



**Libraries
Connected**

THE NOVELS THAT SHAPED OUR WORLD

LIBRARIES CAMPAIGN 2021

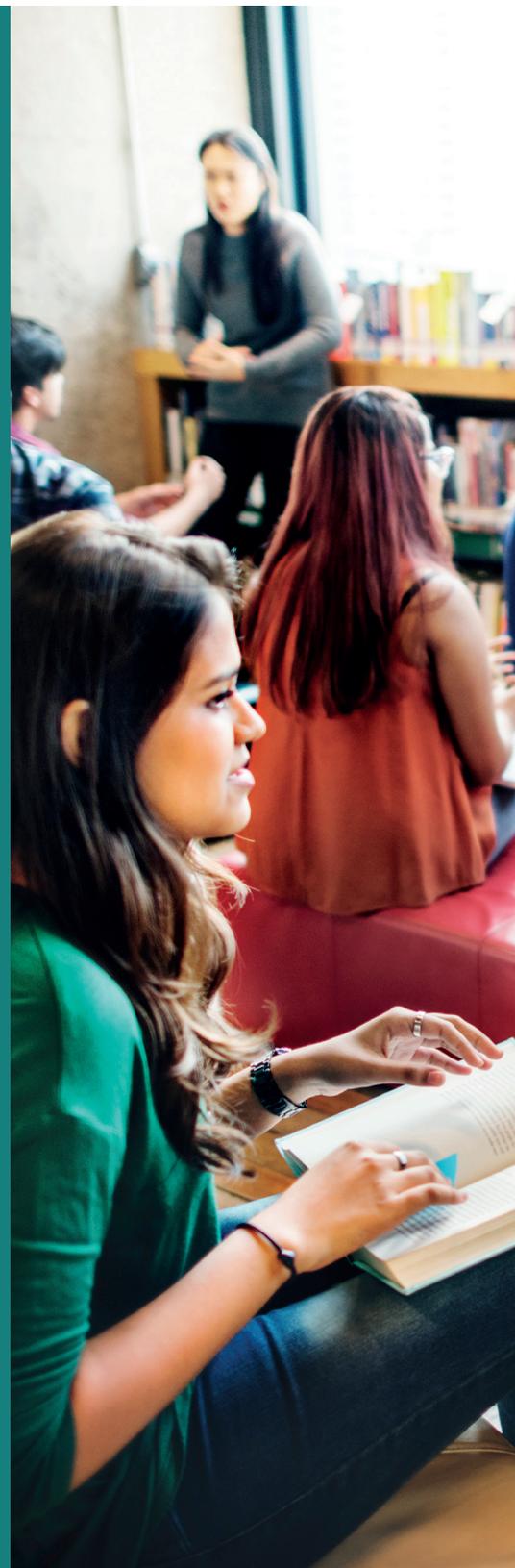


Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

LOTTERY FUNDED

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| 03 | Chair, Arts Council | 32 | Liverpool |
| 04 | BBC Arts | 33 | Merton |
| 05 | President, Libraries Connected | 34 | Middlesbrough |
| 06 | Introduction | 35 | Newham |
| 07 | Barnsley | 36 | Norfolk |
| 08 | Bathnes | 37 | North Tyneside |
| 09 | Bournemouth, Christchurch
& Poole | 38 | Northumberland |
| 10 | Bradford | 39 | Nottingham |
| 11 | Brent | 40 | Plymouth |
| 12 | Bristol | 41 | Portsmouth |
| 13 | Calderdale | 42 | Redbridge, Kirklees
& Newcastle |
| 14 | Cambridgeshire | 43 | Rotherham |
| 15 | Central Bedfordshire | 44 | Royal Greenwich |
| 16 | Chester West & Chester | 45 | Sandwell |
| 17 | Coventry | 46 | Sheffield |
| 18 | Derbyshire | 47 | Shropshire |
| 19 | Dorset | 48 | Slough |
| 20 | Dudley | 49 | Somerset |
| 21 | Essex | 50 | Staffordshire |
| 22 | Gloucestershire | 51 | Stockton-on-Tees |
| 23 | Greater Manchester | 52 | Stoke-on-Trent |
| 24 | Halton | 53 | Swindon |
| 25 | Hull | 54 | Wakefield |
| 26 | Kent | 55 | Warwickshire |
| 27 | Kingston-Upon-Thames | 56 | West Sussex |
| 28 | Lancashire | 57 | Wirral |
| 29 | Leeds | 58 | Wokingham |
| 30 | Leicester | 59 | Worcestershire |
| 31 | Lincs Inspire | | |



NICHOLAS SEROTA

CHAIR, ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

‘Thus we never see the true state of our condition till it is illustrated to us by its contraries, nor know how to value what we enjoy, but by the want of it.’

Though written more than three centuries ago, the words of Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe* still seem pertinent as our society reopens in the wake of the pandemic. The 300th anniversary of the publication of Defoe’s book in 2019, regarded by many as the first true novel in the English language, was the inspiration for the celebration: BBC Novels That Shaped Our World.

It began with the BBC bringing together a panel to discuss and draw up its list of the 100 Novels That Shaped Our World. The festival which followed, led by Libraries Connected and supported by Arts Council England, had only just begun as the impact of coronavirus was first starting to be felt.

Despite what could have been a devastating set-back to those plans, more than 200 digital and face-to-face events have so far been held by 54 library services across the country.

Reading is at the heart of what libraries offer and BBC Novels That Shaped Our World has allowed them to celebrate reading for pleasure in all its forms and explore with their communities the wealth of books which have been written from the time of Defoe to the present day. The events have seen libraries and their partners work with people of all ages and all backgrounds, examining themes inspired by the novels including grief, identity, culture and crime.

The ability of libraries, and their partners, to deliver on the original ambition of the project, in what have been incredibly challenging times for all of us, displays an ingenuity and inventiveness worthy of the most daring protagonist of any novel written in the last three hundred years.



© Olivia Hemingway

STEPHEN JAMES-YEOMAN

BBC ARTS

BBC

N THE NOVELS
THAT SHAPED
OUR WORLD

The BBC joined forces with Libraries Connected supported by Arts Council England and The Reading Agency on a multi-platform engagement collaboration to celebrate the joy of reading called Novels That Shaped Our World. It complemented a major new season of programming across BBC TV, Radio and digital to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of the British novel.

The centrepiece of the season was a three-part BBC Two series, *The Novels That Shaped Our World* which examined the novel from three unique perspectives: Empire and slavery, women's voices and working class experiences. These unique films argued that the novel has always been a revolutionary agent of social change, spearheading shifts in both colonial and post-colonial attitudes, female equality and social mobility.

BBC Arts' *The Novels That Shaped our World* Festival revealed and explored the top 100 novels which have had an impact over the last three centuries.

The list, which includes contemporary works such as *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *His Dark Materials* series to classics like *Pride And Prejudice* and *Middlemarch*, is designed to spark debate about the novels that have had a big impact on us all personally and culturally, and formed the basis of digital reading resources made available on the BBC Arts website. Everyone was encouraged to share their own stories of the novels that have had the biggest impact on them, using the hashtag #mybooklife.

Sparking debate and celebrating the joy of reading, the list was chosen by a panel of six: journalist and broadcaster Mariella Frostrup; bestselling author, screenwriter and columnist Juno Dawson; Bradford Festival Literary Director Syima Aslam; author Kit de Waal; journalist, former editor of *The Times Literary Supplement* Stig Abell; and author Alexander McCall Smith.

The panel appeared on Radio 2's Book Club to discuss deliberations before the 100 novels, all in the English language

and all works of fiction, were revealed at a live event hosted by Radio 2's Jo Whiley at the British Library and streamed into libraries onto the Living Knowledge Network in late autumn 2019. The panel also appeared at literary festivals, including Bradford Literary Festival and Edinburgh International Book Festival.

We have been thrilled with how the project was embraced by the UK's wonderful and important libraries, encouraging their visitors to engage with the list and staging events to interest readers and those who would not consider themselves to be readers.

We asked our prestigious panel to create a list of world-changing novels that would be provocative, spark debate and inspire curiosity. *Novels That Shape Our World* included documentaries, author profiles, podcasts and outreach events all designed to do one thing: inspire everyone, whoever they are, to read more novels because of the proven life-enhancing benefits it brings.

CAROL STUMP

PRESIDENT, LIBRARIES CONNECTED

The BBC Novels That Shaped Our World libraries campaign was designed to get more people reading novels through the power of libraries. No one could have predicted just how important this programme would become or just how much it would change as the pandemic hit.

Not only has this campaign shown the power of books and the way they can provide comfort, entertainment and connection during times of isolation. It has highlighted just how adaptable, creative and determined libraries and library staff are as events were reinvented to be delivered online.

What has been so wonderful to hear from library staff is that this project has been a beacon of light in the last 18 months. The campaign has developed the skills of library staff, led to new forms of interactions with their communities and brought new readers to their library service.

Reading is of course, at the heart of the library offer and this project has enabled libraries to highlight both our literary heritage and to celebrate contemporary reading

and publishing. The project has allowed libraries to reach into unrepresented communities and engage them in collaborative activity to promote all that is best about our diverse society.

Through the project, libraries have worked with children and young people, older people experiencing isolation, refugees and diverse communities. It has explored identity, culture, and history as well as celebrating relationships and the skills and talents within each one of us.

The power of books to sooth and comfort, to provide respite and escape and to generate inspiration, hope and empathy has never been more evident. The Novels That Shaped our World Libraries campaign has come at the most challenging time in many of our lives and, through creativity and community, has demonstrated the resilience of the human spirit.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Stump".

