

Inspire Libraries & Beyond What's On

April – July 2024

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Booking Information

Tickets for events can be booked online, in person at the library, or by calling Ask Inspire on 01623 677 200. Tickets are

non-refundable unless an event is cancelled. Programme is subject to change and all details are correct at time of print.

Eventbrite are our ticket provider. [Read their accessibility statement on their website.](#)

Access

Beeston, Mansfield Central Library, Worksop and West Bridgford libraries are all accessible to wheelchair users with ramp access, lifts to upper floors and disabled toilets.

Please let us know if you require a wheelchair for ticketed events or have access needs. [Visit your local library webpage](#) for more information.

Accreditations

As an organisation we are proud to have received the Investors in Diversity Award. We are also:

- Carer Friendly
- Breastfeeding Friendly
- Dementia Friendly
- Disability Confident
- Family Arts Standard registered
- Hidden Disability Sunflower members

[Find out more about our vision and values on our website.](#)

Summer Reading Challenge

Marvellous Makers

- All Inspire Libraries – Saturday 6 July – Sunday 1 September

Free. No booking required.

The Summer Reading Challenge is produced by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with libraries. The challenge, aimed at children aged 4 - 11 years, is to read six or more library books over the summer. Get creative with this year's Summer Reading Challenge – Marvellous Makers!

Children and Families

Exhibition

Expression

- Worksop, Newark, Retford and Southwell Libraries – Saturday 13 July – Sunday 8 September

FREE. No booking required.

Inspire's 2024 Artist and Author In Residence, Amanda Rigby and Mark Grist have collaborated with primary aged children to create an expressive exhibition, inspired by the Summer Reading Challenge theme.

Under 5s

Little Creatives

- Arnold Library – 13 April, 11 May, 8 June, 13 July
- Balderton Library – 2 April, 7 May, 4 June
- Beeston Library - 9 April, 14 May, 11 June, 9 July
- Bingham Library – 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July
- Hucknall Library – 12 April, 10 May, 14 June ,12 July
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library – 4 April, 2 May, 6 June, 4 July
- Mansfield Central Library – 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July
- Newark Library – 2 July
- Retford Library – 2 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July
- Southwell Library – 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July
- Sutton-in-Ashfield Library – 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July
- West Bridgford Library – 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July
- Worksop Library – 6 April, 4 May, 1 June, 6 July

Sessions at 10 am -10.45 am or 11.15 am - 12 pm

Free. Booking essential.

Join us for creative art sessions specifically designed by artists for children aged 2-5 and their families. Book one or more dates and choose a session time that suits you. All children must be accompanied.

Under 5s

[Adventures in Music](#)

Starting from 15 April

Free. Booking Advised.

Adventures in Music uses music and movement to develop your child's language skills, spark their imagination and build their confidence.

Suitable for children aged 2 – 5.

Children must be supervised throughout the sessions.

Start dates for each library will vary. For full dates and times visit: <https://www.inspireculture.org.uk/arts-culture/children-and-families/>

Libraries include:

- Arnold
- Balderton
- Beeston
- Bingham
- Carlton Hill
- Cotgrave
- Eastwood
- Hucknall
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield
- Mansfield Central
- Retford
- Southwell
- Stapleford
- Sutton-in-Ashfield
- Worksop

Under 5s

[The Lullaby Bank](#)

- Beeston Library -Thursdays at 10.30am starting 18 April
- Bingham Library - Tuesdays at 10.30am starting 16 April
- Carlton Hill Library – Wednesdays at 10.30am starting 17 April
- Cotgrave Library – Wednesdays at 1.30pm starting 17 April
- Eastwood Library – Thursdays at 9.30am starting 18 April

Free. Booking advised.

The Lullaby Bank is for mums and babies from 0 – 9 months to relax and bond in a calm space. Sing and listen to melodies from around the world. A partnership between Inspire Music and Music for Everyone.

