan MBE FRSA, Head of Libraries, Heritage & Culture and Registration Services, Warwickshire County Council.

## **5. Social Value in Procurement: how can suppliers demonstrate it and how do libraries make the most of it?**

Ensuring contracts demonstrate and provide additional social value to communities, local economy and local environment has long been a requirement in public procurement, and this is further strengthened in the 2023 Procurement Act.

However the nature of the library sector makes it difficult for specialist national suppliers to demonstrate social value locally across geographically disparate library services.

This workshop aims to bring together library leaders and library suppliers to explore ways we can bridge this gap - enabling libraries to procure the best value suppliers while ensuring suppliers can provide meaningful additional social value in a way that is realistic to their scale, means and geography.

Led by Iain Moore, Commercial Director, Libraries Connected and Rachel Payne, Business Development Manager, Libraries Connected.

## **6. National Year of Reading Libraries and Legacy**

The success of the National Year of Reading will be judged by its legacy. Public libraries should be central to that legacy by continuing to support communities and individuals to reconnect with reading. In this workshop you will develop practical ideas to better understand and engage audiences using the insight research commissioned to inform the year of reading to take away and use in your own service. There will be an update on the Go All In campaign from The Reading Agency and the chance to swap great reading projects and activities with peers.

Led by Sarah Mears, Programmes Director, Libraries Connected, Dr Carina Spaulding Head of Research & Evaluation and Alexander Turton, Senior Marketing and Communications Manager, The Reading Agency.

## Speaker biographies

Here is some additional information about this year's speakers - more to be added as speakers are confirmed.



**Lucy Carlton-Walker** is Creative Director at Warwickshire Libraries, leading the first West Midlands library service to become an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. A strategic, values-driven leader, Lucy champions place-based cultural learning, co-creation and cross-sector partnerships that position libraries as powerful cultural assets.



**Richard Carroll** is a key figure at Durham County Council, serving as Head of Procurement, Sales and Business Services, recognised for leading their innovative Social Value initiatives, including the "County Durham Pound" project, focusing on local economic benefit and sustainability through anchor-based organisations and supporters. Richard frequently speaks at conferences on Durham's procurement activity and its social impact. He is known for driving local supply chains and embedding social value into DCC's practices, making them sector leaders in public procurement as well as holding positions on a number of Regional and National groups to help influence procurement practice and national policy making.



**Sarah Cockburn** is a Community Development Librarian with North Yorkshire Council, based at Scarborough Library. After more than 25 years working in community development in the voluntary sector, she now brings that experience to supporting local residents through inclusive, community-focused library services. She also contributes to the Library Service's Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group, helping shape programmes that strengthen wellbeing across North Yorkshire. She believes it's a privilege to serve the community in her hometown library.



**Sharon Elliott** is an experienced Communications and Marketing Manager with 30 years' experience across charitable and commercial sectors. Her career spans roles in the arts, retail, and finance industries, where she has led on PR, internal and customer communications, and retail marketing.

Since joining Inspire at its inception in 2016, Sharon has played a pivotal role in shaping the organisation's voice and impact. Over the past decade, she has built the Communications and Marketing team from the ground up, developing a strong, strategic function that supports Inspire's mission and growth. She works closely with colleagues across the organisation, as well as with funders and key stakeholders, to ensure clear, consistent, and compelling communication at every level.

Known for her collaborative approach, Sharon brings strategic leadership and hands-on expertise to deliver communications that resonate and drive engagement.



**Jessica Gardner** is Cambridge University Librarian and Director of Library Services. She provides leadership for the University's library and archive services, working in coordination with the College library community and with partners across the University's museums and gardens. She is responsible for advising and representing the University of Cambridge on the future of library and archive matters, including the changing scholarly communication landscape and the UK and Ireland Legal Deposit partnership. Jessica was previously director of library services at the universities of Bristol and Exeter. She is a member of the Legal Deposit Librarians Committee for UK & Ireland, a Trustee of the Friends of the Nations' Libraries and the Sir Winston

Churchill Archives Trust, and a member of the advisory group that is working together to launch the Libraries Alliance.