INTRODUCTION

The Novels that Shaped our World libraries festival was inspired by the BBC launch of the 100 Novels that Shaped Our World.

Arts Council England funded Libraries Connected with the support of partners at BBC Arts, British Library, CILIP, The Reading Agency and the Publishers Association to deliver a year-long reading festival in libraries.

We invited libraries to propose events and activities to engage their communities with the novels from the BBC list. Thanks to the understanding of our partners, we were able to extend the project several times and make it have even greater impact than we could have imagined.

The campaign had just begun when lockdown happened. Plans were quickly reset as libraries and a wide range of partners shifted to digital models of delivery, but libraries have also been innovative in developing safe ways of delivering physical activity to ensure that those excluded from digital services were able to benefit.



Initially the campaign covered 45 library services and around 100 events. By the end of the programme, 55 library services created over 250 events and because so many of these events went online, they reached far more people than anticipated.

The project has worked with theatre groups, authors and illustrators, dance companies,

and a huge range of visual and digital artists. It has also led Libraries Connected into a more public facing role which we have embraced. More people now understand that we are there to support staff at every level as well as their readers from around the country.

BARNESLEY LIBRARIES

TITLE: Kestrel for a Knave

DEMOGRAPHIC: Local secondary schoolchildren

SUMMARY

Barnsley Libraries, working with partner Qdos Creates, held several workshops in a local secondary school on the novel 'Kestrel for a Knave' by Barry Hines. Students created a dance performance based on their own interpretation. After several rehearsals, the students performed their dance in school, which was filmed so that it could be shared with a wider audience.

RESULTS

The project enabled Barnsley to maintain connections with their partners and a local school during what was a challenging time for everyone. It was a real positive to be able to work on such an engaging project and to learn new skills during this period.

'I'm very proud of what our partners and the young people achieved. The project changed several times due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, and they adapted brilliantly; they did a great job in challenging circumstances, and we couldn't have asked for more.'

**Carla Laughton,
Barnsley Libraries**



BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET LIBRARIES

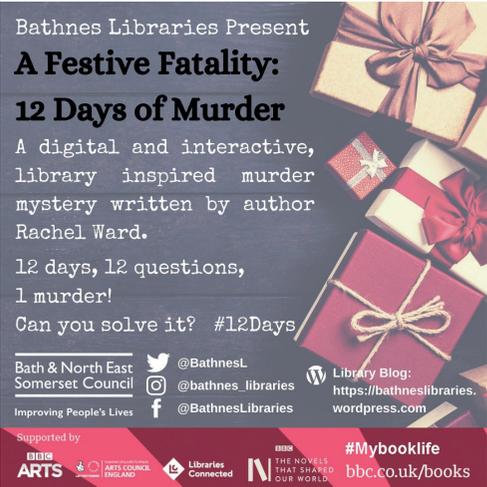
TITLE: A Festive Fatality: 12 Days of Murder
DEMOGRAPHIC: Young professionals and families

SUMMARY

Bath Libraries commissioned local author Rachel Ward to write 'A Festive Fatality: 12 Days of Murder'. This was an online Murder Mystery released over 12 days from 7 to 18 December 2020. Each day included a question, inviting readers to solve the puzzle. They partnered with Mr. B's Emporium of Reading Delights to provide prizes for the winners.

RESULTS

They gained enthusiastic support from local radio stations, one of which released the clues each day and announced the 'murderer'. During December 2020, the social media campaign promoting the event reached more than 96,000 people and 85.7% of competition entrants said they would do something similar again.



Bathnes Libraries Present
**A Festive Fatality:
12 Days of Murder**
A digital and interactive,
library inspired murder
mystery written by author
Rachel Ward.
12 days, 12 questions,
1 murder!
Can you solve it? #12Days

Bath & North East
Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

@BathnesL
@bathnes_libraries
@BathnesLibraries

Library Blog:
<https://bathneslibraries.wordpress.com>

Supported by

ARTS
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND
Libraries
Connected
BBC
THE NOVELS
THAT SHAPED
OUR WORLD
#Mybooklife
bbc.co.uk/books

'Thank you so much for involving me in this. It's been a bit of a challenge(!) but I've enjoyed it very much.'
Rachel Ward, Author

'Thank you for running the Festive Fatality event, it was fantastic. I would love to see and take part in more online events like this in the future.'
Participant

'Thanks again for organising this...and I'm really looking forward to reading the rest of the story. If you do anything similar next year, or have any more upcoming projects BA1 Radio would love to be involved.'
Participant

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH & POOLE LIBRARIES

TITLE: Family Reads Celebration

DEMOGRAPHIC: Older adults and families

SUMMARY

West Howe Library ran a Family Reads celebration. This was inspired by two books from the BBC Novels that Shaped our World list – Roald Dahl's 'The Witches' and 'Cold Comfort Farm' by Stella Gibbons. In August 2021, they held an event at which their commissioned artist worked with residents to create a mural for the library inspired by the books. This reflected how the people of West Howe view their own families and community.

RESULTS

Over 290 people visited the library for the Family Reads event, participated in the art workshop and listened to stories including new families who now regularly visit the library. Book-related prizes were given to winners of the clay modelling and drawing competitions. They have further plans for community cinema events and joint campaigns to combat isolation.

Family Reads 
Celebration!

Saturday Aug 7th
11 am—1.30 pm

West Howe Library &
Henry Brown Centre
Cunningham Crescent
BH11 8DU

Free Art Workshop
11.00-1.00
Create an artwork with Rosemary Edwards for the Library inspired by Roald Dahl's 'The Witches' & Stella Gibbons' 'Cold Comfort Farm'

Children's Craft
Barbeque
Story Time

Plant Stall
Activities
Book Prizes
Shared Reading

BCP Council

BBC THE NOVELS THAT SHAPED OUR WORLD

Libraries Connected

West Howe Community Enterprises

West Howe Library

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

'We were really pleased to be able to do this work in West Howe and engage with the local community and partners, especially to get people back to the library after we had been closed because of the pandemic. It felt like a new start and gave all the staff a boost!'

Janet Westcott, Reader Development Librarian

BRADFORD LIBRARIES

TITLE: Nights at the Circus poetry workshops and Aerialist Rebecca Truman

DEMOGRAPHIC: Women would not usually get to write poetry and the general public

SUMMARY

Nights at the Circus was a series of day-long poetry writing workshops with poet Gill Lambert. These looked at some of the themes within Angela Carter's 'Nights at the Circus' especially love, marriage, feminism, magic and history. They used Carter's text as well as others to inform participants own writing and respond in a variety of ways to reflect on the themes. The second half of the day they examined how to use history and historical figures to write about the world we live in today and help tackle some of the problems and issues we face in our modern world.

They then hosted a day with trapeze artist, costume designer and artist Rebecca Truman. Rebecca talked about being an aerialist and costume designer for circus, about all aspects of circus lifestyle and read from her book 'Aerialist'. After lunch there was a life-casting workshop where participants made something really special to take home.

RESULTS

They could have filled the poetry workshops 10 times over – people were so keen to do something creative together with others after being isolated during lockdown. The participants wrote some great work and were really keen to discuss and share. People were also keen to meet Rebecca and hear about life as an aerialist and to do the hand-casting.

'Thank you for such an amazing workshop! And what a wonderful set of inspirational and creative women – I have not felt so energised in years, please thank Gill (poet) for me.'
Dania, workshop attendee

'The workshops were a great success – I have never seen a workshop get a round of applause at the end from the participants – I almost cried.'
Dionne, Library Development officer

BRENT LIBRARIES

TITLE: What lies beneath and Step into my parlour: Celebrating Black British authors

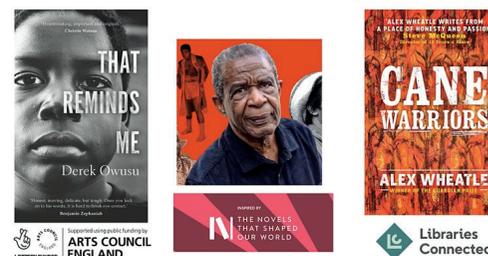
DEMOGRAPHIC: People of the global majority

SUMMARY

Brent organised three reader development events celebrating black British cultural diversity in literature that would appeal to their culturally diverse borough and beyond. The events aimed to appeal to people who did not engage much in reading and encourage them to use the libraries. They were also designed to support black authors and raise their profiles.

RESULTS

Authors Alex Wheatle and Derek Owusu waived their fees and asked for them to be used to purchase young adult stock for two secondary schools who attended a specially arranged webinar. Dorothy Koomson also waived her fee. The events also featured in the Voice Magazine in April.



'Our confidence was boosted in terms of interview skills. We realised given our own reading development backgrounds, we were more than capable of delivering a good quality event. We also felt very proud to deliver a series of high quality events that got good audience virtual attendance and YouTube viewing figures.'

Response from a librarian

BRISTOL LIBRARIES

TITLE: Power, Protest and Poetry

DEMOGRAPHIC: People of the global majority, especially those in deprived areas

SUMMARY

Bristol ran a series of three fortnightly writing workshops, with a final panel event and a poetry showcase. These were free events hosted on Zoom with Words of Colour and artist Muneera Pilgrim. The workshops were themed around the power of literature in raising political awareness and prompting political activism.

RESULTS

The three workshops were attended by 29 people in total. The final event, 'Power, Protest and Poetry', had 45 live viewers. Combined social media impressions and engagement for Power, Protest & Poetry: Impressions: 38,888, Engagement: 673. Tweet sharing Subitha Baghirathan's poetry was their top media tweet in April, earning 1,983 impressions.

