

inspireculture.org.uk

# INSPIRE LIBRARIES & BEYOND

APRIL –  
JULY  
2025

YOUR GUIDE TO **WHAT'S ON**



**EXHIBITION**  
**UNEARTHED:  
THE POWER  
OF GARDENING**

P4

**AUTHOR EVENT**  
**IN CONVERSATION  
WITH KATHY SLACK:  
ROUGH PATCH**

P18



# Story Garden

**SUMMER READING  
CHALLENGE 2025**  
**STORY GARDEN**

P5

## DID YOU KNOW?

### WE ARE REGISTERED FOR THE FAMILY ARTS STANDARDS AND AGE FRIENDLY STANDARDS

These are for family events and events for older people in our four largest libraries – Beeston, Mansfield Central, West Bridgford and Worksop. This means we are working hard to make you feel welcome.

[familyarts.co.uk](http://familyarts.co.uk)



### WE DELIVER A RANGE OF ARTS, CULTURAL, LEARNING AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Funded by and delivered on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council.



**Nottinghamshire County Council**

### WE ARE ONE OF ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND'S NATIONAL PORTFOLIO ORGANISATIONS

It's our delight to present a funded programme of work for all.

Visit: [inspireculture.org.uk/npo](http://inspireculture.org.uk/npo) for full details.



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

### WE ARE REGISTERED AS AN ARTS AWARD SUPPORTER

Offering a wide cultural programme across our venues. Many of our events are free or incur a very small charge and many can be accessed by young people looking for opportunities locally to help them achieve an Arts Award.



## HELP & ADVICE

### BOOKING EVENTS

Tickets for events can be booked online, in person at the library, or by phone.

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

### CONTACT INSPIRE

Phone: **01623 677 200**

Email: [ask@inspireculture.org.uk](mailto:ask@inspireculture.org.uk)  
[inspireculture.org.uk](http://inspireculture.org.uk)

### KEEP UP TO DATE

Follow us on social media and keep up to date with all our latest news and events.

[@NottsLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/NottsLibraries)

[@NottsLibraries](https://twitter.com/NottsLibraries)

[@InspireCultureNotts](https://www.instagram.com/InspireCultureNotts)

You can also sign up to receive our newsletters direct to your email inbox – select from a range of preferences based on your own interests at: [inspireculture.org.uk/emails](http://inspireculture.org.uk/emails)

### ACCESS

Please visit: [inspireculture.org.uk/access](http://inspireculture.org.uk/access) to find out more about access and facilities at your local library.

## ACCESSIBLE FORMATS

**This brochure is available in large format, or text-only.**

Visit our website [inspireculture.org.uk/whatson](http://inspireculture.org.uk/whatson) to read online, or a copy can be made available at your local library upon request.

# ARTS & CULTURE LIVE AT YOUR LIBRARY & BEYOND

Spring is in the air and the leaves are getting greener! The perfect time to bring you a vibrant season of events with a running theme of gardening.

We're hosting a taster of the **Unearthed Exhibition** opening at the British Library this May thanks to our membership with the Living Knowledge Network. This fascinating exhibition exploring the transformative power of gardening has inspired many of our events this spring for adults and children alike.

Continuing the gardening theme, the **Summer Reading Challenge** is back for 2025! This year's theme is Story Garden, celebrating the great outdoors, and the magical world of storytelling - all while inviting children to keep reading throughout the summer holidays.

There's plenty of reading opportunities for adults too. The **Minute Memoir** life-writing workshops will help you exercise your creativity, and as always, we're welcoming several fantastic authors.

## GET READY TO BE AMAZED THIS MAY!

We've been selected for the **Digital Spaces** programme which means we can bring you a thrilling programme of virtual reality experiences. May also sees the return of **Hands On Heritage Day** to Mansfield Central Library, bringing fun and free heritage activities for all the family.

This is just a sample of the exciting events we've got programmed this season, so do read on to find out what's on near you.

We look forward to seeing you this season, whether it's to sign up to the Summer Reading Challenge, attend an exciting event in this brochure, or to read, learn, and enjoy culture. We hope to see you soon.

**Peter Gaw** Chief Executive, Inspire

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Booking Info:



Booking required



Advised booking



No booking needed

# Living Knowledge Network



## Exhibition

### UNEARTHED: THE POWER OF GARDENING

FREE Inspire Libraries 

Mansfield Central Library

Friday 2 May – Friday 30 May

Beeston Library

Friday 6 June – Saturday 5 July

Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library

Friday 11 July – Saturday 9 August

We are delighted to be hosting a taster of the Unearthed Exhibition exploring the transformative power of gardening at the British Library's St Pancras site in May 2025.

Gardening is so much more than the nation's favourite pastime. Tracing personal stories alongside global histories, Unearthed celebrates gardening as a force for creativity, resilience and connection. From the people who have fought for the right and space to garden to the stories of the plants we use for food and medicine, discover how gardening has shaped our lives, our communities, and our planet.

Alongside the Unearthed Exhibition items from Nottinghamshire Archives' collections will add a home-grown element.

## DIG INTO FASCINATING LOCAL HISTORY THAT HAS BEEN INSPIRED BY THE UNEARTHED THEMES.

Visit [inspireculture.org.uk/LKN](https://inspireculture.org.uk/LKN) to find a host of events linked to the Unearthed Exhibition in Inspire Libraries.



INSPIRE ARE MEMBERS OF THE LIVING KNOWLEDGE NETWORK! CREATED BY THE BRITISH LIBRARY TO EXPLORE NEW WAYS FOR LIBRARIES TO WORK AS ONE AND DEVELOP MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES FOR OUR USERS.



# Story Garden

Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors

**FREE** Inspire Libraries 

Saturday 5 July – Sunday 7 September

TAKE A TRIP TO  
STORY GARDEN FOR  
THE 2025 SUMMER  
READING CHALLENGE.



We'll be inspiring children to tap into a world of imagination through reading in the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge. Story Garden will celebrate nature and the great outdoors, exploring adventure, fantasy and the magical world of storytelling.