Family Concert

[Fantastic Festivals](#)

- Sutton-in-Ashfield Library – Saturday 18 May, 12pm
- Mansfield Central Library – Saturday 8 June, 1pm
- Bingham Library – Saturday 22 June, 1pm

£4 library members or £7 non- library members. Booking advised.

Join us for a fun visit to our Festival of Tunes.

Our concert series aims to introduce children to the music we all love.

After the performance meet the musicians and try out some of the instruments for yourself. For children aged 5 – 11.

Children's Author Event

[Petr Horáček](#)

- Beeston Library – Saturday 27 April, 10.30am
- West Bridgford Library – Saturday 27 April, 2pm

£3. Accompanying adults free. Booking advised.

Hear Petr read from his hugely popular books. Watch as he shares illustrations and demonstrates how to draw the characters, and find out how he develops ideas for his amazing stories.

Children's Author Event

[Tyrannosaur's Feathers with Jonathan Emmett](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Saturday 11 May, 11am

£3. Accompanying adults free. Booking advised.

Join author Jonathan Emmett for an amusing and informative look at how and why T. rex's appearance has changed dramatically since the giant prehistoric predator was first unearthed over a century ago. For children aged 6 – 11.

Children's Author Event

[Loretta Schauer](#)

- Retford Library – Saturday 27 April, 10.30am
- Worksop Library – Saturday 27 April, 2pm

£3. Accompanying adults free. Booking advised.

Join author and illustrator Loretta Schauer for a session packed full of fun and creativity.

Family Theatre

MishMash Productions presents: [Ruby's Worry](#)

- Mansfield Central Library - Sunday 16 June, 11:30am and 1:30pm
- Beeston Library - Saturday 29 June, 10.30am

£4 library members. £7 non-library members. Booking advised.

Told through live music, song, puppetry and physical theatre, Ruby's Worry takes the audience on a delightful musical adventure. Based on the book Ruby's Worry, written and illustrated by Tom Percival and published by Bloomsbury. For children aged 3 – 7 and their families.

I Am A Writer

[I Am A Writer Workshops](#)

At 25 libraries across Nottinghamshire. [Visit our webpage](#) for full dates and times.

Free. Booking advised.

Creative writing workshops with a professional writer at your local library. Suitable for adults, and children aged 9+ and their families.

Reading

Author Event

[Louise Beech/Swanson](#)

- Worksop Library – Thursday 2 May, 2pm

£3. Booking advised.

Join Louise Beech author of nine novels and a memoir, *Eighteen Seconds* (2023) for a talk about her works and life.

Poetry Workshop

[Bad Ideas Club with Sophie Sparham](#)

- Sutton-in-Ashfield Library – Thursday 20 June, 2pm or Saturday 22 June, 1pm
- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 25 June, 2pm or Saturday 29 June, 1pm

Poets! Share new work, first drafts and 'bad' ideas in a warm, inclusive setting.

Come and join local poet and writer Sophie Sparham and Nottingham based independent publishers Bad Betty Press for a free, relaxed poetry workshop.

Author Event

[Writing Women Back into History – Joanna Courtney/Anna Stuart in Conversation](#)

- Retford Library – Monday 24 June, 2pm

£3. Booking advised.

Join Jo in conversation as she talks about how women throughout the ages have done amazing, often unnoticed things, and how much fun it is writing about them!

Author Event

Poetry Hour with Henry Normal

- Retford Library – Monday 10 June, 1pm
- Southwell Library – Monday 10 June, 4pm
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library – Tuesday 11 June, 12pm
- West Bridgford Library – Tuesday 11 June, 3.30pm

Free. Booking advised.

As a part of Nottingham Poetry Festival 2024, Henry Normal and guests take a tour of four Nottinghamshire Libraries. Book your tickets for an hour of poetry and comedy.

Film Screenings

Dementia friendly film screenings are relaxed with a break and refreshments. They're suitable for all, particularly those with memory challenges.

Dementia Friendly

Easter Parade (U)

- Mansfield Central Library – Wednesday 3 April, 1.30pm

£1. Booking advised.