**POWER, PROTEST & POETRY:
THE WORKSHOPS**

Join international poet sensation Muneera Pilgrim for a series of creative writing workshops exploring Bristol through the lens of politics, power and protest. Part of the The Novels That Shaped Our World festival. Minimum participant age 18yrs.

When: 25th Feb, 11th Mar, 25th Mar 2021
Time: 7pm - 8.30pm

LETTERFINDED
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Libraries Connected

Bristol Libraries
www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries

WORDS OF COLOUR
CREATING AND SHARING VOICES

The poster features a photograph of Muneera Pilgrim, a woman with dark hair wearing a yellow top and a brown jacket, smiling. The background is a mix of orange and teal.

'It felt like a really safe space to share thoughts and feelings. Muneera had really well planned questions and prompts to get creative juices flowing and then then challenged us to share, which ended up being my favorite part!'

Participant

'Thank you very much, this event was the best part of my week!'

Participant

CALDERDALE LIBRARIES

TITLE: Men, reading and writing

DEMOGRAPHIC: To encourage more men to engage with libraries and reading

SUMMARY

Calderdale Libraries presented an online discussion between three local authors who spoke about how libraries and reading have supported them, their favourite novels that have shaped them and where they are now. They also discussed their various routes in to reading and what they have been reading to support them through the pandemic. The event featured Mark Wright, who has written for Doctor Who and brought his love of all things science fiction, Conrad Burdekin, a local, very entertaining, poet and Tom Palmer, a local children's author whose way into reading and writing was through his big love of football.

RESULTS

The initial showing of the events on Facebook and Twitter reached 796 people and there were 39 engagements.



'It's always good to discuss work with my peers while being able to speak directly to our readers/audience.'

Event organiser

'The authors provided online content which was invaluable in helping maintaining the relationship between libraries and users during a time when libraries were mostly not open.'

Event organiser

CAMBRIDGESHIRE LIBRARIES

TITLE: Stories in the pub and VR workshop

DEMOGRAPHIC: Job seekers/low skilled workers, especially 19-29 year olds

SUMMARY

Cambridgeshire libraries ran a VR workshop – targeted an established group of Basic Skills Learners on a course designed to teach life-skills and enable people into work in partnership with Cambridgeshire Skills – Council Adult Skills & Learning. They also hosted a bookshelf of selected 100 Novels titles for five weeks in a local café and pub to reach non library users and a local Children & Families Centre.

RESULTS

The most lasting, yet unexpected, outcome from the project has been the formation of an active working partnership with various BBC departments/services, especially Radio Cambridgeshire with whom they still collaborate on a monthly Book Club slot.



'I didn't know how to use a VR headset and that you can use them for more than just gaming'

Participant

'VR was seen as an exciting medium in which to create 3D versions of the images they had drawn. The Tutor uses art to help build confidence and key skills.'

Participant

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES

TITLE: Identity writing competition

DEMOGRAPHIC: Young adults and students with disabilities

SUMMARY

Central Bedfordshire Libraries focused on the theme 'Identity'. They ran a day of activities to encourage their customers to accept everyone for who they are. The project was supported by multidisciplinary artist Sophie Gresswell and included a portrait competition, a performance by Panto Drag Queen Mama G and portrait painting workshops led by Sophie. Sophie also created a live artwork inspired by female authors and women of colour.

RESULTS

The Panto Storytime sold out and the portrait painting workshops were at capacity. There will be a legacy to the project through the artwork that was created. This will run as a digital installation in the library.



'It was such a fantastic opportunity to be involved with the BBC Novels project. The project encouraged us to think differently about what we could offer, and how we could utilise the occasion to bring people back to the library. It was so lovely to see people engaging with us again after such a lengthy period of closure. It was a day that won't be forgotten and a day that welcomed new customers and new partnerships.'

Library staff member

'Great event, loved Mama G – please can we have more events like this'

Participant

'What a great opportunity to work with such an established artist'

Participant

CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER LIBRARY SERVICE

TITLE: 1984 Project

DEMOGRAPHIC: Adults and young people

SUMMARY

Cheshire West & Chester Council Libraries in partnership with Action Transport Theatre presented extracts of George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four, in a series of three online performances. The first performance was about the world of Big Brother, the world that Winston finds himself in the beginning of the play. The second performance was about the middle section of the novel and how Winston's world is turned upside down by a small rectangle of paper. The third performance was about the end of the novel and what happens to Winston.

RESULTS

The physical performances were sold out in three branches in Ellesmere Port that were not normally used for shows, which proved that they would work for future events. The online shows were at the start of the first lockdown and were the first digital events that the library service had ever been involved with.



'I was amazed at being able to interact with an actor, in character, who was on my iPad in the living room during Lockdown. It brought the outside world into the house, and the houses of all participants, in the crucial first weeks of the first Lockdown and showed the future had arrived.'
Ian Anstice, Libraries Project Lead

COVENTRY LIBRARY SERVICE

TITLE: Strictly Sherlock

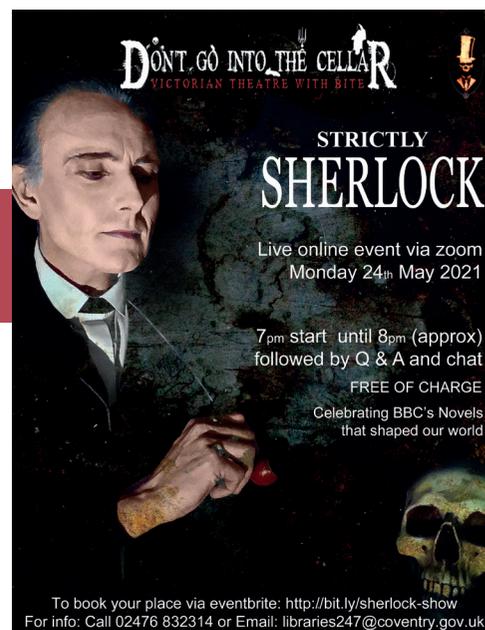
DEMOGRAPHIC: Adult carers and young carers

SUMMARY

'Strictly Sherlock' was a one man show arranged and performed by the actor Jonathan Goodwin from the 'Don't Go Down into the Cellar' theatre company. It was based on 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' by Arthur Conan Doyle and aimed at adults and young people. The event aimed to bring Conan Doyle's books to life and to promote the library's collection of his books. Several libraries put together displays to promote the stock and support the event.

RESULTS

The event was very well received with good feedback and Coventry's libraries saw an increase in loans of Arthur Conan Doyle books.



'Many thanks for organising such a wonderful event. I really enjoyed it - what some of Sherlock's peers might describe as 'a tonic' after a long day's work. I'm so sorry I couldn't stay for the Q&A'
Event attendee

'This was a really enjoyable performance of Conan Doyle stories, brought to life by Jonathan with all the creepiness you'd expect and a touch of humour! I hadn't been to an online theatre production before and being on my own it made me feel like I was the only person in the audience, and I was getting a personal show. I did turn my lights out and shut the curtains for more effect!'

Event attendee

DERBYSHIRE LIBRARIES

TITLE: Isolation

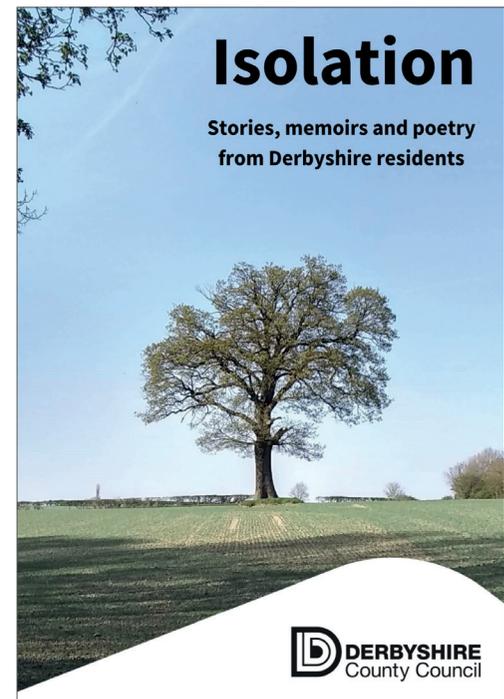
DEMOGRAPHIC: Those experiencing loneliness, isolation or mental health challenges

SUMMARY

Derbyshire Libraries ran a writing competition, inviting residents aged 16 and over to submit pieces of up to 500 words of fiction, memoir or poetry on the theme of isolation. The winning entries were judged by local authors Emma Pass and Anna Stuart who also delivered online talks and workshops.

RESULTS

More than 130 eligible entries were submitted, which were published in an eBook compendium available via BorrowBox. The competition winner, Helen Larder was featured in the Glossop Chronicle in May.



'This experience has encouraged me – literally – it has given me fresh courage to carry on with my writing. It has inspired me to try different forms of poetry – I'd really like to explore more contemporary poets and poetry in performance. And also I've decided I'd really like to apply to do an MA in Creative Writing and see where that takes me.'

Participant

DORSET LIBRARIES

TITLE: Clay for All

DEMOGRAPHIC: Those with dementia and their carers, and children of military families

SUMMARY

Dorset held two clay workshops. The first was with a school, based on a military camp. This was for children whose wellbeing may have suffered due to Covid-19. They produced some lovely clay book tiles.

RESULTS

Partnering with the library enabled 50 people to participate with clay that would not have had the opportunity otherwise



'It has adapted my practice and shown that community arts and pottery can still be possible within covid guidelines at schools.'