The challenge invites children aged 4 – 11, to read six or more library books over the summer. There are stickers to collect along the way and a medal and certificate for every child who completes the challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a great opportunity for children to boost their reading confidence and find books they love. They choose what they want to read – story books, information books, audio books, poetry, comic and graphic novels – all reading counts.

For children aged 4 – 11.

[inspireculture.org.uk/SummerReadingChallenge](https://inspireculture.org.uk/SummerReadingChallenge)

## How to take part in the challenge!

- **Sign up for FREE at the library**  
Join at any time from 5 July.
- **Choose your books**  
Browse the library, pick a book and get reading.
- **Collect 6 unique stickers**  
Get a free sticker for every book you read.
- **Claim your medal**  
Get your medal and certificate when you read and log all 6 books.

Children can also take part online to earn digital badges and rewards.

**DON'T FORGET!**  
Under 4s can join in with the mini challenge

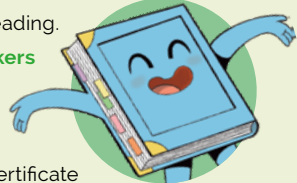
A bite sized version of the challenge for our youngest readers, collect 6 stickers to earn a special gold sticker.



THE  
READING  
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is produced by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with libraries. Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2025.





**Exhibition**

**SEED**

**FREE** Inspire Libraries 

Hucknall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield  
and Mansfield Central Libraries  
Saturday 12 July –  
Sunday 7 September



**IMAGINE A  
GARDEN WHERE  
THE MOST MAGICAL  
SEEDS CAN GROW!**

An exhibition that will seed ideas and grow imaginations. In partnership with four primary schools, Inspire's Artist and Author in Residence Michelle Reader and Leanne Moden have explored the notion of seeds and that planting any idea can cultivate artworks and nurture writings.

**MEET THE 2025 ARTIST & AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE!**

Inspire are delighted to announce that artist Michelle Reader and author Leanne Moden have been selected as the 2025 Artist and Author in Residence and will co-create the exhibition and workshops inspired by the Summer Reading Challenge theme Story Garden!

**Michelle Reader**

Michelle is a sculptor based at the Harley Foundation Studios in North Nottinghamshire. She makes sculptures, puppets and installations from recycled materials, and runs lots of recycled art workshops for children and families.

**Leanne Moden**

Leanne is a poet, performer and educator, based in Nottingham. She's released two books of poetry for adults, and she works in schools across the country, helping children and young people to find their creative voice.

To find out more and to join them at a FREE workshop in the summer visit: [inspireculture.org.uk/ArtistandAuthor](https://inspireculture.org.uk/ArtistandAuthor)





CALLING  
ALL TINY  
ARTISTS



Under 5s

## LITTLE CREATIVES WORKSHOPS

**FREE** Inspire Libraries **(B)**

**Arnold Sat: 5 Apr / 3 May / 7 Jun / 5 Jul**

**Beeston Sat: 12 Apr / 10 May / 14 Jun / 12 Jul**

**Bingham Thu: 10 Apr / 8 May / 12 Jun / 10 Jul**

**Hucknall Fri: 11 Apr / 9 May / 13 Jun / 11 Jul**

**Kirkby-in-Ashfield**

**Thu: 17 Apr / 15 May / 19 Jun / 17 Jul**

**Mansfield Central**

**Fri: 4 Apr / 2 May / 6 Jun / 4 Jul**

**Newark Tue: 1 Apr / 6 May / 3 Jun / 1 Jul**

**Retford Sat: 5 Apr / 3 May / 7 Jun / 5 Jul**

**Southwell Thu: 10 Apr / 8 May / 12 Jun / 10 Jul**

**West Bridgford**

**Thu: 17 Apr / 15 May / 19 Jun / 17 Jul**

**Workshop Sat: 12 Apr / 10 May / 14 Jun / 12 Jul**

**Join us for creative art sessions specifically designed by artists for very young children.**

Let the workshops help your little one to develop new skills as they splodge, splat, squidge and shine. Share in their active, playful and sometimes messy fun and see their confidence grow as they explore fascinating materials and stimulating creative activities.

**For children aged 2 – 5.**

All children must be accompanied.

[inspireculture.org.uk/LittleCreatives](http://inspireculture.org.uk/LittleCreatives)



## CHOOSE YOUR SESSION!

**Session 1**  
10am – 10.45am

OR

**Session 2**  
11.15am – 12pm



Under 5s

## ADVENTURES IN MUSIC

**FREE** Inspire Libraries **(B)**

**Beeston Library**

9.30am / Thursdays / Starts 24 April

**Bingham Library**

9.45am / Tuesdays / Starts 22 April

**Carlton Hill Library**

9.45am / Wednesdays / Starts 23 April

**Cotgrave Library**

12.15pm / Wednesdays / Starts 23 April

**Eastwood Library**

1.25pm / Mondays / Starts 28 April

**Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library**

10.45am / Tuesdays / Starts 22 April

**Mansfield Central Library**

9.45am / Mondays / Starts 28 April

**Newark Library**

10.45am / Fridays / Starts 25 April

**Retford Library**

10.15am / Thursdays / Starts 24 April

**Stapleford Library**

9.30am / Tuesdays / Starts 22 April

**Sutton-in-Ashfield Library**

11.30am / Mondays / Starts 28 April

**Workshop Library**

9.30 am / Fridays / Starts 25 April

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

There are 10 FREE sessions with a different enchanting theme each week, so you and your little one can clap, shake, dance and sing!

**Suitable for children aged 2 – 5.**

Children must be supervised.

[inspireculture.org.uk/Adventures](http://inspireculture.org.uk/Adventures)

**Booking Info:** (B) Booking required (A) Advised booking (N) No booking needed



Under 5s

**THE LULLABY BANK**

**FREE** Inspire Libraries **(B)**

**Arnold Library**

10.15am / Fridays / Starts 25 April

**Beeston Library**

10.30am / Thursdays / Starts 24 April

**Bingham Library**

10.30am / Tuesdays / Starts 22 April

**Carlton Hill Library**

10.30am / Wednesdays / Starts 23 April

**Cotgrave Library**

1.30pm / Wednesdays / Starts 23 April

**Eastwood Library**

1.30pm / Thursdays / Starts 24 April

**Stapleford Library**

9.10am / Mondays / Starts 28 April

The Lullaby Bank is a chance for mums and babies to relax and bond in a calm space. Sing and listen to melodies from around the world to soothe and uplift.

