Inspire Libraries & Beyond What's On April - July 2026

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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 is 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
- Age 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.

Children and Families

Summer Reading Challenge 2026

Read to the Beat

- All Inspire Libraries: Saturday 4 July – Sunday 6 September

A challenge for children to read six books over the summer holidays, inspire by rhythm and melody.

For ages 4 – 11.

Free. Sign up at the library.

Exhibition

Offbeat

- Beeston Library: Saturday 11 July – Sunday 6 September

An exhibition of work from artist Sian Watson and author Ashley Thorpe in collaboration with primary school children. Inspired by the Summer Reading Challenge theme.

Children's Author Event

Dangerous Animals with Sam Hume

- West Bridgford Library – Saturday 9 May, 10.30am
- Beeston Library – Saturday 9 May, 2pm

Wildlife filmmaker Sam Hume will introduce you to some of the deadliest creatures on the planet.

For ages 7 – 11.

£3 for children, free for accompanying adults.

Children's Illustrator Event

Marty Moose with Claire Powell

- Retford Library – Saturday 16 May, 10.30am
- Worksop Library – Saturday 16 May, 2pm

Meet Marty Moose with bestselling illustrator Claire Powell in an interactive event.

For ages 5 – 8.

£3 for children, free for accompanying adults.

Children's Author Event

Ged Adamson

- West Bridgford Library – Saturday 13 June, 10.30am
- Beeston Library – Saturday 13 June, 2pm

A fun-filled session with children's author and illustrator, Ged Adamson.

For ages 3 – 8.

£3 for children, free for accompanying adults.

Children's Author Event

Big Box Bonanza

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 28 July, 10.30am
- Sutton-in-Ashfield Library – Tuesday 28 July, 2pm

An interactive performance of poetry, stories, and games with poet and children's author, Mark Grist.

For ages 5 - 11.

£3 for children, free for accompanying adults.

Family Theatre

The Herd presents: Counting Sheeps

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 31 March, 11am and 1.30pm
- Worksop Library – Wednesday 1 April, 11am and 1.30pm

A sleepy show for babies, toddlers and very tired grown-ups. For ages 0 – 3.

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

Family Concert

Roots of Music

- Newark Library – Saturday 9 May, 1pm
- Mansfield Central Library – Saturday 6 June, 1pm
- Retford Library – Saturday 27 June, 1pm

An exciting family concert exploring the roots of music. For ages 7 – 11.

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

Under 5s

The Magical Major Oak: Down in the Pond

- Mansfield Central Library – Monday 13 July, 10.30am
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library – Monday 13 July, 2pm
- Beeston Library – Tuesday 14 July, 10.30am
- West Bridgford Library – Tuesday 14 July, 2pm
- Arnold Library – Wednesday 15 July, 10.30am
- Bingham Library – Wednesday 15 July, 2pm
- Southwell Library – Thursday 16 July, 10.30am
- Newark Library – Thursday 16 July, 2pm
- Hucknall Library – Friday 17 July, 10.30am
- Sutton-in-Ashfield Library – Friday 17 July, 2pm
- Retford Library – Saturday 18 July, 10.30am
- Worksop Library – Saturday 18 July, 2pm

An immersive storytelling experience from Nottingham Playhouse.

For ages 2 – 4.

£2 per person.

Under 5s

Little Creatives

Taking place in June and July at 12 Inspire Libraries. See website for full details.

- Arnold Library
- Beeston Library
- Bingham Library
- Hucknall Library
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library
- Mansfield Central Library
- Newark Library
- Retford Library
- Southwell Library
- Sutton-in-Ashfield Library
- West Bridgford Library
- Worksop Library

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

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.

Free. Booking essential.

Under 5s

Adventures in Music

Starting from 13 April.

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:

- Beeston
- Bingham
- Carlton Hill
- Carlton
- Cotgrave
- Hucknall
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield
- Mansfield Central

- Newark
- Retford
- Stapleford
- Sutton-in-Ashfield

£30. Booking Advised.

Under 5s

The Lullaby Bank

At various Inspire Libraries starting from 13 April. Libraries include:

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

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.