**Molly Grundy** is a Library Assistant at Revoe Library. She has worked in Blackpool libraries for three years and is very passionate about her job and her community. Molly will be talking about the EVOLS (Economic Value of Library Services) project and how Revoe Library is a fundamental part of their neighbourhood. This project allowed them to continue their good work by proving their importance to the community through their staggering economic and social value.



**Melissa Guest** spent over 20 years in the Black Country voluntary sector developing and co-creating empowering community projects. Two years ago, she joined Sandwell Libraries to deliver a government-funded initiative, focused on increasing community participation and supporting volunteering. With 20 vibrant libraries across Sandwell, Melissa thrives on growing innovative projects that connect local people with their community libraries and with each other.



**Isobel Hunter** is the first Chief Executive of Libraries Connected. She established and grew the organisation from a small team of six to one that now has a dedicated programmes and regional team, with a high profile in national media and with government.

She believes that libraries are central to people's lives and communities across the country and is committed to working with members to help develop and advocate for the public library sector.



**Ed Jewell** is President of Libraries Connected and Chief Librarian for Jersey Libraries. He has led Jersey's library service since 2014 and has worked in libraries across the Channel Islands for 25 years. In 2020, Ed was given the Jersey Bailiff's Award for services to the community during the pandemic. Ed is the first Libraries Connected President from outside England.

As President, Ed advocates for libraries as essential public services within wider policy and funding frameworks, contributing to national goals including literacy, lifelong learning, community wellbeing and digital transformation.

A passionate believer in intellectual freedom, Ed emphasises the importance of libraries as open, inclusive spaces that reflect and serve their whole communities.



**Emily Jewell** is currently the Head of Culture and Libraries at Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure (VRCL) in the diverse East London Borough of Redbridge. In this role, she oversees 11 libraries that served 1.4 million people last year, a School Library Service, a Home Library Service, the Library Development and Culture Teams and a pre-school nursery. Cultural programmes include Redbridge Outdoor Arts and a Creative People and Places Programme, The Colours of Redbridge, which attracted a combined audience of 90,000 last year.

Emily is a member of the London Libraries Executive Committee and the Strategy Group for The Libraries Consortium. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Senior Leadership, Arts, and Culture."



**Amanda Jones** is a 25 year educator, a school librarian, and a grassroots organizer in Louisiana on the frontlines fighting against censorship in libraries. She is the 2021 Librarian of the Year as presented by *School Library Journal*, a 2021 *Library Journal* Mover and Shaker, and the 2020 Louisiana School Librarian of the Year. She is the Louisiana Chapter Councillor to the American Library Association and is a founding member of Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship. She is the author of "That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America, which was recently optioned for a film, and is featured in the award-winning documentary *The Librarians* by Academy Award Nominated director Kim A Snyder. Amanda was recently recognized as

one of the world's most influential rising stars on the Time100 Next list.



**John Pateman** comes from a Romany Gypsy background and worked in public libraries for over 40 years, at all levels from Library Assistant to Chief Librarian. He was Head of Libraries in Hackney, Merton, Lincolnshire and Thunder Bay, Canada. He pioneered the development of community-led and needs-based libraries in the UK and Canada. He received the UK Libraries Change Lives Award, the Canada 150 Award and the Cuban National Culture Award for services to public libraries. His recent books include *Public Libraries and Marxism* (2021), *Understanding Public Libraries* (2024) and *Reimagining Public Libraries* (2025).

John is currently a PhD researcher with the British Library / University of Leicester. He is researching the value that cultural programming adds to the relationship between the UK public library and the communities it serves. He is using a Marxist-Leninist lens to explore the social relations, power dynamics and contradictions between the public library as an ideological space and as a cultural space, with a focus on working class library users and non-users.