We will sing a variety of lullabies from around the globe in English and other languages, learn some baby-massage and basic signing, as well as some play time rhymes and songs.

The class is a breast-feeding safe space, and a chance to connect with other new mums in what can often be a very isolating and exhausting time.

**For babies aged 0 – 9 months.**

A partnership between Inspire Music and Music for Everyone.

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



Elissa Elwick

**Children's Illustrator Visit**

**STICK & FETCH INVESTIGATE WITH ELISSA ELWICK**

**£3** children /

**FREE** accompanying adults

Inspire Libraries **(A)**

**West Bridgford Library**

10.30am / Saturday 26 April

**Beeston Library**

2pm / Saturday 26 April

Join Elissa Elwick, award winning illustrator of the Stick & Fetch book series, for a fun, interactive event based on the first book in the Stick & Fetch series: *Barking up the Wrong Tree*.

Stick & Fetch are detectives (and best friends), and they need YOUR help to solve a crime!

Elissa will take you through an interactive reading from the book, introduce the characters, teach you how to draw Fetch and come up with a brand-new case for you to solve on the day, with the help of some live drawings of the culprit!

**Suitable for ages 5 – 9.**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Elissa Elwick is an award-winning illustrator and author based in Cardiff. She spends her days drawing and writing about unicorns, dinosaurs and...well...whatever her imagination conjures up. She works from her little pink studio and is sometimes joined by her cat, Pippin and daughter, Eira. Elissa loves sharing her love of drawing and writing with children of all ages and has performed her events internationally.







Tom McLaughlin



### Children's Author Visit

#### TOM MCLAUGHLIN

£3 children /  
FREE accompanying adults  
Inspire Libraries (A)

Mansfield Central Library  
10.30am / Tuesday 27 May

Workshop Library  
2pm / Tuesday 27 May

Hear Tom McLaughlin talk all things comic book related. The author of *Alan, King of the Universe* will be reading from his new book as well as doing live drawing and talking about his experiences of being a dis...dycle...dyslexic author.

Suitable for ages 6+.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tom McLaughlin is an author/illustrator from Devon. He has written and illustrated for Bloomsbury, Puffin, Scholastic, Walker and more. Titles include *The Story Machine*, *The Accidental Rock Star* and *Along Came a Different*. His books have been nominated for countless awards and have been translated into over 10 different languages. Tom's hobbies include drinking tea, looking out of the window, and biscuits.

### Family Concert

#### THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC

£4 library members /  
£7 non-library members  
Inspire Libraries (A)

Retford Library  
1pm / Saturday 26 April

Mansfield Central Library  
1pm / Saturday 7 June

Bingham Library  
1pm / Saturday 21 June

Travel with us on a magical musical tour of how the development of musical instruments changed the sound and the style of music we listen to.

Help create new sounds for the live band and experience playing a musical instrument yourself. Listen as our band of musicians re-create songs from artists like Pink Floyd and Beyoncé exploring the origin of the sounds used and the cultural heritage they came from and create.

Our concert series is aimed at showing you how musical sounds are created and then used in the music we all know and love. From the invention of the electric guitar to the synthesiser come and watch, listen and play with us.

For children aged 5 – 11 and their grown-ups.  
[inspireculture.org.uk/FamilyConcerts](http://inspireculture.org.uk/FamilyConcerts)



No booking needed (N)

Advised booking (A)

Booking required (B)

Booking info:



Under 5s

**THE MAGICAL MAJOR OAK:  
SUMMER IN BLOOM**

£2 Inspire Libraries <sup>(A)</sup>

**West Bridgford Library**  
10.30am / Monday 7 July

**Beeston Library**  
2pm / Monday 7 July

**Hucknall Library**  
10.30am / Tuesday 8 July

**Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library**  
2pm / Tuesday 8 July

**Southwell Library**  
10.30am / Wednesday 9 July

**Newark Library**  
2pm / Wednesday 9 July

**Arnold Library**  
10.30am / Thursday 10 July

**Bingham Library**  
2pm / Thursday 10 July

**Mansfield Central Library**  
11am & 1.30pm / Friday 11 July

**Retford Library**  
10.30am / Saturday 12 July

**Worksop Library**  
2pm / Saturday 12 July

Be transported to the legendary land of the Magical Major Oak in this immersive and multi-sensory storytelling experience from Nottingham Playhouse.

Skip through the forest in the summer breeze and join Marian and her friends on an exciting adventure in the forest, guided by the wisdom of the Magical Major Oak.

Featuring inspiring storytelling to spark the imagination and a host of woodland animals to meet, The Magical Major Oak: Summer in Bloom is an enchanting interactive show.

**Perfect for children aged 2 – 4**  
(younger siblings welcome).

[inspireculture.org.uk/MagicalMajorOak](http://inspireculture.org.uk/MagicalMajorOak)

In association with Nottingham Playhouse.

**NOTTINGHAM  
PLAYHOUSE**

AN IMMERSIVE  
AND MULTI-SENSORY  
STORYTELLING  
EXPERIENCE  
FROM NOTTINGHAM  
PLAYHOUSE.



Under 5s

**RATTLE, RHYME AND  
ROLL WITH PETER RABBIT**

FREE Inspire Libraries <sup>(N)</sup>

**Mansfield Central Library**  
10am / Tuesday 13 May

**Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library**  
2pm / Tuesday 13 May

Meet the mischievous Peter Rabbit at a very special Rattle, Rhyme and Roll session. Join in with favourite rhymes and songs with your little ones and say hello to this classic book character.

Our free, relaxed and friendly Rattle, Rhyme and Roll sessions, for babies and toddlers, take place all year round at libraries across Nottinghamshire.