A nightclub performer hires a naive chorus girl to become his new dance partner to make his former partner jealous and to prove he can make any partner a star.

Dementia Friendly

The Great Escaper (12A)

- Eastwood Library – Wednesday 5 June, 10.30am
- Stapleford Library – Monday 15 July, 10.30am

£1. Booking advised.

In the summer of 2014, a World War II veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

Dementia Friendly

The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert (15)

- Mansfield Central Library – Wednesday 5 June, 1.30pm

£1. Booking advised.

Two drag performers and a transgender woman travel across the desert to perform their unique style of cabaret.

Relaxed Film Screenings

Our relaxed film screenings are suitable for all but particularly neurodiverse families.

Relaxed Film Screening

101 Dalmatians

- Thursday 11 April, 1.30pm

£1. Booking advised.

When a litter of Dalmatian puppies are abducted by the minions of Cruella De Vil, the owners must find them before she uses them for a diabolical fashion statement.

Relaxed Film Screening

The Lego Batman Movie (U)

- Mansfield Central Library - Saturday 4 May, 11am

£1. Booking advised.

A cooler-than-ever Bruce Wayne must deal with the usual suspects as they plan to rule Gotham City, while discovering that he has accidentally adopted a teenage orphan who wishes to become his sidekick.

Relaxed Film Screening

The Borrowers (U)

- Mansfield Central Library – Wednesday 31 July, 11am

£1. Booking advised.

A secret family of four-inch people living inside the walls of a house must save their home from an evil real estate developer.

Relaxed Film Screening

[Wonka \(PG\)](#)

- Eastwood Library – Thursday 30 May, 10am

£1. Booking advised.

With dreams of opening a shop in a city renowned for its chocolate, a young and poor Willy Wonka discovers that the industry is run by a cartel of greedy chocolatiers.

Sensory Film Screening

[Touchscreen: My Neighbour Totoro \(U\)](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Wednesday 22 May, 1pm

£1. Booking advised.

When two girls move to the country to be near their ailing mother, they have adventures with the wondrous forest spirits who live nearby. Immerse yourself fully in the film as you explore a curated collection of sensory objects designed to engage your senses throughout the screening.

Film Screening

[Best of Mansfield Film Festival](#)

- Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library – Friday 26 April, 2pm
- Eastwood Library – Wednesday 8 May, 10.30am
- Stapleford Library – Thursday 20 June, 1pm

£2. Booking advised.

The Mansfield Film Festival Team have curated a special programme of short films, documentaries, animation and music videos to bring the best of the 2023 Film Festival to you.

Live Music

Live Music

Songs and Scones

- Eastwood Library – 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July at 2pm
- Retford Library – 7 June, 5 July, 2 August, 6 September at 2pm
- Sutton-in-Ashfield Library – 9 April, 14 May, 11 June, 9 July at 2pm

£2. Booking advised.

Live Music Now's Songs & Scones programme brings people together to regularly engage with live music and connect with others in their local community over a cup of tea, a scone and uplifting live performances from professional musicians.

The events are particularly suitable for older people – including those living with dementia and their carers - but all are welcome to attend.

Live Music

[Jazz Steps Live at the Libraries presents: The Leeds City Stompers](#)

- Beeston Library – Monday 15 April, 7.30pm
- Worksop Library – Tuesday 16 April, 7.30pm
- West Bridgford Library – Wednesday 17 April, 7.30pm

£13. Booking required.

Standby for a 'retro' evening of 1920s & '30s blues, jazz, swing and ragtime. Adult event, under 18s to be accompanied by an adult.

Live Music

[Jazz Steps Live at the Libraries presents: Shell's Belles](#)

- Beeston Library – Monday 13 May, 7.30pm

- Worksop Library – Tuesday 17 May, 7.30pm
- West Bridgford Library – Wednesday 18 May, 7.30pm

£13. Booking required.