**James Pearson** started working with Kent Libraries in 2002 and has held a number of operational and Service Development roles before becoming Head of Service in 2016. In the time since he’s developed a service wide strategy and seen Kent through library opening hour reviews, seen the service successfully join the Arts Council NPO network with Playground and led for the service on the current co-location work taking place across the Council. For Libraries Connected he is chair of the South East group, worked as part of the team on the SE impact study ‘Power of prevention’, is a Member of the Libraries Connected Advisory group and recently worked with DCMS to successfully review the library Byelaws.



**Dr. Reem Talhouk** is a Lebanese design researcher and Associate Professor at Northumbria University’s School of Design, Arts and Creative Industries. Her work is at the intersection of Design, Humanitarianism, and Human-Computer Interaction– engaging with feminist, decolonial, and participatory design theories and practices. Reem has conducted research across the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Australia, working with refugee communities to explore their use and re-design aspirations of mobile health applications, digital re-settlement processes and food aid technologies. More recently, Reem has been advising humanitarian and volunteer organisations in the use of AI technologies and conducting research on building refugee

Media.



**Brett Terry** is Director of People at the NSPCC.

He joined the NSPCC in January 2018, with 20 years in senior strategic and operational HR roles. Passionate about people and volunteering, he hopes to help create a workforce of active, authentic ambassadors who inspire and compel others to play their part in our vision.



**Baroness Twycross** is the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Museums, Heritage and Gambling at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. She was appointed as a Minister in DCMS in July 2024, and has been a member of the House of Lords since November 2022. She was formerly a Member of the London Assembly and a Deputy Mayor, and held senior roles within the charity sector. She has a PhD in Scandinavian Literature

# Sponsors

## **Askews**

Askews, founded in 1772 has witnessed fascinating social change, including the rise in literacy, the development of the print and publishing industry and the establishment of libraries, catering for the ever-growing appetite for reading and the embrace of new technology. Our present-day status as a world-class library supplier is rooted in that history. Operating from our Lancashire premises, we are innovative, dynamic, and focused. Askews are committed to providing a full range of specialist supply and fulfilment services for both public and corporate library providers. Our solutions ensure our customers continue to meet and exceed their library users' expectations.

## **Axiell**

Axiell provides software and services for Libraries, Archives and Museums. Our solutions help our community of customers to manage their collections, encourage reading, preserve cultural heritage, improve learning and increase engagement with the public.

Come and speak to us about your Library Management requirements and to see our modern cloud based LMS. Working out of our UK offices in Nottingham and Manchester, our teams are local, accessible and have a personal approach.

Our business is all about ensuring the long-term sustainability of the sectors we serve. Our solutions help our customers to excel in an increasingly digital environment. We stay close to our customers to ensure we understand their changing needs and can adapt as a partner for now and the future.

## **Bibliotheca - powering the future of libraries**

We provide innovative library solutions that simplify operations, enhance user experiences, and help libraries connect with their communities. From smart lending systems to interactive digital tools, Bibliotheca delivers technology that makes libraries smarter, faster, and more engaging.

## **Bolinda UK Ltd.**

Bolinda is a world-leading audiobook and technology company. We publish the greatest books you'll ever hear and are the creators of BorrowBox, your library in one app.

As publishers, we are unsurpassed experts in the audiobook category, combining brilliant authors, talented narrators, and superb production to create mind-blowing audio experiences.

As technology providers, we go where no library has gone before with BorrowBox. A groundbreaking digital content solution, BorrowBox is the market leading provider of eContent to libraries across the Commonwealth, and instantly brings eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers together in one app for libraries' digital shelves.

Our mission is to inspire people to live their best lives through the power of storytelling.

Anywhere, everywhere; we never stop.

## **BookingsPlus**

BookingsPlus is the online room hire platform trusted by Library Services to deliver an optimal user experience that generates more revenue and saves your staff time. From Devon to Newcastle, BookingsPlus ensures your community spaces produce vital income to supplement dwindling budgets whilst reducing associated costs.

Virtual Tours are a useful tool to both market spaces and provide an on-demand accessibility resource, allowing library users to familiarise themselves with new spaces and build confidence to visit. Over 200 library branches have invested in our Virtual Tours since 2023.