[inspireculture.org.uk/RattleRhymeRoll](http://inspireculture.org.uk/RattleRhymeRoll)





## VIRTUAL REALITY LIBRARY

### VIRTUAL REALITY LIBRARY

FREE Inspire Libraries <sup>(N)</sup>

#### Mansfield Central Library

10am – 2pm / Saturday 17 May  
12 – 2pm / Sunday 18 May

#### Workshop Library

10am – 3pm / Saturday 24 May  
12 – 2pm / Sunday 25 May

#### Kirkby in Ashfield Library

10am – 3pm / Wednesday 28th May

#### Beeston Library

10am – 3pm / Friday 30 May  
10am – 3pm / Saturday 31 May

We are thrilled to announce that Inspire is one of the nine library services in England selected to participate in the groundbreaking Digital Spaces programme. This innovative initiative, in collaboration with Arts Council England, BFI, with National Lottery Funding, and The Space promises to revolutionise digital engagement and accessibility in our libraries.



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



GET READY TO BE AMAZED  
BY OUR NEW COLLECTION  
OF VR EXPERIENCES IN  
YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!

Supported by the BFI with National Lottery funding, a national VR tour visits four of our libraries. Drop in, pop on a headset, and enjoy a thrilling programme, including:

#### Wallace & Gromit in the Grand Getaway

Join the beloved characters on a new immersive adventure.

#### The Philharmonia Virtual Orchestra - The Lark Ascending

Experience a mesmerising 360-degree performance of Vaughan Williams's masterpiece featuring Nicola Benedetti.

#### Monoliths

Explore England's northern landscape through the voices of three women in this immersive XR experience by Pilot Theatre and One to One Development Trust.

Suitable for ages 10+.

[Inspireculture.org.uk/DigitalSpaces](http://Inspireculture.org.uk/DigitalSpaces)



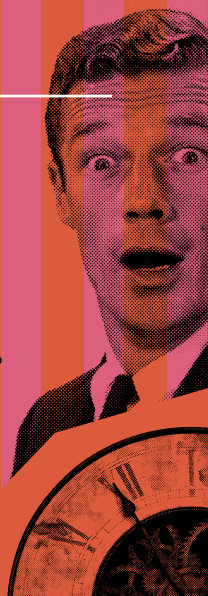
Booking Info: <sup>(B)</sup> Booking required

<sup>(A)</sup> Advised booking

<sup>(N)</sup> No booking needed



# JUST DROP IN HANDS ON HERITAGE 2025



POP-UP MUSEUMS

BOOK SALES

live music

Local & family history

FUN CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES

Heritage  
**HANDS ON HERITAGE DAY**  
**FREE** Mansfield Central Library <sup>(N)</sup>  
 10am – 2pm / Saturday 17 May



**HANDS ON HERITAGE DAY  
 RETURNS TO MANSFIELD  
 LIBRARY THIS MAY.**

We will be bringing you a variety of fun and free activities from heritage groups and organisations from across the county.

This year Inspire are getting interactive with virtual reality experiences supported by the BFI and National Lottery. Plus Nottinghamshire Archives will be offering augmented reality activities, a new interactive map of Nottingham, and the opportunity to digitise your own photographs!

To commemorate 80 years since VE Day, stallholders will be presenting a range of World War II-related activities and collections, with live 1940s era music by our Red Hot Band.





**Heritage Talk****ROGUES, VAGABONDS,  
OR HEROES? THE STORY OF  
THE RUFFORD PARK POACHERS****£3 Inspire Libraries** **Workshop Library****2pm / Wednesday 16 April****Beeston Library****2pm / Wednesday 16 July**

Life for working class families in the early years of Queen Victoria's reign was anything but easy. While families struggled to feed themselves, the forest and heath lands of Sherwood were full of wildlife that could supplement their diets. New laws, however, made the taking of this wildlife a criminal offence that could lead to severe punishment.

This talk by local historian Sam Millard tells of a violent clash between poachers and gamekeepers on the Rufford Abbey estate, an incident that was reported in newspapers throughout the land.

**What happened to those involved?**

**WERE THEY THE ROGUES AND  
VAGABONDS AS DESCRIBED BY  
THE COURTS, OR WERE THEY THE  
HEROES PORTRAYED IN A FOLK  
SONG WRITTEN AT THE TIME?**

**Heritage Talk****WOMEN OF THE BRITISH  
CIVIL WARS 1642-1659****£3 West Bridgford Library** **2pm / Tuesday 29 April**

Women played a significant role in the conflicts known as the British civil wars, and Nottinghamshire women certainly played their part. As local historian Sandra Berrington demonstrates, they helped defend castles, wrote pamphlets and propaganda, raised funds, spied, nursed, preached and even contributed on the battlefields.

From highborn ladies to ordinary housekeepers, these remarkable women showed, as was said at the time, "A courage beyond their sex".

**Heritage Talk****MEDIAeval WORKSOP****£3 Workshop Library** **2pm / Wednesday 21 May**

Join Benedict Jephcote to discover how the Norman and Medieval period laid the groundwork for Workshop in later centuries. The talk will look at notable families, developments in the town and outlying villages, and the construction of some of Workshop's oldest buildings.





**Heritage Talk**

**HISTORIC GARDENS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

£3 Mansfield Central Library <sup>B</sup>

2pm / Tuesday 27 May

Nottinghamshire has a strong horticultural tradition going back to the creation of the great ducal estates of Welbeck, Clumber, Worksop and Thoresby in the 17th and 18th centuries. This talk draws on the wealth of gardening heritage remaining in the county. Philip Jones, a former local studies librarian, is now a freelance garden historian, currently researching the Victorian and Edwardian gardens at Newstead Abbey and its head gardeners.



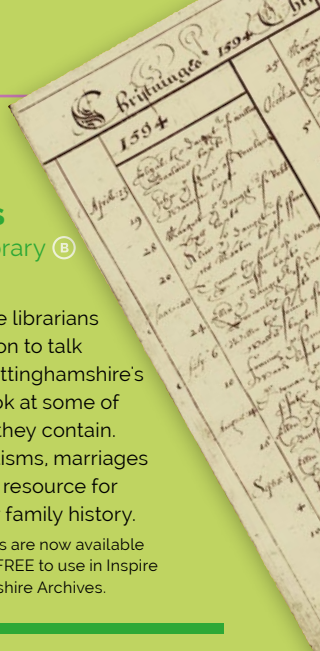
**Heritage EXPLORING PARISH REGISTERS**

FREE Southwell Library <sup>B</sup>

2pm / Monday 9 June

Join one of our heritage 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. Parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials are a major resource for anyone beginning their family history.