Free. Booking advised.

Reading

Author Event

Abbie Eaton

- Beeston Library – Thursday 2 July, 7pm

An evening with bestselling author of the Dragonhart series, Abbie Eaton discussing her books and the rise of the romantasy genre.

Tickets £5. Booking advised.

Author Event

Romance Panel Event

- Worksop Library – Wednesday 3 June, 7pm

A panel of romance authors including Jane Costello, Beth Moran and Suzan Holder.

Tickets £3. Booking advised.

Author Event

George Harrison: Season

- Arnold Library – Saturday 4 July, 2pm

Join George Harrison as he talks about football, literature and his debut novel titled Season.

Tickets £3. Booking advised.

Author Event

T.M. Logan

- Mansfield Central Library – Saturday 18 July, 2pm

Join T.M. Logan as he talks about his books and career so far.

Tickets £3. Booking advised.

Author Event

Kate Ellis

- Sutton-in-Ashfield Library – Wednesday 24 June, 2pm

Join Kate Ellis, author of the D.I. Wesley Peterson series as she talks about her books, characters and inspiration.

£3. Booking advised.

Author Event

Ben Robinson: Trillion Dollar Conman

- West Bridgford Library – Saturday 11 July, 2pm

Investigative journalist and author Ben Robinson will delve into the most remarkable season in Notts County Football Club's history.

Tickets £3. Booking advised.

Author Event

Jonathan Wilson – The Power and the Glory: A New History of the World Cup

- West Bridgford Library – Tuesday 2 June, 7pm

Award-winning football writer Jonathan Wilson tells the definitive history of the World Cup.

Tickets £3. Booking advised.

Heritage

Heritage

Hands On Heritage Day

- Mansfield Central Library – Saturday 16 May, 10am – 2pm

A day of free and fun heritage activities for all the family.

Free. No booking required.

Heritage Talk

Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Nottinghamshire

- Worksop Library – Wednesday 15 April, 2pm

A talk by Emily Gillott, Planning Archaeologist at Nottinghamshire County council, presenting recent discoveries.

Tickets £3.50. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

From Bedpan to Pen!

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 21 April, 2pm

A talk by Joy Wood on the history of Harlow Wood orthopaedic hospital in Mansfield.

Tickets £3.50. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

Reason and Rhyme

- West Bridgford Library – Tuesday 28 April, 2pm

A talk by Sam Millard on the origins of rhymes.

Tickets £3.50. Booking required.

Heritage

Family History One to One Sessions

- Online or phone – Wednesday 29 April - 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm or 3.30pm

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

Free. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

Almshouses: Past, Present and Local

- Retford Library – Thursday 30 April, 7pm

Historian Robert Mee examines the origin of almshouses.

Tickets £3.50. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

Byron and the Birth of his Poetry

- West Bridgford Library - Tuesday 12 May, 2pm

Byron expert and author Geoffrey Bond will talk about his latest book: Byron's Manor: Birthplace of his Poetry

Tickets £3.50. Booking required.

Heritage

Marriage Disasters of the Sherwood Nobility

- Beeston Library – Wednesday 20 May, 2pm

Local historian Adrian Gray will look at some of the marriages made by lords, dukes and earls in Dukeries society.

Tickets £3.50. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

Watson Fothergill in Mansfield

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 12 May, 2pm

Join Lucy Brouwer for an illustrated talk about Watson Fothergill's buildings in Mansfield.

Tickets £3.50. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

Emma Wilmot's Sketches of the Dukeries

- Worksop Library – Wednesday 17 June, 2pm

An insight into the life of Emma Wilmot who resided in Worksop in the 1840s as wife of the Duke of Newcastle's agent.

Tickets £3.50. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

Exploring Local Maps

- West Bridgford Library – Tuesday 16 June, 2pm

A small group session to look at local maps available in libraries.

Free. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

Queer Nottingham

- Beeston Library – Tuesday 14 July, 6pm

Join author CJ DeBarra for a talk about the history of Nottingham's Queer scene.

Tickets £3.50. Booking required.