Visit our stand for a brief demonstration of BookingsPlus and Virtual Tours and to pick up a free multi-adaptor charging cable.

## **D-tech**

D-Tech International Ltd is one of the UK's leading suppliers of innovative technology products and services for public space locations in the UK and overseas.

Having initially established a market-leading reputation in the library sector, D-Tech has since experienced an increase in cross-sector demand for its EM, RF, RFIQ and RFID technologies for tracking, managing, protecting and forecasting demand. Alongside the library market, D-Tech now operates in a wide variety of sectors, including every level of education from schools to universities, healthcare facilities, business premises, retail outlets, museums, galleries and other public spaces.

D-Tech will be showcasing its revolutionary range of SMART lockers, offering a secure, multifunctional storage solution for device lending / charging, media vending, or self-service capabilities.

## **FG Library Products Ltd**

FG Library is one of the UK's leading specialist designers, manufacturers, and suppliers of library interiors, shelving, and furniture. With over 25 years' experience, our team brings a deep understanding of library design, consistently delivering outstanding solutions for projects of every size and complexity across the UK and internationally.

We take a forward-thinking, user-centred approach, recognising the evolving expectations of the modern library. Our interiors are thoughtfully designed to create versatile, future-proofed spaces that sit at the heart of their communities. Every project is developed with careful consideration for its environmental, social, and economic impact.

With innovation, craftsmanship, and insight at our core, we transform library spaces into places that inspire every visitor who walks through the door.

## **Insight Media**

Insight Media is a leading library technology partner in the UK for the provision of PC booking, print management, Wi-Fi printing, Wi-Fi authentication, and self-service kiosk software services. Our products integrate with all the UK Library Management Systems as well as the main RFID self-service kiosk providers, enabling us to provide a seamless self-service print payment and release experience for your library visitors.

We have extensive experience in the public sector and support customers to provide IT and self-service solutions. We are continuously monitoring customer and market demands and working to deliver new and improved solutions, offering customers a wider range of library services and operational efficiencies.

Contact us to find out more.

Tel: 0844 335 6350

Email: [info@insight-media.co.uk](mailto:info@insight-media.co.uk)

Website: [www.insight-media.co.uk](http://www.insight-media.co.uk)

## **Interleaf Technology**

Interleaf Technology provides technology solutions for libraries and information services of all sizes, and specialise in Open Source, cloud-based services and solutions to all sectors with our local support team.

We partner with many leading industry providers on a range of projects and solutions as well as developing our own products to provide the perfect solution for you.

Interleaf addresses all your technology needs including Library Management Systems, PC Booking (including room/desk booking), Print Solutions, Wi-Fi solutions, eBooks, MARC Records, and also provides consultancy services in these areas to help you build the optimum solution for your organisation.

## **Lorensbergs**

Lorensbergs works closely with libraries to improve access to services and resources. Our market-leading solution, Netloan PC booking provides a comprehensive session management system for greater control and accessibility to library PCs, together with self-service print payment and release. Netloan Wi-Fi print gives library users the opportunity to print from their smartphones, tablets and laptops in the library and from home.

The Netloan portfolio gives you the technology and data to manage resources with ease. With our integrated solutions, library policies and administration can be managed holistically. Administrative tasks are achieved with centralised web-based access, allowing library staff greater freedom to ensure their libraries operate smoothly and efficiently.

Netloan integration on self-service payment kiosks achieves a number of further benefits. It provides library users with the ability to make PC bookings and self-service print or PC payments at the same point as carrying out book-related transactions on Bibliotheca kiosks. This relieves pressure on staff and can even support longer opening hours. It also helps save on valuable floorspace in the library.