The Nottinghamshire records are now available via [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk) which is FREE to use in Inspire Libraries and at Nottinghamshire Archives.



**Heritage Talk**

**THE SCANDALOUS MARRIAGES OF THE SHERWOOD ARISTOCRACY**

£3 Mansfield Central Library <sup>B</sup>

2pm / Tuesday 17 June

Rufford – Welbeck – Clumber – Thoresby... the 'great houses' of Sherwood, but the lords and ladies who lived there were often no better than the surrounding peasantry and often a good deal worse! Adrian Gray's new book *The Scandalous Lives of the Sherwood Forest Nobility* tells the story of their illicit love affairs and disastrous gambling habits, and in this talk he focuses on some of the disastrous marriages they contracted.

**Heritage Talk**

**HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM BASSETLAW**

£3 Retford Library <sup>B</sup>

7pm / Thursday 5 June

Bassetlaw is a vastly interesting, but often overlooked, area covering North Nottinghamshire. It contains stately homes, historic villages and a large section of the Trent valley. This talk, by local author and historian Adrian Gray, brings together some of the most interesting places in the historic landscape of this area – great scenery, romantic old houses and stories of the people who lived there.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Modern divorce laws originated with a Sherwood Forest case?

Find out how and who was to blame, in this fascinating talk!

**JOIN THE TALK**





### Heritage Talk

## GARDENS OF DELIGHT

£3 Beeston Library **B**

2pm / Wednesday 18 June



Jason Mordan of the Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust gives an illustrated introduction to the range and variety of historic designed parks, gardens and landscapes of the county. From the oldest allotments, to the largest historic parklands, through monastic deer parks and the boating lakes of public parks, Nottinghamshire has a wonderful selection!

### Heritage Talk

## HISTORY OF ST ANNS ALLOTMENTS

£3 West Bridgford Library **B**

2pm / Tuesday 24 June



ST ANNS ALLOTMENTS ARE THE LARGEST VICTORIAN GARDENS IN THE COUNTRY.

Today they provide an oasis of peace and a fantastic resource for local people and children. Learn how the site developed from burgess parts, to leisure gardens, and how the gardeners saved their allotments from development.

 staa



### Heritage

## FAMILY HISTORY ONE TO ONE SESSIONS

FREE Online or phone **B**

2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm or 3.30pm / Tuesday 8 April

Looking for hints on how to discover more about your family's history? Sign up for a FREE one-to-one conversation with one of our librarians. Family History Surgery for beginners - by phone or video call.

### Heritage

## EXPLORING ANCESTRY

FREE Bingham Library **B**

10.30am / Saturday 26 April

Curious to learn more about your family's history? Join one of our librarians for a small group session, where they will demonstrate some key features of this valuable online research tool.

**Ancestry.co.uk** is FREE to use in Inspire Libraries, and at Nottinghamshire Archives. You can also learn more about access to the 1921 Census which is now accessible for FREE via Ancestry at Inspire Libraries and Nottinghamshire Archives!

 ancestry







## Heritage

### ARCHIVES TOUR

£6 Nottinghamshire Archives (B)

11am / Thursday 3 April

2.30pm / Thursday 22 May

11am / Tuesday 24 June

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. You will be able to interact in new ways with history through Augmented Reality on your own tablet or smartphone device. Try the new interactive wall to explore Nottingham's past. Enjoy a display and tour of the conservation studio and learn what conservation is, the different types of materials treated, and the techniques used.

## Heritage

### MURDER AT THE ARCHIVES

£6 Nottinghamshire Archives (B)

10am – 2pm (one-hour slots) /  
Saturday 26 April

Visit Nottinghamshire Archives where you will find clues and question suspects to discover the culprit of a historical crime. A unique opportunity to explore the heritage of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. There will be a time limit to complete the challenge that will test your deductive skills, powers of reasoning and teamwork.



## Heritage

### MARCHING IN TIME: DISCOVERING YOUR MILITARY ANCESTORS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

£6 Nottinghamshire Archives (B)

10.30am / Thursday 1 May

Join this workshop to discover the range of records relating to military personnel in Nottinghamshire Archives from the early 17th century to the Second World War. Discover the stories of local Crimean War veterans, find out who was on the militia ballot roll for Norton Cuckney in 1788 and explore the military careers of Nottinghamshire soldiers.

## Workshop

### INTRODUCTION TO BOOK BINDING: PAMPHLET BINDING WORKSHOP

£12 Nottinghamshire Archives (B)

10.30am / Tuesday 4 June

Join the conservation team at Nottinghamshire Archives for a relaxed morning making your own notebook using traditional book binding techniques. A pamphlet binding is a single section book block with boards covered in paper or cloth, which make ideal notebooks or sketchbooks to keep or give as gifts to family and friends.

All materials and equipment will be provided.







**CAN YOU  
ESCAPE?**

Heritage

**ARCHIVES ESCAPE!**

**£6** Nottinghamshire Archives **(B)**

10am – 2pm (one-hour slots) /  
Saturday 28 June

**YOU HAVE BECOME  
TRAPPED INSIDE  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
ARCHIVES!**

Solve the fiendish clues scattered throughout historical records, converse with figures from Nottinghamshire's past and use augmented reality to find an escape - time is running out!

Heritage

**WW2: HOME FRONT  
IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**£6** Nottinghamshire Archives **(B)**

**2.15pm / Tuesday 15 July**

The experience of life, particularly the Home Front, during the Second World War continues to fascinate young and old alike. In the workplace, women took the jobs of absent men, and the county played host to evacuees from more vulnerable centres. Communities showed an increase in neighbourliness and comradeship. Almost everyone was encouraged to become involved in the war effort, no matter how small their input.

Attendees will have the chance to view and handle local records to show how family life was transformed through rationing, air raids and the daily blackout.

While crucial battles were being fought in Egypt or Normandy, ordinary people were concerned with changes to everyday life such as worn-out clothes, digging for victory and preparing for possible invasion.



