



Libraries Make A Difference Delivering Portsmouth Library and Archive Service

April-June 2022



Jubilee crown making activity at Alderman Lacey Library in June

Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee in libraries!



All libraries celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee throughout June with a range of activities, displays and exhibitions.

Portsmouth History Centre hosted a display focusing on the Queen's many visits to Portsmouth over the years, using archives from the collections. These included letters, photographs, newspaper articles, souvenir brochures and commemorative stamps. The royal visits covered a range of occasions from the 1946 opening of the NAAFI Club (as Princess Elizabeth), to the re-opening of the Guildhall in 1959, the Silver Jubilee in 1977, a Maundy service at Portsmouth Cathedral in 1998 right up to a 2021 visit to the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth before it departed from Portsmouth Harbour, as well as several Fleet Reviews.



All libraries created children's displays for the Jubilee with dressing up

boxes for children available in some libraries and some wonderful decorations including a sentry box at Central Library and Big Ben at Beddow Library.

North End Library created an interactive jigsaw that children could add their own pieces to over the week.

Paulsgrove Library created a timeline display of the Queen's reign.

Southsea Library's teddy bears' tea party window display saw lots of attention!



Central Library took visitors on a tour of each decade since the Jubilee with displays featuring popular culture through the years.

Libraries also hosted Jubilee tea parties and activities for children.

Eighteen children and their parents/carers bought tickets for the Alderman Lacey Jubilee tea party. They listened to a story and then tucked into cupcakes and squash. Afterwards they could complete a quiz hunt, finding



photos of corgis with a corresponding letter of the alphabet. They also took turns at sticking a paper crown on a corgi and completed Jubilee themed colouring and word searches. A good time was had by all!

Central Library hosted three morning activities and around thirty children attended each. As the days moved on more children filtered in and out with their families so there were thirty-fifty children per day in attendance.

Twenty-four children attended Central's tea party. The Royal Bingo game was a huge success!

Cosham Library's Reading Friends group hosted a party for adults and children at the library which featured Jubilee bingo, a quiz and foods from around the world. The event was well attended with lots of engagement with the activities and lots of requests to join the group.

The Information and Stock Team created a Jubilee Freegal playlist on our eMusic platform. The playlist gave library card holders the chance to hear popular music from each of the decades of the Queen's reign. It was so popular the company that run Freegal- Library Ideas- adopted the playlist for use by all of its customers around the world!



Portsmouth MysteryFest:

Portsmouth BookFest wrapped up on the weekend of Saturday 12th March with the annual



Portsmouth MysteryFest. The event has become a popular yearly fixture at the festival and this year's event was a great success with a wide range of authors attending from around the country. Authors Leigh Russell, Chris Blackwater, Linda Regan, Carole Westron, Alison Morton and Priscilla Masters can be seen in the photographs (Photos courtesy of Jack Halsall digital-thread.org)



Gnome House craft activity:

Beddow Library hosted a craft activity for children- making their very own gnome houses!



Covid vaccination pop up at Beddow Library:



During the winter Beddow Library became a Covid vaccination pop up Centre. The library is well located to reach a large community. Some libraries also became Covid test kit distribution centres throughout the springtime. This was an ideal opportunity to promote the library offer to new visitors.

Reading Friends

The group regularly meet at Cosham Library and have taken part in celebrations marking the Platinum Jubilee and Eid. The group also paid a visit to the D-Day Landing Craft.



Mobile Library visits:

Our Mobile Library Driver, Carole, took the Mobile Library to the Pregnancy, Birth and Beyond community event at Cockleshell Community Centre in Eastney on Sunday 8th May. This event was a great opportunity to promote all the services libraries offer to babies, children, families and carers. Carole was also able to help a couple of mums to re-join the library after their cards had lapsed years ago.

Driver Kevin also took the Mobile to Lyndhurst School on Tuesday 17th May- the visit was in response to a request from the school and membership forms were shared with pupils and parents/carers before the visit so that the children could receive their cards on the bus. One hundred children borrowed a book and approx. half of the children joined the library.

The Mobile Library will be seen at several events in the city over the summer - more visits to schools and we will be attending Victorious Festival in August.



Easter Holiday activities:

On Thursday 14th April, Alderman Lacey Library hosted its Easter Basket Activity.