Email: [enquiries@lorensbergs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@lorensbergs.co.uk)

[www.lorensbergs.co.uk](http://www.lorensbergs.co.uk)

## **Lyngsoe Systems Ltd**

Lyngsoe Systems has been a world leader in the field of cutting-edge electronic logistics control for over 40 years. Lyngsoe Systems Library Solutions help libraries work smarter and save time on material handling with smart library solutions. We are experts and trusted by libraries in providing:

- AUTOMATED MATERIAL HANDLING SOLUTIONS
- SELF-SERVICE EQUIPMENT
- INTELLIGENT MATERIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM™

Our solutions are standards compliant as well as practical, affordable, and innovative. We have our own nationwide network of engineers and consultants dedicated to libraries worldwide.

With a proven record of accomplishment with 20,000 installations in over 60 countries, the Lyngsoe Systems Library Solutions team demonstrate extensive experience in customer process, solution design, software development, integration, service, and maintenance. Our ambition is to always offer a market-leading range of products fulfilling our guiding star: "Working for Smarter Libraries".

To find out more, visit [www.lyngsoesystems.com](http://www.lyngsoesystems.com)

## **OCLC**

OCLC is a global library organization that provides shared technology services, original research, and community programs for its membership and the library community at large. We are librarians, technologists, researchers, pioneers, leaders, and learners. With thousands of library members in more than 100 countries, we come together as OCLC to make information more accessible and more useful.

## **Open Fifth**

Open Fifth are the UK's open source library solutions experts. Like libraries, open source is about community and sharing. With no licence fees, easy integrations, a fast pace of development, and a global community supporting and enhancing the software, it's clear to see why so many libraries choose Koha library management system and Aspen Discovery.

When libraries and archives join us, they don't purchase software, they gain the expertise of developers, trainers, data migration experts and former librarians throughout the team, freeing the library to focus on what they do best. Our customers receive free annual updates, hosted on servers with green credentials, and our ISO/IEC 27001-certified processes to fulfill your data protection and security requirements.

We proudly work with customers across all UK library sectors, including public, academic, health, governmental, museum, law and special libraries, and archives. Find out more about what we do at [www.openfifth.co.uk](http://www.openfifth.co.uk).

### **OverDrive**

OverDrive is a mission-based company that stands with libraries. Named a Certified B Corp in 2017, OverDrive empowers libraries by expanding access for all through industry advocacy, partner collaboration and digital innovation. More than 22,000 public libraries worldwide rely on OverDrive for the industry's largest catalogue of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and streaming entertainment. The Libby reading app for libraries is one of Popular Mechanics' Best Apps of the Decade. In 2021, OverDrive acquired Kanopy, the popular streaming video service with over 30,000 titles including documentaries, blockbuster films, TV series, kids content and more.

### **Solus**

[details to be added]

### **SurfBox - Self Service Print / Copy / Scan Kiosks – Powered by SurfBox**

SurfBox delivers smart self-service technologies for public libraries, councils, schools, and shared spaces across Ireland and the UK. Our mission is simple, to make printing, copying, scanning, and creative technology accessible, reliable, and easy to manage for everyone. Bring modern, pay-as-you-go printing to your library with SurfBox's Print Copy & Go kiosks. Designed for institutions that value convenience, accessibility, and control, our kiosks provide a seamless, fully managed self-service experience for users and a reliable revenue source for you.

### **TheDesignConcept Ltd**

TheDesignConcept Ltd is an award-winning library interior design specialist synonymous with cutting edge designs. From concept through to completion, our team combines creative vision with technical expertise to design distinctive interiors that are both functional and memorable. We are passionate about shaping the libraries of tomorrow – today!

### **Ulverscroft Ltd.**

Ulverscroft is the leading provider of accessible reading, offering large print, audiobooks and the uLibrary digital platform to libraries worldwide. Supported by the charitable Ulverscroft Foundation, we champion inclusive access to reading and help libraries serve every reader regardless of their need.

## Libraries Connected Awards

The Libraries Connected Awards celebrate the achievements of people working in public libraries, acknowledging excellence and showcasing good practice. Linked to the Universal Library Offers and Promises, the awards are judged by those leading these areas of work nationally.