**DISCOVER HOW  
LIFE WAS FOR THOSE  
ON THE HOME FRONT!**

## Writing Workshop

## THE MINUTE MEMOIR

FREE Inspire Libraries Mansfield Central Library  
11am – 1pm / Saturday 5 AprilNewark Library  
11am – 1pm / Monday 12 MayArnold Library  
11am – 1pm / Saturday 21 JuneForest Town Library  
11am – 1pm / Thursday 24 JulyJOIN OUR MINUTE MEMOIR  
LIFE-WRITING WORKSHOPS.

We'll help you structure your stories and explore your memories, one at a time. Come along and write about your life, exercise your creativity and enjoy the wellbeing benefits of expressive writing. Developed by writers Anthony Cropper and Eve Makis, the Minute Memoir workshops are simple and fun, designed to help you capture your life's journey using easy-to-follow prompts.

The workshops are free and open to anyone aged 16 and over. We'd love for you to join us!

Funded by Arts Council England, the Minute Memoir will be available online later this year.



Supported using public funding by

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLANDBOOK  
YOUR  
PLACE

## Author Event

CATHY  
BRAMLEY£3 Retford Library 

7pm / Wednesday 30 April

Join Cathy Bramley, the bestselling Nottinghamshire-based author of fourteen heartwarming romance novels including *A Patchwork Family* and *My Kind of Happy* for a fantastic evening as she talks about her writing career, her books and her involvement with World Book Night 2025 for which she has written *The Surprise Visitor*.

Cathy Bramley



## Author Event

IN CONVERSATION  
WITH KATHY SLACK:  
ROUGH PATCH£5 West Bridgford Library 

7pm / Wednesday 7 May

Join us for an inspiring evening with Kathy Slack as she discusses her transformative memoir *Rough Patch: How a Year in the Garden Brought Me Back to Life*. Facing burnout and anxiety, Kathy found solace in her kitchen garden, rediscovering hope and healing through the power of nature and the joy of growing her own food.

Perfect for garden lovers, food enthusiasts, and anyone seeking renewal, this promises to be an evening of heartfelt stories and new perspectives.



Photo credit © Kirstie Young Photography  
Kathy Slack



**Author Event**

**JOHN CONNOLLY:  
THE CHILDREN OF EVE**

£5 Beeston Library **A**

7pm / Monday 12 May

Join John Connolly, the internationally acclaimed author of the bestselling Charlie Parker series, for a thrilling evening as he discusses his latest novel, *Children of Eve*. In this spellbinding new story, the ghosts of Charlie Parker's past watch over him as danger draws ever closer. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from one of the most masterful storytellers blending thriller and horror, hailed as 'Ireland's Stephen King.'

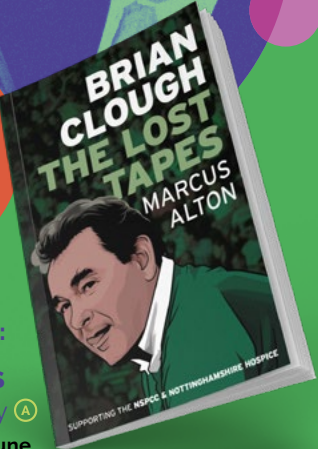
**JOHN CONNOLLY IS KNOWN FOR HIS GRIPPING THRILLERS, MYSTERY AND SUPERNATURAL FICTION.**

He has won the Edgar, Anthony, Shamus, and Macavity awards in the US, a CWA Dagger in the UK, and an Irish Book Award, as well as numerous international accolades, and has published more UK Sunday Times Top 10 Hardback Bestsellers than any other Irish writer.

John divides his time between Dublin and Portland, Maine.



**'BRIAN CLOUGH'S No1 FAN'**



**Author Event**

**MARCUS ALTON:  
BRIAN CLOUGH  
THE LOST TAPES**

£3 Arnold Library **A**

2pm / Tuesday 3 June

Join award-winning former radio and print journalist and now bestselling author Marcus Alton as he talks about legendary football manager Brian Clough.

Marcus met Brian several times and his interviews produced classic quotes. Marcus has written five books about 'Old Big 'Ead'. He will be talking about his latest book *Brian Clough The Lost Tapes*, which lifts the lid on a treasure trove of Cloughie stories.

Marcus hosts the popular Green Jumper podcast, which was named as one of the best football podcasts in the world in the 2025 Sports Podcast Awards. Marcus has been described as 'the leading authority on Brian Clough' while Four Four Two magazine hailed him as 'Brian Clough's No1 fan.'

Marcus was born in Nottingham and became the driving force behind the fundraising campaign for the city's Brian Clough statue unveiled by Barbara Clough in 2008.

Join us for this special event with the author who uncovered the classic Clough quote, "I wouldn't say I was the best manager in the business, but I was in the top one."

**N** No booking needed

**N**

**A** Advised booking

**A**

**B** Booking required

**B**

**Booking Info:**





## 20 EXHIBITIONS



### Exhibition

#### I AM A WRITER

FREE Workshop Library 

**Tuesday 4 March – Sunday 20 April**

Through writing, photography and audio, this exhibition seeks to convey the inspiring story of our I Am A Writer project, which saw established writers working with groups of people in the community to co-create exciting pieces of new writing – with the ultimate aim of giving voice to people who may not often be heard.

Enjoy some of the wonderful writing co-created with the groups – which included people living with dementia, older people and neurodiverse families – and get a behind-the-scenes look at the project through images captured by photographer Neil Pledger.

[inspireculture.org.uk/IAmAWriter](http://inspireculture.org.uk/IAmAWriter)

### Exhibition

#### OPEN STUDIOS NOTTS: BRINGING ARTISTS INTO VIEW

FREE Mansfield Central,  
Beeston and Retford Libraries 

**Saturday 26 April – Sunday 8 June**

The Open Studios Notts exhibition highlights the work and workplaces of artists and craftspeople taking part in this year's event. On display is a mixed exhibition of photographs and artwork that reveals a fascinating insight into the working worlds of artists and craftspeople, alongside information about where to visit all the Open Studios in Nottinghamshire.