Participant



DUDLEY LIBRARIES – GREENWHICH LEISURE LTD

TITLE: Wizard school and Jurassic Safari

DEMOGRAPHIC: Children on holiday and food schemes

SUMMARY

We screened the Wizard school and Jurassic safari by Professor Calculus-Black during the Summer Reading Challenge. The film was shown on social media channels with follow on activities. The original intention was to show it in schools and build the relationship between public library and schools but this was hampered by covid restrictions. All the events were oversubscribed and feedback forms were 100% positive.

RESULTS

Attracted new families to the library and showcased the library as a fun place to visit. Also, as a result of the success of these events there is the possibility of further funding from the HAF fund. We are also meeting with Damian Black (the wizard) to discuss events to tie in with the Summer Reading Challenge 2022.



'I learnt about mythical things.' 'We had fun.'
'I loved it so so much.' 'I love my new wand.'
'I really enjoyed learning spells.'

Participants

ESSEX LIBRARIES

TITLE: War of the Worlds

DEMOGRAPHIC: Young people aged 14+

SUMMARY

Local musician and sound artist Chris Adam led a soundscape workshop for those aged 14 and above in Chelmsford Library. Soundscaping is where music, sounds and noise work together to create an immersive environment. For this workshop the group brought 'The War of the Worlds' by H. G. Wells to life using electronic instruments.

RESULTS

They sold 11 tickets out of 15 and had five people attend. They made a special podcast episode interviewing Chris which began with a soundscape and reading of Chapter 12 of 'The War of the Worlds'.

'It went really well. They all seemed to enjoy it, although I didn't get to talk to them much because they were so absorbed in what they were doing!'

Chris Adam, event leader

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

INVASION SOUNDSCAPING WORKSHOP

Join electronic music and sound artist Chris Adam as he travels through H.G. Wells' epic tale and brings the chaotic world alive through sound.

Chelmsford Library

28 October at 11am

Suitable for ages 14+

Reserve tickets free of charge:

invasionworkshopchelmsford.eventbrite.co.uk

This is no time for quiet in the library...



The air was full of sound, a deafening and
confusing conflict of noises

the clangorous din of the Martians

the crash of falling houses

the thud of trees

fences

sheds flashing into flame

and the crackling and roaring of fire

- The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

Can you hear it in your head?

Join electronic music and sound artist Chris Adam as he travels through H.G. Wells' epic tale and brings the chaotic world alive through sound.

28 October at 11am

Suitable for ages 14+

Reserve tickets free of charge:

invasionworkshopchelmsford.eventbrite.co.uk

This is no time for quiet in the library...



GLOUCESTERSHIRE LIBRARIES (STROUD LIBRARY)

TITLE: Small Island

DEMOGRAPHIC: Readers of Stroud and beyond

SUMMARY

Stroud Book Festival celebrates all things books. Headed up by a team of local authors, literary and cultural professionals the festival presents a creative programme of high-quality, entertaining and thought-provoking events to engage this vibrant local community. The book group met on the last day of the festival to discuss *Small Island* by Andrea Levy.

RESULTS

39 people sign up for the event, and between 23 and 27 people logged in to the event on the Sunday of the festival. There was a good flow of questions and we have had very positive feedback for all of the events.

Overall, the festival events have had over 8,000 views and we now have 809 YouTube subscribers since we launched our channel in June of this year.



Identity-themed mural by Russell Haines depicting local poet Jonny Fuffy Punk.

'This year was spectacular. I've been mainly catching up, but loved what I saw. Huge congratulations to all of you... I was very grateful for being able to tune in, in my own time.'

Event attendee

'It's great to have a 'home grown' festival in Stroud. We've really enjoyed the previous ones and really great that you have been able to continue it this year. Congratulations!'

Event attendee

GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES LEAD BY OLDHAM LIBRARIES

TITLE: I am not Friday

DEMOGRAPHIC: Older people and teenagers

SUMMARY

Often regarded as the first English novel, we're all familiar with the basics of the Robinson Crusoe story: A man, a shipwreck to a desert Island, some survival skills that would give Bear Grylls a run for his money... and his faithful servant – Man Friday. But what if Robinson Crusoe got some things a bit...well, wrong? What if 'Man' Friday...wasn't? And what if it wasn't the first novel after all? A solo performance by Janelle Thompson aimed at young people 12 and over.

RESULTS

Over 110 people attended the show in nine regional libraries.



HALTON LIBRARIES

TITLE: Let me Tell you a Story

DEMOGRAPHIC: Those experiencing loneliness, isolation or mental health challenges

SUMMARY

Through library outreach activities, staff worked with isolated people in care homes, community groups and the Home Library Service. Inspired by novels in the Class and Society section of the BBC 100 Novels that Shaped our World, they told stories that illustrate the changes in society from then until now. Halton Libraries commissioned local poets and artist, Millie Chesters, to interpret the stories for an exhibition.

RESULTS

The result is an online exhibition, featuring the art, writing, participants' voices and local photos. It is available through the Halton Libraries website. <https://library.haltonbc.info/gallery/>
The illustrations and poems were also printed and shown in libraries.



**Four years old, sitting on the kerb, sun beating down,
Popping tar, fingers sinking into the molten stickiness.
Then the ground shakes, tar is forgotten
Distant tremors echo down the narrow street
A roar of horses galloping, soldiers marching to an invisible drum?
The noise becomes a crowd, emerging round the corner.
Miners. Black and filthy, swinging snap tins, their shift done.
Voices and clogs pass by, going home to washes, food, family.
The street is quiet again. The tar bubbles flattened by the clamour.**

By Anon

Based on Silas's story

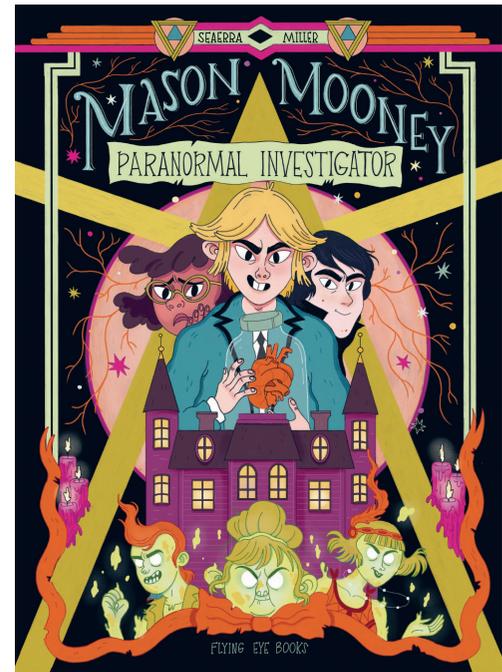
HULL LIBRARIES

TITLE: Comic Book Festival

DEMOGRAPHIC: Adults, teenagers and families

SUMMARY

Hull Libraries curated three events based around the iconic graphic novel *V for Vendetta* as part of a week long comic book festival. The centrepiece was *V for Vendetta* illustrator David Lloyd event who took the audience back to the 1980s and the inspiration behind this iconic novel. This event took place in Hull Central Library and was streamed live to an online audience. The festival also featured American writer and illustrator Seaerra Miller, Hull-based artist Sean Azzopardi and children's author and illustrator Bethan Woollvin.



KENT LIBRARIES

TITLE: Alice in Wonderland ballet

DEMOGRAPHIC: Children and families

SUMMARY

Kent Libraries filmed the dance group, Let's All Dance, performing their 'Alice in Wonderland' ballet so it could be streamed on social media for audiences to watch on demand. They aimed to reach audiences when no live events were happening in libraries and no audiences were allowed in theatres.

RESULTS

By presenting the ballet as a film available on demand via social media, they attracted a larger audience than would have been possible for a live event. The film received 1,000 views with a reach of 10,000.



'It was great to be able to offer something to library customers when no live events were being allowed to take place in libraries. Working with artists was a new experience for the library staff and we all learned some new skills.'

Matthew Kerr, Library Service Manager

KINGSTON UPON THAMES LIBRARIES

TITLE: Beyond Shelves: From the pages of V for Vendetta, An Evening with V
DEMOGRAPHIC: Adult residents

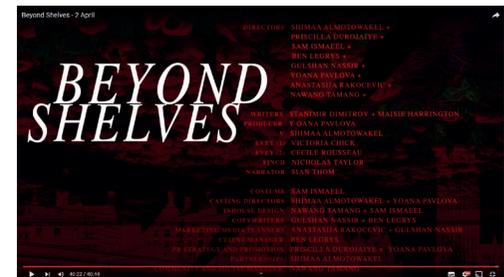
SUMMARY

Kingston School of Art and Kingston Libraries presents "Beyond Shelves" a series of interactive online events. Each event takes its inspiration from books from the BBC's One Hundred Novels that shaped the World list.

The event was designed by Immersive Tales and was based on the graphic novel V for Vendetta. Much loved by comics aficionados and fans of dystopian fiction, the novel has become more than a literary phenomenon, it has taken on a life of its own beyond the book shelves. One only has to switch on the news to see protestors in Hong Kong, Egypt or Wall St. wearing the now familiar mask. The power of the book's ideas, images and story is beyond fiction, or language, it's message is at the heart of what it is to break free from the shadows and to face adversity.

RESULTS

Over 45 attendees joined the online session to watch and participate in the immersive interactive interpretation of V for Vendetta.



'I very much liked the premise and thought it was great to introduce people to a book like this.'

Participiant

LANCASHIRE LIBRARIES

TITLE: This Slavery

DEMOGRAPHIC: Adults

SUMMARY

Working with local arts groups, historians and recording professionals, Lancashire Libraries commissioned and produced a four-episode podcast series looking at the novel 'This Slavery' by Lancashire author Ethel Carnie. She is thought to be the first working-class woman to have her work published in the UK.