The awards are a reminder of the importance of libraries and the people who work in them, celebrating the variety of support they deliver on a daily basis, whatever circumstances they find themselves in. The awards offer the opportunity to uncover new library champions, encouraging the leaders of the future and giving them the recognition they deserve. In addition, the awards showcase the breadth of work library staff coordinate and deliver, impacting across all areas of their communities.

Awards are made in six categories:

- Culture and Creativity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Information and Digital
- Reading
- Children Promise
- Visual and Print Impaired People's Promise

There will also be presentations for Public Library Champion and President's Special Achievement Award.

This year the awards have been sponsored by OverDrive and will be presented to the winners after the seminar dinner which begins at 7pm on Tuesday 9 June.

Find out more on the [Libraries Connected website](#).



# Congratulations

to the *Libraries Connected Awards* winners & nominees

.....

And huge thanks to the exceptionally creative, innovative and impactful work delivered by library staff around the country.

## Libby.

The library reading app

## Sora

Where students read

### LEARN MORE

**Lorraine Pethick**, Account Manager: [lpethick@overdrive.com](mailto:lpethick@overdrive.com) • 01395 874586

**Scott Smith**, Account Manager: [ssmith@overdrive.com](mailto:ssmith@overdrive.com) • 020 8135 7853

**Laura Sandford**, Account Manager: [lsandford@overdrive.com](mailto:lsandford@overdrive.com) • 01274 054980

[company.overdrive.com/public-libraries/overdrive-in-the-uk](https://company.overdrive.com/public-libraries/overdrive-in-the-uk)

# OverDrive®

Serving public, school, academic & corporate libraries  
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## Venue

The seminar will take place in the [Chesford Grange Hotel](#), Kenilworth, near Warwick.

The majority of the seminar will take place in the Kenilworth Suite and workshops will take place in nearby meeting rooms. Those staying overnight will have rooms at the onsite hotel.

The venue has plenty of outdoors space to enjoy and a gym and pool which is available to guests.

If you are arriving by train, we recommend you travel to Warwick Station (3 miles away), Leamington Spa (5 miles away), or Coventry (7 miles away) and get a taxi from there to Chesford Grange. There is a small station in Kenilworth (1.8 miles away), but it isn't on a mainline and doesn't have a taxi rank, although if you don't mind a short walk (0.3 miles at either end), there is a bus service (X17 and 11 Electric) from Clarendon Road, Kenilworth to Chesford Crossroads.

If you are travelling by car, the official postcode that gets you closest to the hotel is CV8 2LD and free parking is available. For full travel details visit [Hotel Directions | Chesford Grange Hotel Kenilworth Warwick](#).



# About Libraries Connected

Libraries are at the heart of communities, reflecting and responding to local needs.

They get more visits each year than any other cultural service, with a reach that extends right across income brackets, ages and ethnicities. They play an important role in promoting well-being and community cohesion by producing a range of cultural activities with their local communities and providing many with access to vital online services.

Maintaining and building on the power of public libraries is the heart of our mission. Our Universal Library Offers are key to this and cover the key areas of service which our stakeholders see as essential to a 21st century library service: Culture and Creativity, Information and Digital, Health and Wellbeing, and Reading. Underpinning these offers are our Visual and Print Impaired People's Promise and our Children's Promise which aim to ensure that these offers remain accessible to all.

Libraries Connected is a charity and membership organisation, representing public library services in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Crown Dependencies. We are also funded by Arts Council England as an Investment Principle Support Organisation for public libraries.

We:

- Represent the public library sector to communicate the value of libraries.
- Connect partners to local libraries by brokering national relationships with a wide range of organisations and individuals.
- Improve library services by developing and sharing best practice, providing training for library staff and facilitating a network of library leaders in the UK.
- Drive innovation and new thinking on the role of libraries in a modern society.

For more information visit [www.librariesconnected.org.uk](http://www.librariesconnected.org.uk)



Email: [info@librariesconnected.org.uk](mailto:info@librariesconnected.org.uk)

Website: [www.librariesconnected.org.uk](http://www.librariesconnected.org.uk)

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