Shell's Belles are Nottingham's ever-popular, all-female Swing Band who have been delighting audiences since their formation in 2014. Adult event, under 18s to be accompanied by an adult.

Live Music

[Jazz Step Live at the Libraries presents: Alan Barnes – the Music of Charlie Parker](#)

- Beeston Library – Monday 10 June, 7.30pm
- Worksop Library – Tuesday 11 June, 7.30pm
- West Bridgford Library – Wednesday 12 June, 7.30pm

£13. Booking required.

A firm favourite of Nottingham audiences, inimitable saxophonist Alan Barnes channels the music of Charlie Parker, a pioneer of the 'bebop' style in jazz. Adult event, under 18s to be accompanied by an adult.

Living Knowledge Network

Exhibition

[Beyond the Bassline](#)

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Friday 26 April – Wednesday 29 May
- Mansfield Central Library – Friday 31 May – Friday 12 July
- Beeston Library – Friday 19 July – Monday 26 August

Free. No booking required.

We are delighted to be hosting a taster of the Beyond the Bassline exhibition currently on show at the British Library in London.

The exhibition shines a spotlight on different voices and perspectives to celebrate Black British music as a form of entertainment and vehicle for community, as well as a source of liberation, protest and education.

Family Workshop

[Drum & Dance! A Taster Session of Rhythm and Expression](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Saturday 1 June, 10.30am

Free. No booking required.

A taster of good mood-boosting fun through drumming and dance. Suitable for families. Drop-in between 10.30am – 12.30pm.

Time to Connect

Exhibition

[Time to Connect Nottinghamshire](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Friday 19 April – Thursday 23 May

Free. No booking required.

Time to Connect Nottinghamshire launches the project created by Alistair Morrison with this exhibition, featuring local people whose stories form part of the diverse map of the area - a small representation of the importance of community in all counties.

Talk

[Time to Connect: Alistair Morrison in Conversation](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Thursday 23 May, 1pm

£3. Booking advised.

Alistair Morrison is a prominent British photographer whose work is included in the Primary Collection of The National Portrait Gallery, London. Inspire are excited to host this one-off talk about Morrison's work and the Time to Connect project.

Exhibitions

Exhibition

[I Am A Writer](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 5 March – Tuesday 16 April

Free. No booking required.

An inspiring introduction to the I Am A Writer project, introducing seven professional writers and an insight in to their work.

Exhibition

[Open Studios Notts 2024](#)

- Southwell, West Bridgford and Worksop Libraries - Saturday 27 April - Sunday 9 June 2024

Free. No booking required.

Discover Nottinghamshire artists. This exhibition highlights the work and workplaces of artists and craftspeople.

Charity Knitting Challenge

Care Squares

- Online and in Inspire Libraries

Free. No booking required.

We're supporting crafters to make knitted and crocheted squares into warm blankets. Patterns are available from libraries and online.

Workshop

Get Knitting! Creative Stitching with Jane Withers

- Online – available from 18 May

Free. No booking required.

Join Jane's online workshop and have fun with creative woolly stitches.

Heritage

Heritage

[Hands On Heritage Day](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Saturday 18 May, 10am – 2pm

Free. Just drop in.

Fun and free activities from heritage groups and organisations from across the county for all the family.

Heritage

[Family History One to One Sessions](#)

- Online or phone – Tuesday 7 May, 2pm, 2.45pm or 3.30pm
- Online or phone – Tuesday 25 June, 2pm, 2.45pm or 3.30pm

Free. Booking required.

One to one conversation with a librarian to help discover more about your family history.

Heritage Talk

[The Rise of the Dukeries](#)

- Worksop Library – Wednesday 17 April, 2pm

£3. Booking required.

The four Dukeries have had an enduring effect on the Bassetlaw region but how did they come into being? Benedict Jephcote charts how each of the ducal areas developed.

Heritage Talk

[The Curious World of Olde Time Punishments](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 23 April, 2pm.
£3. Booking required.

