

Appendix 2

Library and Information Service Hub Libraries highlights 2018 – 2019

The Service's highlights reflect the DCMS "Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021" approach, which identifies the following strategic purposes: 1. Reading and literacy, 2. Digital literacy, 3. Health and wellbeing, 4. Economic growth, 5. Culture and creativity, 6. Communities, and 7. Information and learning.

1 Reading and literacy

- 1.1 The **Summer Reading Challenge** is a national Reading Agency promotion for primary school children and takes place over the summer holidays. Research has shown that reading levels dip after long holidays so we try to encourage children to continue to read over the summer. We have books to support the theme each year, physical as well as e-book collections – this year it was **Mischief Makers** and each library had its own themed events and activities. 3,091 children 4-11 years olds took part and 1,599 completed by reading 6 library books which is over 50% which was our target. Our children's issues over the summer were 81,940 and there were 48 free events and over 500 children attended. The best loved event was *Dodger dog* coming into the library to read his story book (with help from his owner of course).

We had 69 volunteers help us run the challenge – it takes extra time and so we do need their help as some libraries can have over 400 children coming in during the holidays and they all like to tell us about the books they have read. Most of our volunteers are over 25 and some of them have jobs but just want to give back to the community in their spare time. They did 452 volunteer hours for us.

1.2 ESOL

All hub libraries have worked with Adult Learning and ESOL students to support their learning and development. Students have attended the libraries for library induction programmes and to join the library. At Downham 32 students from the Grove Park Centre took part in this programme. Whilst at Deptford staff have supported various reading groups both within the library and at the Indo Chinese Community Centre.

The Reading Ahead programme in collaboration with Adult Learning Lewisham and Lewisham and Southwark College has supported learners in their learning, reading and development throughout the whole year. At the end of the year the group were presented with a certificate in recognition of all their hard work.

1.3 World Book Night at Lewisham

World Book Night is held in April annually. This national Reading Agency promotion is to celebrate reading and books and the difference reading makes to people's lives, especially to those who may not necessarily read very much.

Lewisham Libraries had 160 copies to give away of *The Forgiveness Project* – an adult non-fiction title for anyone facing adversity or difficulties.

Our target was to engage with young people and those who work with them so there was an evening of talks in Lewisham Library by **Hussein Hussein** (CAPE Mentors)

discussing giving “problem children” a second chance, by **Barry** and **Margaret Mizen** (Jimmy Foundation) talking about reaching forgiveness and moving forward and by **Robert Mitchell** on practicing Mindfulness. We also held a Secondary School event for 40 14-15 year-olds at Deptford Library based on self-help.

1.4 **Black History Month**

Throughout the month of October we celebrated Black History Month 2018. The annual commemoration of the history, achievements and the contributions of the black community and continues to be an integral part of the celebrations.

All Libraries promoted and displayed an array of books, eBooks, audio books, films and information celebrating Black History Month 2018. Listed below is a flavour of some of the talks, events and exhibitions held.

A performance by the Iroko Theatre Company featured African drumming and folk tales. This was attended by 30 people at Lewisham Library.

Finding out about your past or ancestors is very popular with people of African or Caribbean descent. Family historian Paul Crooks hosted 2 events where he talked about how people of African and Caribbean heritage can research their ancestors. These events were attended by 35 and 40 people.

Downham hosted an exhibition by local artists on the theme of popular culture and social issues. The Library also had a display about those from the Commonwealth countries and Africa who fought in the First and Second World War.

A picture treasure hunt about famous black people for under 14 and under, attracted a total of 95 young people.

Tola the author of the “Daddy Do My Hair” series offered interactive craft and story sessions to support this author event.

The life, outlook and philosophy of Robert Nesta Marley in the form of Tuff Gong’s 2012’s acclaimed in-depth biographical documentary was celebrated. This incorporated a librarian’s voyage into Bob Marley’s music via the influence of Mento, the explosion of ska and insurgence into the UK and wider interest into the Rasta philosophy, Roots music and beyond. The event was followed by a very lively debate session which was very well attended.

As always, music played a big part in the Black History Month celebrations. There were exhibitions on the history of gospel music and its impact and performances from young artist, singing and discussing their work as young black artist and barriers they face.