Heritage

Archives Tour

Nottinghamshire Archives

- Tuesday 21 April, 10.30am
- Thursday 25 June, 2.30pm

An introduction to Nottinghamshire Archives with a tour of the search room and storage areas. A chance to view some unique and incredible highlights from the collections. Interact in new ways with history through Augmented Reality on your own tablet or smartphone device.

Free. Booking required.

Heritage

Spy at the Archives

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Saturday 13 June, 10am – 1.30pm (one-hour slots)

An interactive event using records from the Archives, delving into the history of Nottingham in the Second World War.

Tickets £6. Booking required.

Exhibition

Our Story Interactive Exhibition

- Nottinghamshire Archives: Saturday 4 July – Thursday 31 July
- Retford Library: Saturday 25 July – Friday 7 August

A touring exhibition culminating an ambitious project celebrating rich histories of gender diverse experiences across Nottinghamshire.

Film Events

Our relaxed and dementia friendly film screenings are suitable for all and include a break and refreshments. Dementia friendly film screenings are particularly suitable for those with memory challenges, and relaxed screenings are ideal for neurodiverse families.

Dementia Friendly

The Lady in the Van (12)

- Mansfield Central Library – Wednesday 13 May, 1.30pm

A man forms an unexpected bond with a transient woman living in her van that's parked in his driveway.

Tickets £1. Booking advised.

Dementia Friendly

The Greatest Showman (PG)

- Newark Library - Wednesday 20 May, 1.30pm

A bold and original musical that celebrates the birth of showbusiness.

Tickets £1. Booking advised.

Dementia Friendly

The Penguin Lesson (12)

- Eastwood Library – Monday 6 July, 1.30pm

An Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history.

Tickets £1. Booking advised.

Dementia Friendly

Sister Act (PG)

- Mansfield Central Library – Wednesday 22 July, 1.30pm

When a nightclub singer is forced to take refuge from the mob in a convent, she ends up turning the convent choir into a soulful chorus.

Tickets £1. Booking advised.

Relaxed Screening

Inside Out (U)

- Mansfield Central Library – Wednesday 1 April, 1.30pm

After young Riley is uprooted from her Midwest life and moved to San Francisco, her emotions - Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and

Sadness - conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house, and school.

Enjoy a craft activity before the film.

Tickets £1. Booking advised.

Relaxed Screening

If (U)

- Newark Library – Thursday 9 April, 1.30pm

A girl discovers that she can see everyone's imaginary friends and embarks on an adventure to reconnect them with their children.

Tickets £1. Booking advised.

Relaxed Screening

Dog Man (U)

- Eastwood Library - Saturday 13 June, 10.30am

When a faithful police dog and his human police officer owner are injured together on the job, surgery fuses the two of them together and Dog Man is born.

Tickets £1. Booking advised.

Book to Film Club Screenings

Film Screening

Pride and Prejudice (2005) (U)

- Beeston Library – Wednesday 3 June, 5.30pm

Based on Jane Austen's novel about five sisters. Their lives are turned upside down two wealthy young men arrive in their neighbourhood.

Tickets £3. Booking advised.

Film Screening

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12)

- Eastwood Library – Friday 19 June, 4pm

A group of British retirees decide to "outsource" their retirement to less expensive and seemingly exotic India.

Tickets £3. Booking advised.

Healthier, Happier, Connected, Creative

Informal music concerts, hands-on creative workshops and health activities to boost strength, balance and memory.

Live Music

Songs & Scones

- Retford Library: Fridays at 2pm on 10 April, 1 May, 5 June, 3 July
- Hucknall Library: Wednesdays at 2pm on 8 April, 13 May, 10 June, 8 July

Enjoy a cup of tea, a scone and uplifting live performances from professional musicians.

£3. Booking advised.

Workshop

Mind & Movement

- Retford Library: Fridays at 2pm on 24 April, 22 May, 26 June, 24 July
- Hucknall Library: Wednesdays at 2pm on 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July

Move to music – a friendly mix of light exercise to help with balance, strength and mobility.

Free. Booking required.

Art Workshop

Connect & Create

- Retford Library: Wednesdays at 2pm on 17 April, 15 May, 19 June, 17 July
- Hucknall Library: Wednesdays at 2pm on 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July

Experiment with artistic styles and techniques in a relaxed group.