RESULTS

The four episodes produced have been listened to 600 times, have featured in an article in the Guardian, and been discussed on local BBC Radio. Lancashire Libraries have worked with academics to bring out-of-print copies of Ethel's books back to the library. Over three in four of listeners to the podcast were in the UK, with listeners in at least 15 countries.



'Thanks for organising such a fun event last night and inviting me to be part of it - it was a real treat to be in a (virtual) room of Ethel fans! It's fantastic Lancashire Libraries are behind this. It was really powerful to hear about the writing and production process, Jules, Liz and Scott. Looking forward to hearing more.'

Participant

'These podcasts have been a joy, and there's definite a place for more I'm sure!'

Participant

LEEDS LIBRARIES

TITLE: Games Jam
DEMOGRAPHIC: Adults

SUMMARY

Leeds Libraries invited people to create video games, board games, escape games or card games in response to four themes from the 100 Novels list: Adventure; Life, Death and other worlds; Rule Breakers and Crime and Conflict. Teams of up to six people battled against the clock to develop their game. At the end of two days they presented their game to a panel who will decide which team has created the game most likely to inspire new readers.

RESULTS

Leeds held 10 events with over 350 attendees. thirteen games were created and more than 450 took part in the online family activity. The team were interviewed by BBC Radio Leeds and the British Library wrote a blog about the programme. The event series on YouTube has received over 700 views to date.



GAMES JAM PROGRAMME

Thursday evenings in April : Cards or Die with Ann Jones

Wednesday 7 April : Introduction to our Easter family activity

Easter Holidays : Draw-a-long with Fabric Lenny

Wednesday 14 April : Escape Games with Liz Cable

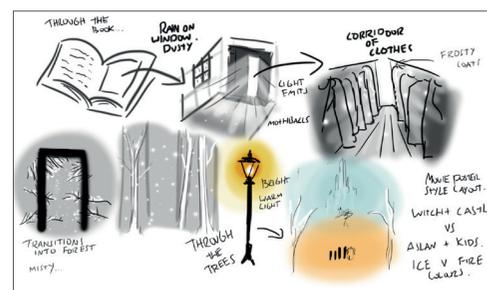
Wednesday 21 April : Behind the Book with Leeds Libraries

Friday 23 April : Game Creation with Leeds Libraries and Leeds Museums

Saturday 24 April : Games Jam panel with Liz Cable, Stella Wisdom and Ann Jones

Saturday 24 April : Step into Narnia with VR artist Rosie Summers

Saturday 24 - Sunday 25 April : Games Jam!



'When the opportunity came up to design a game based on a book I love, I knew immediately it would be the Aubrey/Maturin series I chose, because even though they're easy books to find, I think they're overlooked by serious readers. I wanted people to understand that there's more to these books than just high seas combat - there's humour, passion, and plenty of swabbing the decks. I hope my game will inspire other people to pick up these ripping good reads and give them the love they deserve. As for me, I'm only halfway through the series, but after designing this game, I'm eager to set sail again.'

Participant

LEICESTER LIBRARIES

TITLE: Treasure Island

DEMOGRAPHIC: Prisoners from HMP Gartree

SUMMARY

Leicester Libraries ran a prison book group at HMP Gartree. They sent out the same book to each member of the group, who then read the book in their own time. Each member was then asked to write a review about the book and send it back to the library. These reviews were typed up and sent back to each member who could read everybody's thoughts. The team plan to have a physical exhibition of inmates' works associated with the theme Treasure Island. They also ran a poetry session where participants brought in their poems to read aloud, inspiring others to write their own poetry.

RESULTS

The collection has inspired a lot of people to read books which ordinarily they may not have chosen, including library staff! The group was very successful in making the participants focus and concentrate on the story and then discuss it at regular intervals.



'I loved this! After a slow start, when I disliked James laziness sitting in the flat being quite horrible to his girlfriend. Getting into the past we got to understand his personality. I felt real empathy towards all characters and their stories. Really great uplifting read. Review of 'The man I think I know' by Mike Gale

'Thank you for the magnificent work you have all been doing in the past year. I don't think you realise the extent to which you three have outshone everyone else here in the abyss. Your determination to help all 700 prisoners, despite the obstacles in your way has been very much appreciated by me and by everyone I have spoken to over the past months. Very well done and thank you
Participant

LINCS INSPIRE LIBRARY SERVICE

TITLE: 100 Novels That Shaped Our World video series

DEMOGRAPHIC: Children and adults

SUMMARY

Lincs Inspire put on a series of YouTube videos featuring actors reciting from the list of 100 Novels That Shaped Our World, and library staff reviewing some of their favourite books. These included a range of classic titles such as 1984, Wind in the Willows, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 and ¾, read by actors Jack Pudsey and Sara Beasley.

RESULTS

The videos have received 421 YouTube views and reached 4,994 people on Facebook.



LIVERPOOL LIBRARIES

TITLE: Love Islands, Cultures of Love, Rhythm Tribes and Coding Crusoe

DEMOGRAPHIC: Adults, diverse ethnic adults and families, and families with children under 12

SUMMARY

Love Islands was an evening event exploring the love and sex theme of the BBC Novels list. Cultures of Love was held within the local Toxteth community and was an opportunity to share new writing from within different cultures, and included food and music. Luma are talking about recreating this event for 2022 or 2023 because of the positivity that surrounds it. Rhythm Tribes explored the rhythms of language with families of children under 10 and Coding Crusoe, aimed at 7-12 year olds, was a combination of digital coding and a fun parrot treasure hunt exploring the themes of Robinson Crusoe. Books from the lists were given away at all sessions and events to participants.

RESULTS

Numbers of people who took part in our events, were as follows: Coding Crusoe: 32, Rhythm Tribes: 44, Love Islands: 100 and Cultures of Love: 145, reaching well over 200 people in total. The Love Islands event was covered by BBC Radio Merseyside's Jermaine Foster show, reaching across the Liverpool City Region and beyond.



'It was a rewarding project to work on and showed how the love of reading can connect communities.'

Event manager

MIDDLESBROUGH LIBRARIES

TITLE: Books that made you smile

DEMOGRAPHIC: Carers and those they care for

SUMMARY

Middlesbrough Libraries facilitated creative writing workshops for carers and those they care for. With a focus on positivity during Covid-19 and beyond, they captured creative work from a demographic that often struggles to engage with libraries and literature and gave them an outlet to share their experiences. Activity packs were provided for each participant. They contained health and support literature, library joining forms plus creative art and writing materials.

RESULTS

Carers, and those who are cared for, produced creative and expressive works. The focus was on the written word but also included artwork and photography.



'I loved it! And so many inspirational stories.'

Participant

'The creative writer was amazing!'

Participant

NEWHAM LIBRARIES

TITLE: Our World, Our Stories and a conversation with Onjali Rauf
DEMOGRAPHIC: Refugee and migrant families and young people

SUMMARY

Newham Libraries chose to work with refugees. 'Our World, Our Stories' was the celebration and culmination of their project. This event showcased artwork and animations created by a refugee family. The family was invited to the event along with local refugee community groups. The evening ended with 'Footsteps in the Wind', a short film based on the harsh and intense reality of refugees around the world. The second half of our evening was an author talk with Onjali Rauf, a Newham resident and our ambassador for the project, in conversation with Sita Brahmachari, chaired by Zain Alsoud a young woman, herself a refugee from Syria. The evening ended with 'Footsteps in the Wind' a short film based on the harsh and intense reality of refugees around the world.

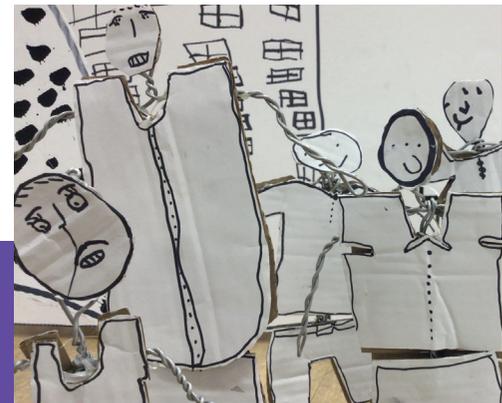
RESULTS

The event increased awareness of the difficulties faced by refugees and in particular unaccompanied young people. It also gave a platform to some of the amazing work being done in the borough to help those who have been displaced, in particular the work being done by Marian at Dost, Care for Calais and the Shpesa programme. With a strong focus on reading, it also brought together non traditional library users from the local community.



'There was a real sense of community, empathy and belonging which was all down to you getting everyone together and putting on the event.'

Event attendee



NORFOLK LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICE

TITLE: To Kill a Mockingbird

DEMOGRAPHIC: Secondary schoolchildren especially reluctant readers

SUMMARY

We ran a series of online creative writing workshops with Sewel Park School and Kings Lynn Academy with an emphasis on students being able to express their ideas, experiences and emotions. The work was delivered in partnership with Simon Floyd and Duncan Joseph who work with a local community drama organisation, The Common Lot. The issue of racism was extremely current at the time and *To Kill a Mockingbird* has an extraordinary capacity to speak to this on both a personal and universal level. The story of justice and injustice in 1930's small-town America is beautifully told through the eyes of Scout, a child narrator. Through her, the young people experienced both a loss of innocence and valuable insight into the courage it takes to stand up for what is right.

RESULTS

Students aged 13 to 15 years old, working remotely with the facilitators in three Norfolk schools created an anthology of poems and passages. The writing reflects their ideas of personal identity in a changing and challenging world. They are unapologetic, quirky and individual. This project has demonstrated that it is people working together and finding ways to learn and create that nurture us and allow us to grow.