The events, activities and talks attracted more than 800 participants.

2 **Digital literacy**

- 2.1 We engage with Lewishamers on social media platforms Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. We are also able to provide information about upcoming events, displays, promotions, seasonal closures and answer enquiries in between visits.

We have answered a wide range of enquiries:

Comments about our displays or the large papier-mâché model of the Gruffalo at Lewisham Library. <https://twitter.com/snailtrail/status/1091310455824531456>

Photos of what they are reading

<https://twitter.com/LewishamLibs/status/1092728348227309568>
That time a cat got in the book returns box
<https://twitter.com/MHLibraryLee/status/1095006304970645504>
Thanks <https://twitter.com/preater/status/1094883520353325056>
https://twitter.com/LondonRaine___/status/1087436652350488578
Best audiobook to put you to sleep at night
Bookstart club books

2.2 Digital literacy

People of Lewisham enjoy reading. We have been offering digital books to Lewishamers since 2010. With a Lewisham Library card, residents get access to three apps RBDigital, Libby and Press Reader. Libby offers access to 8,648 books, of which 1,700 are e audiobooks. With RBDigital there are 761 magazines, 217 comics and 5,087 audio books. PressReader provides access to 7,319 newspapers and magazines.

The most borrowed digital book from Libby for this period is
*The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life (unabridged)* by Mark Manson

Followed by

This is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor by Adam Kay

Normal People by Sally Rooney

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind (unabridged) by Yuval Noah Harari

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix: Harry Potter Series, Book 5 (unabridged) by J. K. Rowling

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets: Harry Potter Series, Book 2 (unabridged) by J. K. Rowling

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Read by Eddie Redmayne (unabridged) by J. K. Rowling

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince: Harry Potter Series, Book 6 (unabridged) by J. K. Rowling

Average eBorrower typically consults 19 books a year, however our top eBorrower, took out a whopping 404 titles in that period. The next top eBorrower, got through 202 books.

2.3 Research Collections

We have 17 online reference databases which include business databases, encyclopaedias, dictionaries and historical newspapers, most of which can be accessed remotely.

A Lewisham Library card gives access to eClassroom, Residents can learn about history, business, the arts and more from any device.

They can also view multi language, independent film through Indieflix (RBDigital)

Digital magazines and newspapers allow residents to keep up to date with current affairs and issues including all the UK National papers, the Guardian, Financial times and more. They also have access to weekly magazines such as the Economist and New Scientist.

3 Health and wellbeing

Health has been the focus for many events for the period 2018/2019. Lewisham continues to host the health lectures, a total of 16 in the past year. The most popular topics have been safe sex, sport injury, diabetes, healthy eating, men's mental health

and drug resistance. A total of 176 people attended these lectures.

- 3.1 Downham hosted **Work Well** which as an organisation whose is to support people experiencing symptoms of stress and anxiety and or depression to get them back into paid employment.

Two resident artists delivered workshops for children under 14 on the theme of mental health. A total of 97 children took part, writing poetry, making comics and sharing ideas and thoughts about wellbeing. These workshops were part of the SPINE festival.

3.2 **Home Library Service**

The Home Library Service Team visit residents who are unable to get to a library due to age, disabilities or mental health problems. A profile is created for each customer who then receives a monthly visit with a selection of items just for them. Staff visit people of all ages both in their own homes, in sheltered units or residential/nursing homes. Some of the feedback from customers include:

“You raise my spirits, thank you. I feel I can do so much more now”.

“Without this service I’d probably lose my wits. I just love to read, it’s my passion.”

“I very much enjoyed your suggestion of Val McDermid, please bring more of hers”.

“As a nursing home we have greatly appreciated having access to iPads, they have brought modern technology to our residents and greatly enhanced our activities with them”.

4 **Economic growth**

4.1 **SiLL**

Start-ups in London Libraries (SiLL) is a business support programme led by the British Library’s Business & IP Centre to support 12,000 Start-up businesses and entrepreneurs across London to develop the insight, skills and confidence they need to start and grow successful businesses.

Lewisham is one of 10 boroughs participating in this initiative. A SiLL Project Champion has been recruited for the borough. The person is responsible for coordinating the activities of the libraries within the borough, creating awareness of the services and developing relationships with local stakeholders, business networks and Small and Medium Sized enterprises. SiLL is funded by the European Regional Development, The British Library, J.P. Morgan and Arts Council England.