£3. Booking advised.

Exhibitions

Exhibition

The Leen: Nottingham's River Exhibition

- Arnold Library: Wednesday 25 February – Monday 20 April
- Hucknall Library: Friday 12 June – Saturday 1 August

Drawing on the archives of the Trent River Authority and other collections held by Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham, this display evaluates the legacies of historic interventions along the Leen.

Free. No booking required.

Exhibition

I Am A Storyteller

- Mansfield Central Library: Monday 2 March – Sunday 19 April

Enjoy some of the inspiring work created by five storytellers working with five groups as part of our I Am A Storyteller project.

Free. No booking required.

Exhibition

Open Studios Notts: Bringing Artists into View

- Arnold, Hucknall and Worksop Libraries: Saturday 25 April – Sunday 7 June

The Open Studios Notts exhibition highlights the work and workplaces of artists and craftspeople taking part in this year's event.

Free. No booking required.

Exhibition

On Freedom's Wings

- Arnold Library: Friday 12 June – Wednesday 22 July

An exhibition telling the incredible story behind the statue of the Lancaster Bomber unveiled on the Lincolnshire/Nottinghamshire border.

Free. No booking required.

Family Art Workshop

Balloon Powered Lancaster Bombers

- Arnold Library – Saturday 18 July, 10am – 12pm

Join artist Clare Taylor to make your own balloon-powered Lancaster Bomber, inspired by the On Freedom's Wings exhibition. Suitable for ages 5+.

Free. Just drop in.

Charity Knitting Challenge 2026 Story Snugglers

Wednesday 1 April – Friday 31 July

Free. Pick up a free pattern from your local library.

Jazz Steps Live at the Libraries

Live Music

Pat McCarthy Quartet Featuring Shannon Reilly

- Beeston Library – Monday 13 April, 7.30pm
- Worksop Library – Tuesday 14 April, 7.30pm
- West Bridgford Library – Wednesday 15 April, 7.30pm

Warm vocals backed by the rich sounds of a guitar-led trio.

£13. Booking required.

Live Music

Ben Martin Quartet

- Beeston Library – Monday 11 May 7.30pm
- Worksop Library – Tuesday 12 May, 7.30pm
- West Bridgford Library – Wednesday 13 May, 7.30pm

Expect great jazz club vibes with Ben's expressive and versatile performance on his vintage Selmer saxophones, accompanied by an ace trio.

£13. Booking required.

Live Music

Sharp Little Bones Featuring Tony Kofi

- Beeston Library – Monday 8 June, 7.30pm
- Worksop Library – Tuesday 9 June, 7.30pm
- West Bridgford Library – Wednesday 10 June, 7.30pm

Quartet featuring Tony Kofi on saxophone, with a fresh, contemporary sound of jazz, funk, blues, bop and electronica.

Tickets £14. Booking required.

Inspire Youth Arts Events

Music Bootcamp

Backstage Pass: Create Your Identity

- The Old Library, Mansfield: Saturday 28 March – Monday 30 March

A three-day journey into branding, visual storytelling, content creation and editing. For ages 13 – 18, up to 25 with a disability.

Free. Booking required.

Music Bootcamp

Launch Your Track

- The Old Library, Mansfield: Saturday 30 May – Sunday 31 May

A practical introduction to music marketing. For ages 13 – 18, up to 25 with a disability.

Free. Booking required.

Live Dance

Catapult Dance Festival

- Mansfield Palace Theatre – Wednesday 22 April, 7pm

A fun evening of dance showcasing work by children and young people from across Nottinghamshire.

Tickets £5. Booking required.

Live Music

First Up

- Jam Café Nottingham - Wednesday 6 May, 6pm

A relaxed showcase of original music from young people on Inspire Youth Arts' programmes.
Free. No booking required but please arrive early to guarantee a space.

Live Music

Next Up

- Binks Yard Nottingham – Sunday 28 June, 1pm

A feel-good summer festival showcasing young performers from across Nottinghamshire.
Free. Booking required.