'Stories have the power to change us. For this project we chose two of these themes that we felt would speak best to the concerns and experience of young people today: Politics Power and Protest and Coming of Age. To Kill A Mocking Bird was the perfect novel with which to do this.'

Event facilitators

NORTH TYNESIDE LIBRARIES

TITLE: Cruisin' with Crusoe

DEMOGRAPHIC: Primary schoolchildren

SUMMARY

North Tyneside Libraries worked with Bigfoot Arts North East to deliver a programme of after-school drama sessions with children from Percy Main Primary school in North Shields. Based on the novel 'Robinson Crusoe', the workshops delved into characterisation, locations and plot of the novel in an accessible and engaging way. As a finale, the children performed in their school hall for some school and library staff.

RESULTS

School staff noted an improvement in participating children's literacy skills, as well as improved teamwork and communication. Children embraced the opportunity to show their dramatic abilities and leadership potential.



'Literacy skills have improved. It was interesting to hear them read in a club environment – sometimes they struggled- but I liked how the club had reading, writing and a game focus.'

Participant

'Teamwork and communication skills have improved as well as confidence with reading out loud.'

Participant

'We had an EAL child who grasped the opportunity with both hands – this has also given him the chance to show his drama and leadership skills.'

Participant

NORTHUMBERLAND LIBRARIES

TITLE: Adventures in Libraryland

DEMOGRAPHIC: Primary schoolchildren in rural areas

SUMMARY

'Adventures in Libraryland' was planned to get children from schools in rural Northumberland visiting their local library to take part in creative puppet workshops to bring adventure novels to life. Before the workshops, librarians from the Northumberland Libraries team introduced the children to a treasure chest of favourite adventure tales, from 'Robinson Crusoe' to Katherine Rundell's 'The Explorer'.

RESULTS

Working with partners Hexham Book Festival, Northumberland Libraries were able to reach over 230 children in primary schools in isolated rural areas and engage them in a quality cultural experience.



NOTTINGHAM LIBRARIES

TITLE: Ideas, People and Power Struggles

DEMOGRAPHIC: Women and young people, aspiring writers and readers of women's fiction

SUMMARY

Nottingham City Libraries ran a series of workshops about the ideas, people and power struggles that shaped our world. These workshops inspired audiences to talk about the power of the novel to open our eyes to injustices, and sometimes even to act as a catalyst for social change. Each workshop facilitator was joined by a special guest to talk about their work, their path to publication and tips for aspiring writers.

RESULTS

The workshops were very powerful, provoking healthy discussions about women in literature, and gave space for participants to take part. Over 50 people attended the events, included those who had not previously engaged with the library. Two in three of those attending said that the events made them want to read more stories or novels.

'Abi Daré shared with us some great tips and also inspired me so much with her talk of hard work and balance; the relentlessness required in working on a novel.'

Participant

'It was very enjoyable and empowering writing a manifesto and I felt very invigorated. I loved the interview section, I loved the prompts - they were brilliant, and I loved that the 'audience' could participate. Great hosts, great guest, great prompts, great questions, great hosts.'

Participant

'Thank you again for offering the mistressclass and for the work that Nottingham libraries are doing during the pandemic.'

Participant

PLYMOUTH LIBRARIES

TITLE: Zine workshop

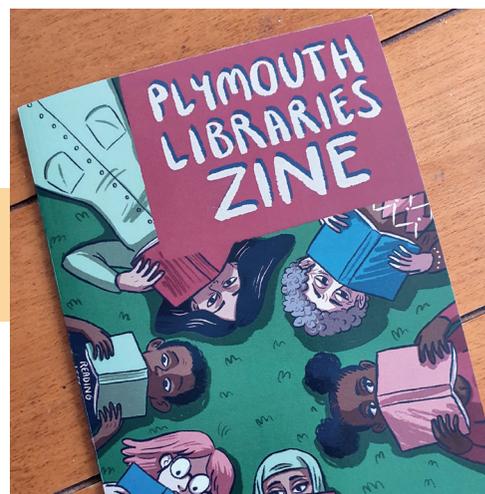
DEMOGRAPHIC: Young adults and teenagers

SUMMARY

Plymouth Libraries worked in partnership with Kitty from Plymouth Zine Library to deliver a zine workshop at the newly rebuilt St Budeaux Library just before the pandemic. Young people were encouraged to respond creatively to novels, themes and characters through writing, illustration and art. Each person created a page that was used to produce a collaborative zine.

RESULTS

The workshop was attended by 14 people from across the city. They received illustrations from attendees and some contributions via email over the past year. These have been used to produce a colourful A5 zine celebrating reading. Copies of the zine were given to contributors, Kitty and Plymouth Libraries.



'The workshop allowed us to have meaningful conversations about some of the books featured on the BBC Novels lists. This was an original and enjoyable event for all those involved and a great opportunity to collaborate and encourage creativity.'

Participant

PORTSMOUTH LIBRARIES

TITLE: Small Island

DEMOGRAPHIC: Refugees and migrant communities and other people of the global majority

SUMMARY

Portsmouth Libraries worked with a local author to deliver a series of creative writing and discussion sessions with two community groups: a refugee group and the members of Chat Over Chai community group. The author, Christine, helped the attendees develop their own creative writing. She took the main theme of 'Small Island' – identity – as the starting point.

RESULTS

Group members really enjoyed the experience of sharing their stories with each other and talking about how storytelling might help their communities. All wrote creatively and demonstrated a positive response to the exercises.



'It was wonderful to see how much group members enjoyed connecting with others and sharing their stories and experiences. Some group members went on to borrow 'Small Island' to read and all responded well to the creative writing exercises. It was obvious that the workshops helped group members bond with each other.'

Event manager

REDBRIDGE, KIKLEES & NEWCASTLE LIBRARIES

TITLE: Book Room of Loss and a conversation with Salena Godden

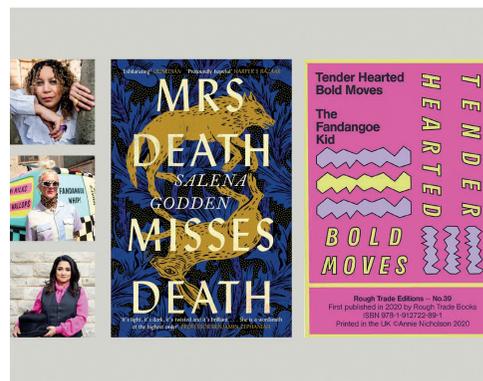
DEMOGRAPHIC: 30-50 year olds

SUMMARY

This project hosted two digital events. The first was a conversation with Salena Godden, hosted by Dr Claire Nally from Northumbria University, in conversation with Salena about her new book 'Mrs Death Misses Death'. For the second, the libraries hosted the 'Book Room of Loss' workshop in partnership with The Loss Project. This was a safe, supportive space for participants to talk about their experiences of grief and loss.

RESULTS

62 people attended the Salena Godden event live. The hour-long recording of the event has been uploaded to Facebook and has had 351 views. 15 people attended the Book Room of Loss event.



'What a great event! Salena was so interesting and her book sounds fascinating. Can't wait to read it!'
Event attendee

'Using fiction as a way to get people to talk about their experiences of death and loss has been a really great way to get people to open up about a difficult subject.'
Event attendee

ROTHERHAM LIBRARIES

TITLE: Paragraph, Page or Poem

DEMOGRAPHIC: Local mining communities

SUMMARY

Rotherham Libraries commissioned local writer Ray Hearne to deliver a series of online workshops to encourage people to get started with creative writing. Three video workshops were created by Ray in partnership with a local video maker and were made available on the Rotherham Libraries Facebook page for three consecutive Wednesdays during March and April 2021.

RESULTS

Nine people sent in creative writing pieces which were used to create the finale video. This was published in May 2021. The project was a positive learning experience for library staff who gained knowledge and skills around partnership development, video making, marketing and appearing on camera.



'Cool – I would so like to write a book about the past year and self-isolation in Rotherham.'

Participant

ROYAL GREENWICH LIBRARIES

TITLE: 100 Tales of Greenwich

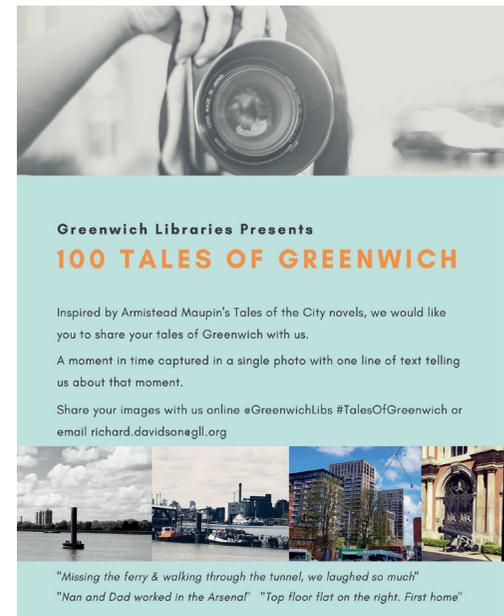
DEMOGRAPHIC: All ages, people who've lived in Greenwich/Woolwich with images to share

SUMMARY

Tales of Greenwich asked people to share with us their tale of Greenwich through a single photo and line of text. Inspired by the Tales of The City books by Armistead Maupin this project encouraged residents to share their tale and their experience of living in Greenwich. Images were shared on Facebook and Twitter. The best ones were selected to be part of a travelling exhibition. Some creative poetry workshops also took place, exploring words and images, all relating to living and loving in Greenwich.