The children made and decorated their own baskets which they filled with little eggs and Easter chicks.

Thirty children and twenty-five



parents attended this event: everyone said they had a great time.

Alderman Lacey Library also hosted its Easter Butterfly Activity on Thursday 21st April. Twenty-seven children and twenty four adults attended.

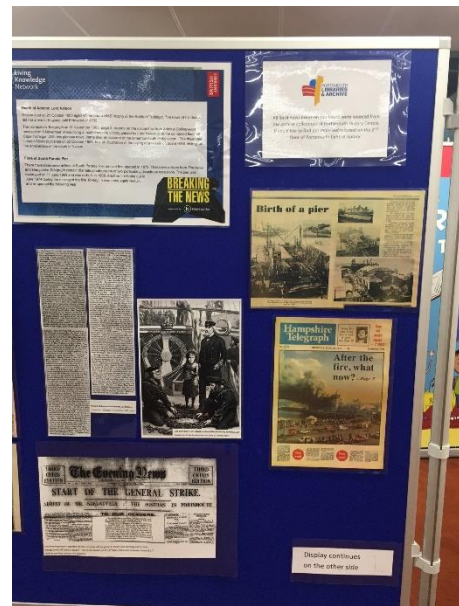


The library was awash with glitter. One parent said it was lovely to have something like this happening locally for her children.

British Library Breaking The News exhibition:

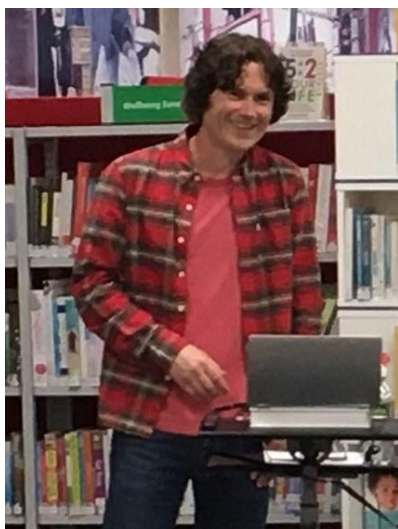


Central Library was home to some brilliant exhibition panels from the British Library's Breaking The News



exhibition. The exhibition explored how the news is reported- from the Great Fire of London to Black Lives Matter. It aimed to "challenge and change the way you think about the news". Here in Portsmouth our History Centre team also added some fascinating archival news articles from our own collection. The display board included Portsmouth newspapers' coverage of major news events including the death of Lord Nelson, the general strike of 1926, the Falklands Conflict, the moon landings and Brexit. There were also stories such as fires at South Parade Pier, Portsmouth's FA Cup victories and the Grand Naval Review of 1856. Portsmouth's first printed newspaper was the Portsmouth and Gosport Gazette in the mid-17th century but before that pamphlets were widely used to report news stories and discuss important issues of the day. There were several local examples on display, including some on Portsmouth's role in the Civil War.

The Portsmouth Central Library panels were free to visit during normal library opening times. Portsmouth Central Library is part of the British Library Living Knowledge Network- a network of major UK libraries. To visit the full London exhibition (which runs until August) see <https://www.bl.uk/events/breaking-the-news> for tickets.



Greener Gardening:

Gardening writer and columnist Martyn Cox gave some brilliant talks at Southsea Library on Wednesday 11th May evening, at Cosham Library on Saturday 11th June and at Beddow Library on Saturday 18th June on the subject of How To Be A Greener Gardener. Martyn gave lots of practical tips and plenty of ideas about pollinating plants, using eco friendly pots and tools, composting and lots more. Martyn also took the opportunity to promote the Southsea seafront garden centre.

Worldwide Doyle

Conan Doyle Project Officer Laura Weston arranged four talks on 23, 24, 25 and 26 May via Zoom to an International audience, including USA, Germany, Canada and a remote island off Mexico! The talks focussed on different aspects of Doyle's life and writings.