4.2 **Downham refurbishment.**

The current library opened in 2006 and was looking a little tired and due for a mini refurbishment. The library was closed for 3 weeks from February 6th and reopened with new flooring, LED lights, a redecorated space which includes movable shelving units which will make for a more flexible use of the space for events and activities. New furniture and signage completed the makeover. The space looks bright and inviting to use.

5 Culture and creativity

5.1 Lewisham Heritage team

Over the past year the Local History and Archive Centre at Lewisham Library has arranged talks, exhibitions or hosted events. The LHAC has also supported local students with the production of a useful briefing for students from Goldsmiths and welcomed a delegation from The Society of Genealogists.

5.2 Events

St Mary's Church is the oldest building in Lewisham. A tour was organised with local historian Julian Watson. The turnout was fantastic. There were 37 people for this 2 hour tour. The visit to the crypt and the tower were especially popular.

5.3 Exhibitions

Sister Daisy Ankers, Lewisham Military Hospital, women's contribution to the war effort. The local history and archives centre hold her autograph book which was signed by wounded soldiers most of whom were gassed at Ypres.

Unknown Warriors: the medical front in Lewisham & Unknown Warriors

The History of St Mary's Church.

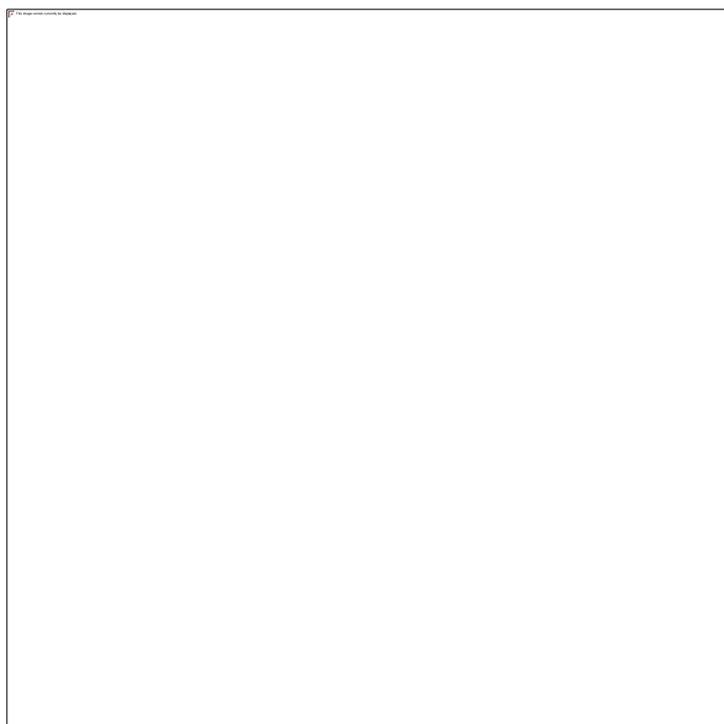
Suffrage Centenary: Exhibition on local suffrage struggle.

5.4 Talks

The Life and activism of Kath Duncan was held in Deptford by Ray Barron Woolford. Feedback was very positive. Comments included "The passion of the speaker, his depth of knowledge and the fact that it is free and in the local library!"

Comrade Kath – a brief life of Kath Duncan

Kath Duncan, communist political activist in 1920s and 30s Deptford, is the subject of a new play Liberty and a biography The Last Queen of Scotland by Ray Barron Woolford. Red Blouse Theatre, a local radical theatre company first formed in the 1930s and newly re-formed for the Deptford Heritage Festival, will stage the play in February 2019.



Kath Duncan addressing a crowd during the great Gas Fight.

Women's work in the First World War. This illustrated talk by Dr Anne Logan, University of Kent, illustrated the many types of war related work which women undertook between 1914-1918 and assessed the impact upon women in society.

The past year has seen the increased use of social media to promote local history and archives within the borough. The Heritage blog has been used to promote exhibitions and advertise information resources. From workhouse to wellbeing – a history of University Hospital Lewisham is an example of one of the posts.