RESULTS

100 Tales of Greenwich was promoted online and on posters in libraries. The response to people submitting photos was low however, those that did engage provided meaningful images and stories related which in turn made the project intimate to the local library to which was displayed.



'A interesting project linking a book, photographs, memories and the local community. The concept of involving community through various mediums made it more accessible.'

Participant

SANDWELL LIBRARIES

TITLE: RAP Project

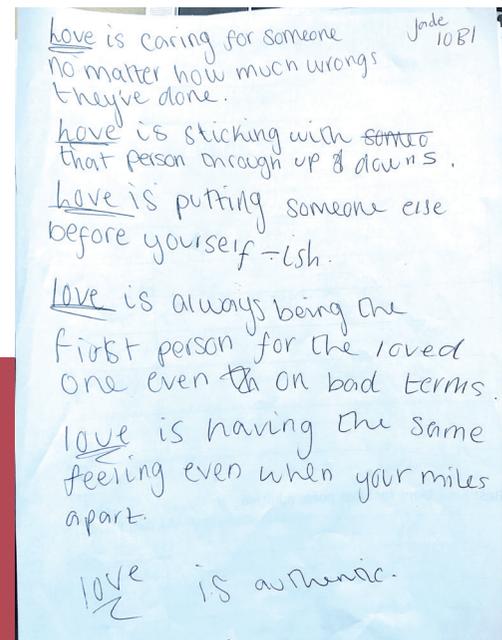
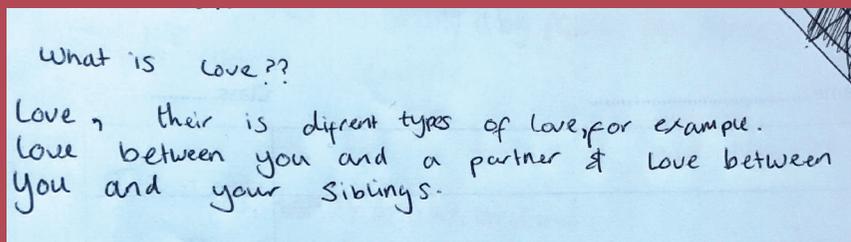
DEMOGRAPHIC: Young people aged 11-16 at a pupil referral unit

SUMMARY

Sandwell Libraries hosted an event at the Westminster Pupil Referral Unit in March, working with artist 'Kurly McGeachie' Birmingham Poet Laureate Finalist 2016/18 and Alison Cope, an anti – violence campaigner whose son was killed in a knife attack. Alison spoke to the children about choices they have and Kurly then discussed the issues raised in 'The Knife that Killed Me by Anthony McGowan'. The young people then produced their own poetry and rap lyrics from some of the themes in the book.

RESULTS

Alison Cope, the speaker on Knife crime really got the attention of the young people. They listened and engaged with her on the topic. This made them more receptive to the poet, Kurly, who did some work with them after the talk. Some of the young people wrote a poem based on the book they had read in class and Alison's talk. These young people have got an Arts Award for the work they did with Kurly. Some of the young people were more receptive to reading and using the library after the event took place.



SHEFFIELD LIBRARIES

TITLE: A Christmas Carol

DEMOGRAPHIC: Lapsed readers and young adults

SUMMARY

Aimed at reluctant readers of all ages, people who don't normally use libraries, young people, families and aspiring writers, Sheffield Libraries created a series of events inspired by 'A Christmas Carol'. There were three strands to the programme: workshops based on the haunting of Ebenezer Scrooge, a creative coding workshop based on 'A Christmas Carol' and the creation of Christmas treats.

RESULTS

All three strands delivered creative reading experiences that the library would never have been able to manage in-house. All the foodbanks and community organisations that received hampers loved the idea. The library service is continuing to work together with the National Videogames Museum on new projects.

'We offered a way into writing; the opportunity to work with an author, the chance for more established writers to improve, and by connecting these emerging writers with audiences via a book and a series of video/audio broadcasts.'

Event manager



Artist credit: Ste Johnson

SHROPSHIRE LIBRARIES

TITLE: Shrewsbury Ark

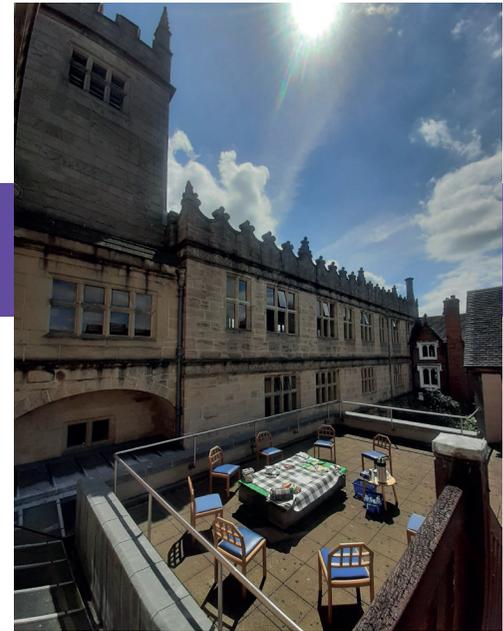
DEMOGRAPHIC: Homeless people

SUMMARY

Shropshire hosted four reading sessions with members of the homeless community in Shrewsbury Library in partnership with the Shrewsbury Ark. They discussed how novels, stories and writing shape our lives. They curated a book collection, which will be gifted and available in the new Shrewsbury Ark premises. Media Active produced a short film about this project, which will be used to break barriers around homelessness.

RESULTS

The project strengthened the partnership with the Shrewsbury Ark and reached the homeless community, breaking down perceptions and barriers. The short film made by Media Active will also allow them to further break perceptions and barriers with stakeholders.



'It made me feel less ashamed when I had book with me while begging. I could escape.'

Participant

'Reading - it's such a great feeling isn't it?'

Staff

'Yeah, 4 or 5 hours not having to listen to your own head.'

Participant

SLOUGH LIBRARIES

TITLE: Novel Voices

DEMOGRAPHIC: Teenagers

SUMMARY

Slough Libraries put on a series of online creative writing and animation workshops with local schools. The workshops gave scope for writing a response as poetry, free-writing (stream of consciousness, reading like a monologue), or short fiction. Students were also given copies of the YA World Book Night title to maintain their interest in reading and encourage the students to pass on their enthusiasm to other young people by providing them with an extra copy each to give a book to a friend.

RESULTS

They engaged 71 young people with the project who were encouraged and supported to read the novel and explore some of the themes and produce a creative response in either animation or creative writing. They created a collection of poems and short stories, a short animated film and two readings were filmed by students. A social media takeover day across the libraries' Facebook and Twitter platforms in May showcased some of the work created, along with the interviews with the artists and they even received a response from Malorie Blackman.



'Thank you very much for having provided us with these memorable events.'

Participant

'The BBC Novel Voices Creative Writing workshop inspired our Year 9 students to write their own short stories and poems about injustice in the world. Becci's virtual workshop was very engaging and the students thoroughly enjoyed their experience. Students delved deeper into Malorie Blackman's Noughts and Crosses novel thanks to Becci's workshop.'

Event manager

SOMERSET LIBRARIES

TITLE: Reflections

DEMOGRAPHIC: Reluctant readers and children in areas of high deprivation

SUMMARY

During the summer, people all over Somerset came to a series of 'Reflections' events and shared their stories through art and film about living through lockdown.

RESULTS

The resulting community artwork exhibition includes contributions from over 150 people and has toured different libraries during the winter. Somerset Libraries also produced a film based on the community stories they gathered which has had over 300 views on YouTube.



STAFFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES

TITLE: Dr Dolittle

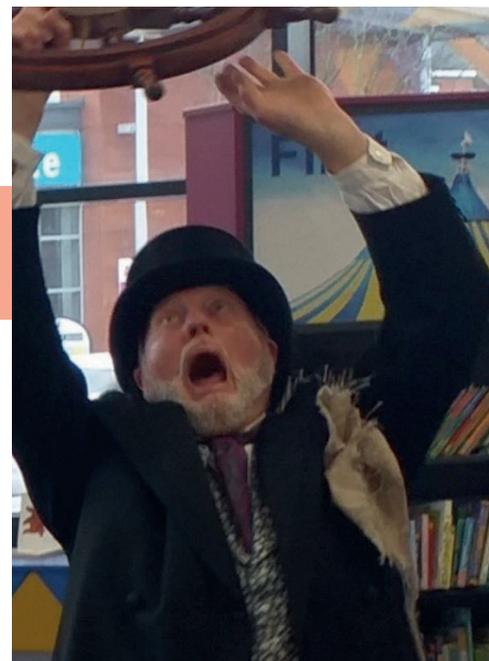
DEMOGRAPHIC: Under fives, schoolchildren and those in prison

SUMMARY

In celebration of World Book Day and the 100th anniversary of the publication of 'Dr Dolittle', Staffordshire Libraries and Drake Hall Prison Library worked with the New Vic Theatre to create an immersive storytelling adventure.

RESULTS

Eight sessions were held across nurseries and primary schools in Newcastle-under-Lyme, the library and Drake Hall Prison to a targeted audience of nursery and primary school age children and the families of prison residents. The programme of activity reached over 230 children and 50 adults.



'The visit to the library to see Dr Dolittle and the opportunity for the children to choose books after the event was so special. Those children that weren't already members now want to become library members.'

Teacher

'Thank you for a wonderful event. The children all wanted to read Dr Dolittle when they returned to school.'

Teacher

'This was amazing. It was like going to the theatre but without the cost. We can't afford to do that.'