- Michael Comben from Portsmouth Football Club (Portsmouth History Society) -gave a talk on 'Conan Doyle as A.C.Smith - Football and Portsmouth'
- Dr Antonija Primorac from Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Rijeka gave a talk called 'In Search of Sherlock Holmes's Doubles: Translation and Early Pastiches of A. C. Doyle's *World Famous Detective*'
- David Gigauri gave a talk on his book about Conan-Doyle and the 'Magnificent Mdivani'
- Dr Anne Chapman, Academic Development Tutor at GCU London University talked about 'Arthur Conan Doyle in *The Idler Magazine*'

We have had fantastic feedback directly from the audience and offers of further collaborations from all the speakers.

The themes taken from these talks by one of our Detectives will be given to Art Invisible and Make at Aldingbourne for their arts group to devise a creative response to.

Local Authors' Fair at Southsea Library:



Southsea Library hosted ten local authors on Friday 10th June. This annual event gives local authors and writers the chance to showcase their work and sell their books as well as make connections with other local authors.

School Library Service

Portsmouth Year 7/8 Literature Quiz



Just under 100 pupils from 6 Portsmouth secondary schools attended the quiz at Fratton Park's Victory Lounge on Thursday 28 April.

In a fiercely competitive but fun quiz, where pupils were tested on their knowledge of books by visiting authors, teams from Mayfield School came both first and second place, with three teams

from St Edmund's School claiming joint third place.

This is the first year that Mayfield School have won the quiz since it was launched in 2008.

After the quiz, pupils enjoyed an exclusive Q&A session with our guest authors, Eve Ainsworth, Kathryn Evans and Andrew Norriss. The quiz also benefits each year from volunteer support by PGCE English teacher trainees from University of Portsmouth.



Portsmouth Year 5 Book Award



The winner of the Portsmouth Year 5 Book Award 2022 was announced in front of a full house of excited pupils at the Kings Theatre on Thursday 9 June. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress congratulated Chris Priestley, whose book, *Freeze* was voted the winner from a shortlist of five books by over 1200 Year Five pupils from twenty-three schools in the city. Pupils from Mayfield School (pictured) performed a drama based on the book and pupils from

Copnor Primary School performed a specially written poem. Portsmouth's Year 5 Reading Champions, pupils from Ark Ayrton Primary Academy and Portsdown Primary School, were also recognised. All the primary schools make a nomination for a pupil who is an avid reader and enthuses others around them to love books and reading as well.

Year 8/9 Book Award

The winner of the Portsmouth Year 8/9 Book Award was revealed in front of a packed crowd of secondary school students on Wednesday 15 June in the Menuhin Room at Central Library.

CL Taylor's young adult thriller, *The Island* was an overwhelmingly popular choice.

Amelia Vaughan from Mayfield School and Kevin Timpson from Charter Academy School were both named as Reading Champions. Sara Sonny from Mayfield School was also given a prize for submitting artwork inspired by this year's four shortlisted novels.



Year 1 Picture Book Award

The 2022 winner was announced Thursday 23 June as *Flea Seeks Dog* by Will Mabbitt and Nathan Reed.

2066 pupils from 32 schools were involved, selecting their favourite picture book from a shortlist of four.

The winning author attended celebration events in several schools with over 600 pupils from Wimborne; Devonshire Infants; Gatcombe Park; Copnor Primary; St Paul's RC Primary; Beacon View and Court Lane Schools.



Well over 3000 Portsmouth pupils have taken part in the three award categories this year. The Kings Theatre also supported the awards by purchasing a complete set of shortlisted books for each participating school.

Michael Morpurgo - Platinum Jubilee

120 Year 4 and 5 pupils from St. Jude's School attended Central Library on **Monday 23 May** to listen to superstar children's author, Michael Morpurgo talk about his new picture book, *There Once Is A Queen*, published to coincide with the Platinum Jubilee.



In association with The Reading Agency and HarperCollins, 5000 copies of the book have been gifted to all public libraries in the UK and the event was also live-streamed, in partnership with the University of Portsmouth's School of Film, Media and Communication to thousands of pupils across the UK.

Reading Sparks

As part of our participation in Reading Sparks, a project that aims to increase engagement in Science and Technology, author Konnie Huq presented a special event at Central Library on Thursday 26 May, with students from Arundel Court, Ark Ayrton and St John's primary schools.

Children were delighted to learn more about Konnie's *Cookie!* book series, which follows a girl's adventures into science. These are accessible reads featuring sketches and comic book illustrations with hands-on activities for children.