[inspireculture.org.uk/OSNotts](http://inspireculture.org.uk/OSNotts)

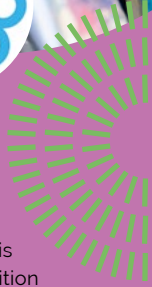


Photo credit © Martine Hamilton Knight

### Exhibition

#### NUCLEAR BUNKER: A CREATIVE ARCHIVE

FREE Workshop Library 

**Tuesday 3 June – Thursday 17 July**

On a patch of suburban wasteland in Nottingham, a Cold War relic lies abandoned: this is Regional Seat of Government 3, a nuclear bunker from which a commissioner and a staff of 400 people would have governed whatever remained of the North Midlands after nuclear war.

This exhibition explores the bunker through the eyes of writers, experts and photographers who ventured through its steel doors in the summer of 2024.



FEATURES  
WORK BY  
ACCLAIMED  
WRITERS!

Booking Info:



Booking required



Advised booking



No booking needed



**Exhibition****TIME TO CONNECT****FREE** Mansfield Central Library **Friday 13 June – Wednesday 9 July**

Inspire joined forces with the Miner2Major Landscape Partnership Scheme to leave a legacy of artworks in six key locations across Sherwood Forest.

Artists Mandy Keating and Tracey Meek worked with groups across the chosen venues to create drawings that informed sculptor Chris Campbell who made the legacy artworks.

**THE TIME TO CONNECT EXHIBITION SHOWS THE RESULT OF THE PROJECT.**

This work is part of a wider national project working with renowned portrait photographer, Alistair Morrison. Morrison has created Time to Connect, photographing people and places around the UK, and Nottinghamshire was the starting point for this journey!

**Miner2Major**  
The Real Sherwood ForestMade possible with  
**Heritage Fund****Exhibition****FUNGI UP CLOSE****FREE** Beeston Library **Friday 13 June – Wednesday 23 July**

Alex Hyde has visited sites across our local area including Sherwood Forest, Maun Valley and Spa Ponds to open our eyes to the wonders of fungi. A selection of his photographs from these visits have been used to create this exhibition.

**Talk****FUNGI UP CLOSE:  
STORIES BEHIND THE LENS****£3** Beeston Library **2pm / Wednesday 2 July****JOIN WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER ALEX HYDE TO DISCOVER THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FUNGI UP CLOSE.**

Alex has revealed unimaginable beauty, often unnoticed. Come and discover fascinating facts about fungi and hear Alex describe tips and tricks for photographing the natural world yourself. As well as a formal presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions about the photographic techniques Alex uses and a discussion about what we can do to help biodiversity.

**ABOUT ALEX HYDE**

Alex Hyde is a natural history photographer who has won the Hidden Britain category in both the 2015 and 2017 British Wildlife Photography Awards.

[inspireculture.org.uk/FungiUpClose](http://inspireculture.org.uk/FungiUpClose)

Photo credit © Alex Hyde

**Mansfield  
Museum****Miner2Major**  
The Real Sherwood ForestMade possible with  
**Heritage Fund**

*Paul Saxby*  
PAUL SAXBY PHOTOGRAPHY

**Exhibition**

**PAYING IT FORWARD:  
A VETERAN'S STORY BY PAUL SAXBY**  
**FREE** *Workshop Library* <sup>®</sup>

**Saturday 19 July – Thursday 28 August**

An exhibition to pay tribute to our veteran community and keep their stories alive.

This project embraces the ripple effect of paying it forward. Paul hopes that his acts of kindness in giving his time freely to capture images, and their backstories, will generate waves of goodwill throughout the community.



COME AND BE  
ASTONISHED BY  
HIS PORTRAITS  
AND THE RELATED  
INSPIRATIONAL  
MEMOIRS.



Women's Voluntary Services, Bridgford Road Car Park. Photo courtesy of the Inspire Picture Archive.



**Exhibition**

**VICTORY  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE:  
COMMEMORATING  
THE COUNTIES ROLE  
IN THE SECOND  
WORLD WAR**

**FREE** *Inspire Libraries* <sup>®</sup>

*Mansfield Central Library*

**Friday 13 June – Wednesday 9 July**

*Workshop Library*

**Saturday 19 July – Wednesday 13 August**

This year, Nottinghamshire celebrates the 80th Anniversary of the ending of the Second World War with Victory Nottinghamshire, an exhibition showcasing the war effort made by those on the home front and frontlines.

From the darkest days of the Nottingham Blitz to playing its part in training the aviators of Bomber Command, Victory Nottinghamshire tells the story of the people and county of Nottinghamshire and how they helped the Allies achieve victory.

Included is the story of the unique Home Guards Patrol Boats to the bravery of the Boots George Cross medal winners, as well as American Paratroopers and Bevin Boys;

**THIS EXHIBITION WILL GIVE VISITORS  
AN INSIGHT INTO HOW ALL CAME  
TOGETHER AND PLAYED A VITAL  
ROLE IN THE ALLIED VICTORY.**





Photo credit © Sam Binstead

## Event

### INSPIRE CHARITY KNITTING CHALLENGE 2025: WRAPPED

## CREATE A WOOLLY WORK OF ART IN 2025!

Inspire, Mansfield Building Society, the Trussell Trust and Creative Lives are supporting crafters to make beautiful hand knitted and crocheted scarves in our Charity Knitting Challenge for 2025: Wrapped!

Nottinghamshire knitwear designer Jane Withers is inspiring us to make warm woolly masterpieces with her patterns that are available free from libraries.

The handmade scarves are showcased in the annual exhibition before they are donated, with help from our distribution partners at the Trussell Trust.

[inspireculture.org.uk/Knit](http://inspireculture.org.uk/Knit)

Janie



## Online Workshop

### GET KNITTING! HANDY HEADBANDS WITH JANE WITHERS

FREE Online 

From Saturday 24 May

Join Jane's online workshop and have fun creating a stylish twisted headband that you will love to wear whenever the weather is chilly.

Follow Jane as she shows you how to make the headband in clear steps from start to finish. It's a great project for beginners and for anyone who wants to get crafty with yarns and have fun with all things woolly!