Parent

50

STOCKTON-ON-TEES LIBRARIES

TITLE: Swallows and Amazons

DEMOGRAPHIC: Families, young people and diverse communities

SUMMARY

Stockton Libraries' programme of activity centred around a 'Swallows and Amazons' themed online escape room experience, helping to bring to life elements from the book such as code-cracking, survival skills and adventure. Activities were all online, using social and other media to reach out to families and young people to spark excitement around the power of books.

RESULTS

59 people took part in the escape room puzzle and 37 have completed it. Participants were from a range of locations, including Finland, Canada, Singapore, USA and Sweden. People took part from across the UK.



'We had a fantastic response from escape room experts keen to work with a library to create something a little bit different.'

Emma Tennant, Libraries Development Officer

STOKE-ON-TRENT LIBRARIES

TITLE: Identity

DEMOGRAPHIC: Refugees and asylum seekers

SUMMARY

The theme of the craft activity was identity, with a focus on festivals and celebration and Stoke on Trent Libraries worked with The Cultural Sisters, a local arts organisation and ASHA a local language centre for refugees. Following a wonderful discussion about celebrations and festivals in their home countries the participants were then set the task of creating a mini version of themselves, using the resources and library books for inspiration.

RESULTS

Around 25 of ASHA's service users took part in the workshop.



SWINDON LIBRARIES

TITLE: Rule Breakers

DEMOGRAPHIC: Young people not in education, employment or training and the general public

SUMMARY

Swindon Libraries worked with storyteller and author Bernadette Russell to create two amazing events. The first show, '366 Days of Kindness Tour', was part stand-up, part storytelling, that attempts to answer the question: 'Is it possible to change the world just by being kind?' The second was a free 'Manifesto of Me' workshop for young people (14-25) that encouraged self care and self compassion and let participants imagine their dreams. The workshop encouraged them to create a collection of their hopes and dreams, using writing prompts, collage and drawing, thinking, discussion.

RESULTS

Our 366 Days of Kindness was well received. Our audience ranged in age from 15-80 years, and those who had never been in the library were keen to return. Attendees also wrote notes of positivity that were put in books for Libraries Week.



'Inspiring performance.'

Event attendee

'We'll definitely be back.'

Event attendee

'I loved it.'

Event attendee

WAKEFIELD LIBRARIES

TITLE: Family Fantasy Fun Day

DEMOGRAPHIC: Families experiencing economic hardship

SUMMARY

As part of their Family Fantasy Fun Day, Wakefield commissioned local storyteller Storytrails to write and perform a play, 'Derek the Dragon and the Key of Worlds'. They produced a digital workshop offering themed coding, online and digital events. A freelance home economist also ran hands-on sessions for parents and children to make healthy snacks together.

RESULTS

180 visitors came and many stayed for a whole morning to explore everything. The library service was able to offer a commission for a new work to a local creative artist and to further develop a relationship with partners working on an exciting new Council service, Fifty Things to do before you are Five, who organised an interactive outdoor space filled with activities for families to try.



WARWICKSHIRE LIBRARIES

TITLE: Our Story

DEMOGRAPHIC: Different generations of families from diverse backgrounds

SUMMARY

A digital storytelling project with Richard O'Neill and Kate Colman who shared their stories online as well as giving insights into their storytelling lives and influences. Richard gave a three-part tutorial on How to Tell a Story and both he and Kate had some fantastic tales to engage audiences young and old. The team shared Our Story, Your Story videos throughout November on social media accounts and they can be viewed on their dedicated Our Story, Your Story webpage.

RESULTS

The story series reached 11,936 people on Facebook. The library page had 770 page views and the YouTube videos received 218 views.



'It made a huge positive difference during lockdown particularly.'

Event attendee

'This sounds great and much needed.'

Event attendee

WEST SUSSEX LIBRARY SERVICE

TITLE: Conversations about the Novels that Shaped Our World

DEMOGRAPHIC: Those experiencing bereavement, loneliness or mental health challenges

SUMMARY

West Sussex Libraries hosted three online author events in February 2021, with Elly Griffiths, Isabel Ashdown and Jane Lythell. The bestselling local writers discussed the books that have inspired and influenced them and the role that reading has played in their lives. West Sussex also launched their own podcast following the events.

RESULTS

The project has had several very positive outcomes. The library service has a renewed relationship with partners and authors, an engaged audience with an appetite for more digital events, YouTube content they can continue to share, a brand-new podcast series, some upskilled librarians and improved connections with other library services and Libraries Connected.



'I have let my reading lapse and this has fired up my enthusiasm again.'

Event attendee

'A very interesting session, especially concerning the development and behaviour of character in novels.'

Thank you very much for an absorbing hour.'

Event attendee

WIRRAL LIBRARIES

TITLE: Aesop's Fables

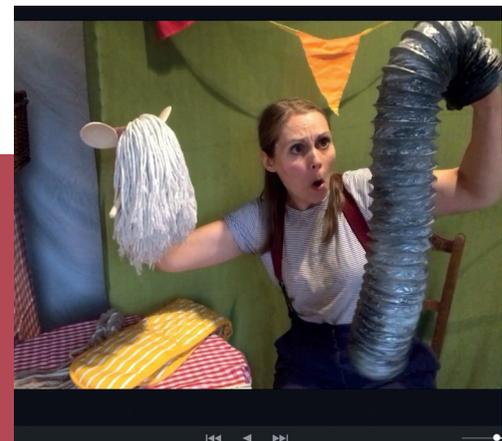
DEMOGRAPHIC: Families with under fives

SUMMARY

Wirral Libraries commissioned two short videos from Stute Theatre based on Aesop's Fables. 'Fables at the Kitchen Table' featured music, song and puppetry, using household materials and objects. The performances were screened on Facebook and YouTube and were subtitled. Stute Theatre provided post-performance empathy worksheets for participants so that children had activities to complete at their leisure with their families and carers.

RESULTS

The videos were viewed over 1000 times on Facebook, with 177 views on YouTube. The videos brought new audiences to their social media channels. Wirral Libraries also saw an increase in their e-book issues during the event period.



'The performance was magical.'

Event attendee

'Lovely version of a story I have known for years. Beautifully told by a very engaging (and musical!) storyteller.'

Event attendee

WOKINGHAM LIBRARIES

TITLE: Authors into schools and authors online

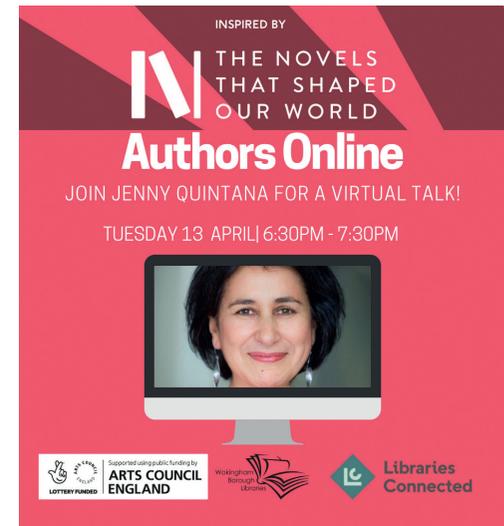
DEMOGRAPHIC: Schoolchildren and adults with learning disabilities

SUMMARY

Wokingham Libraries organised seven Authors into Schools events which ran virtually via MS Teams and three Authors Online events for adults. Authors Online featured Jenny Quintana, Simon Brett and Ruqaya Izzidien. The sessions were run as interviews between a member of library staff and the author followed by questions from the audience.

RESULTS

18 schools took part in the project and 2248 logged into the sessions with 5210 teachers, parents and young people watching. In total 5210 attended the seven author sessions. The three sessions of Authors Online registered 74 logins but there were more people watching, sometimes two with each login.



'We had a lot of positive feedback on the Serena Patel event as we have a number of aspiring authors in our class. Only one child had read one of her accidental detective books, and she gave great feedback to the class, that may encourage others to try her books too.'

A teacher's response to Authors in Schools

WORCESTERSHIRE LIBRARIES

TITLE: JOY Project

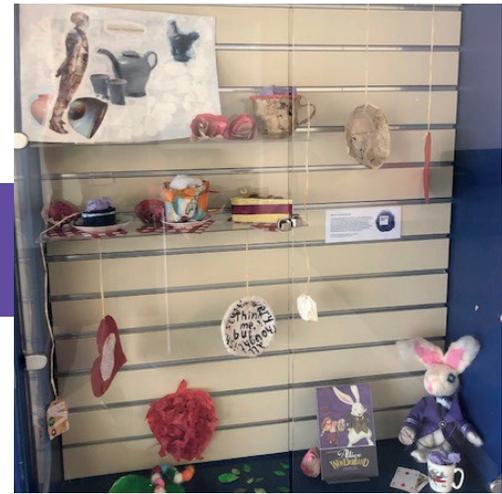
DEMOGRAPHIC: Women who've experienced domestic abuse

SUMMARY

Worcester Community Trust's JOY project works with women who are re-building their life after domestic abuse or just years out of the workplace. In partnership with Claire Hilton, a qualified Art Therapist, the team worked with the women to shape how to respond to the topic of novels.

RESULTS

The work with the woman was quite challenging in that many of them really couldn't talk about novels as they had limited recent experience of reading them. Some classics were mentioned, usually children's books, in particular Alice in Wonderland and The Very Hungry Caterpillar, which interestingly both have food as a focus at least at one point in the novel. The team are continuing to work with them to develop confidence to come to the library, to engage with the idea of telling stories and novels and demystifying the idea of reading and novels, supporting them to identify the barriers and benefits of reading.



Email:
info@librariesconnected.org.uk

Twitter:
[@libconnected](https://twitter.com/libconnected)

Or join our mailing list at:
librariesconnected.org.uk/signup



**Libraries
Connected**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**