From birching to branding and beheading to burning, the strange and curious world of olde time punishments is something to behold. Join Ian Morgan for this talk.

Heritage Talk

[The Explosive Life of Beeston's Colonel B.D Shaw](#)

- Beeston Library – Wednesday 24 April, 2pm
£3. Booking required.

Biographer Clare Wilkes gives an illustrated talk of war hero, explosives expert, TV personality and Beeston resident, Col Brian D Shaw.

Heritage Talk

[Classified! Advertising in Local Newspapers in the 18th and 19th Centuries](#)

- West Bridgford Library – Tuesday 30 April, 2pm
£3. Booking required.

In this talk, local historian Robert Mee will look at early advertising – local newspapers from the 18th and 19th centuries, focussing on Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Heritage Talk

[Dangerous Women of Nottinghamshire](#)

- Worksop Library - Wednesday 15 May, 2pm

£3. Booking required.

This lively presentation by Adrian Gray looks at some of the women of Nottinghamshire who have had a significant impact in challenging the man's world that they were forced to live in.

Workshop

[Heritage Photography Workshop](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 21 May, 1pm

£5. Booking required.

Photographer Neil Pledger will inspire you to record the local area as it is now. We will begin at Mansfield Central Library with a look at the Inspire Picture Archive, and Neil's introduction to photo composition techniques. We will take a walk around some of the key features of Mansfield town centre to practice these skills and learn something of the history all around us. For ages 16+. Please bring a camera or phone.

Heritage Talk

[Footpads, Kings and Highwaymen](#)

- West Bridgford Library – Tuesday 28 May, 2pm

£3. Booking required.

The journey described by Ian Morgan covers 34 miles following the old Great North Road through Nottinghamshire. We will see the scenes of horrific battles, the haunts of highwaymen, the sites of murder and more.

Heritage Talk

[Historic Building Myth-busting in Notts](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 18 June, 2pm
- Beeston Library – Wednesday 17 July, 2pm

£3. Booking required.

Archaeologist and author James Wright will be speaking about his new book Historic Building Myth-busting.

Heritage

[Exploring Parish Registers](#)

- Worksop Library – Wednesday 19 June, 2pm

Free. Booking required.

Join one of our librarians for a small group session to talk about the history of Nottinghamshire's parish registers and look at some of the fascinating stories they contain.

Heritage Events at Nottinghamshire Archives

Heritage

[Newstead: Beyond Byron](#)

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Tuesday 30 April, 2.15pm

£5. Booking required.

As the world (and Nottinghamshire) remembers Lord Byron on the 200th anniversary of his death, join staff from Nottinghamshire Archives to explore the history of Newstead beyond the Byron family.

Heritage

[Nottinghamshire Archives Tour](#)

Nottinghamshire Archives

- Thursday 9 May, 11am
- Thursday 2 July, 2.30pm

£3. Booking required.

An introduction to the Archives with a tour of the search room and storage areas.

Heritage

[Asylum to Hospital: Mental Health Records Workshop](#)

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Thursday 16 May, 2.15pm

£5. Booking required.

Join staff at Nottinghamshire Archives to discover the history of mental health care in Nottinghamshire, from the records of the people who experienced it first-hand.

Heritage

Archives Escape!

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Saturday 25 May,
10.am, 11.30am, 1.30pm, or 3pm

£5. Booking required.

You have become trapped inside Nottinghamshire Archives! Solve the fiendish clues scattered throughout records of the past to escape.

Heritage

Behind the Scenes in the Conservation Workshop

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Tuesday 11 June, 11am

£3. Booking required.

Come behind the scenes and meet the Conservation team at Nottinghamshire Archives. Find out how we protect and the repair the Nottinghamshire Archives collections using specialist skills and materials.

Heritage

Introduction to Book Binding: Pamphlet Binding

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Thursday 11 July, 10.30am
£10. Booking required.

Join the conservation team at Nottinghamshire Archives for a relaxed morning making a pamphlet book. All materials and equipment will be provided.