 No booking needed

 Advised booking

 Booking required

Booking info:



In support of



[nottshelpyourself.org.uk](http://nottshelpyourself.org.uk)

JOIN A  
YARN GROUP!  
Notts Help Yourself  
can help you find  
your nearest.

Wrapped

THE WRAPPED  
EXHIBITION IS AT  
WEST BRIDGFORD  
LIBRARY GALLERY

16 August –  
29 September  
2025





Credit: Hop Pole Hotel Ollerton. Image courtesy of the Inspire Picture Archive.

**Exhibition**

**OLLERTON THEN AND NOW**

**FREE** Inspire Libraries 

**Ollerton Library**

**Tuesday 1 April – Tuesday 29 April**

**Newark Library**

**Friday 2 May – Thursday 29 May**

**Southwell Library**

**Tuesday 3 June – Sunday 29 June**

An exhibition celebrating Ollerton: Then and Now. Contemporary photography of place informed and inspired by photos from the Inspire Picture Archive taken by adults from the community working with professional photographer Neil Pledger. The photos are seen alongside artwork based on historical maps created by children from the community working with visual artist Edwina Kung.



**Heritage**

**OLLERTON THEN AND NOW: CELEBRATION EVENT**

**FREE** Ollerton Library 

**10am – 12pm / Saturday 5 April**

**COME ALONG AND DISCOVER HOW OLLERTON HAS CHANGED OVER TIME.**

Join us for the official opening of the Ollerton: Then and Now exhibition and explore additional heritage resources including old photographs, historical maps and more!

**Family Workshops**

**OLLERTON THEN AND NOW: PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP WITH NEIL PLEDGER**

**FREE** Inspire Libraries 

**Newark Library**

**10am – 2pm / Saturday 10 May**

**Southwell Library**

**10am – 2pm / Saturday 27 June**

Snap up this opportunity to take part in a hands-on workshop with photographer Neil Pledger. The two-hour workshop is an introduction to photo composition techniques, specifically tailored to heritage and place photography. It will explore Inspire's Picture Archive, and how to record your local area for future generations, exploring Then and Now.

**For ages 14+. Under 18s must have an accompanying adult.**

Please bring your own camera or phone.



Neil Pledger

**Family Workshops**

**OLLERTON THEN AND NOW: ARTIST WORKSHOP WITH EDWINA KUNG**

**FREE** Inspire Libraries 

**Ollerton Library**

**10am – 12pm / Saturday 12 April**

**Newark Library**

**10am – 12pm / Wednesday 28 May**

Drop in for a fun, interactive artist workshop with Edwina Kung. Collaboratively create art maps, explore mark-making, layering, colour and pattern, inspired by historical local maps.

**Suitable for children and families.**

Ollerton Then and Now is part-funded by Libraries Connected through Arts Council England.



Edwina Kung



**Libraries Connected**

# JAZZ STEPS live at the libraries



Photo credit © Bob Mervick

Live Music

## THREEWAY

£13 Inspire Libraries **(B)**

**Beeston Library**

7.30pm / Monday 14 April

**Workshop Library**

7.30pm / Tuesday 15 April

**West Bridgford Library**

7.30pm / Wednesday 16 April

An evening of melodic and subtle 'chamber jazz' featured on Threeway's latest album *Harken!*

The trio's 20-year musical partnership shows their togetherness which...

"only comes from top musicians who know each other well and think as one. Everything is clear and precise yet full of delicacy and feeling."

**The Observer**

Live Music

## ME & MR JONES

£13 Inspire Libraries **(B)**

**Beeston Library**

7.30pm / Monday 19 May

**Workshop Library**

7.30pm / Tuesday 20 May

**West Bridgford Library**

7.30pm / Wednesday 21 May

Sophisticated sounds from Me & Mr Jones – A.K.A. joint founders of Nottingham's Peggy's Skylight venue. Great American Songbook tunes in fresh arrangements, plus soul and blues, for a great summer evening of jazz!

EASTSIDE JAZZ CLUB



Live Music

## EASTSIDE JAZZ QUARTET

£13 Inspire Libraries **(B)**

**Beeston Library**

7.30pm / Monday 16 June

**Workshop Library**

7.30pm / Tuesday 17 June

**West Bridgford Library**

7.30pm / Wednesday 18 June

A great chance to hear tomorrow's stars! Performing classic jazz repertoire and original tunes, recent graduates from the Birmingham Conservatoire Jazz Course, led by jazz tutor and leading bass player Arnie Somogyi. They gig regularly, including at Eastside Jazz Club on campus.

JAZZ  
STEPS

mjazz

DON'T  
MISS  
OUT

No booking needed

**(N)**

Advised booking

**(A)**

Booking required

**(B)**

Booking Info:

# FILM EVENTS AT INSPIRE LIBRARIES

All films supported by:



Nottinghamshire County Council



## Dementia Friendly

### WALLACE & GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT (U)

£1 Mansfield Central Library (A)

1.30pm / Wednesday 9 April

Wallace and his loyal dog, Gromit, set out to discover the mystery behind the garden sabotage that plagues their village and threatens the annual giant vegetable growing contest.



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

In partnership with Film Hub Midlands, with support from:



## Dementia Friendly

### DAD'S ARMY (PG)

£1 Beeston Library (A)

2pm / Friday 9 May

A film based on the adventures of the classic sitcom characters of the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard, as they deal with a journalist and German spy.

## Dementia Friendly

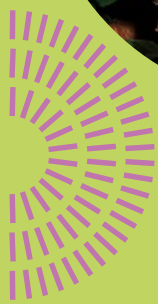
### THE TITFIELD THUNDERBOLT (U)

£1 Mansfield Central Library (A)

1.30pm / Wednesday 18 June

Ealing comedy about a group of villagers and their battle to preserve the local railway line by running it themselves. It goes well until they are sabotaged in a midnight raid by the rival bus company.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS







**Film Screening**  
**THE BEE MOVIE (U)**

£1 Beeston Library (A)

Craft 12.45pm / Film 2pm /  
Saturday 21 June

An ambitious worker bee Barry (Jerry Seinfeld) flies away in search of adventure but when he breaks the rules and speaks to humans, he sets off an un-bee-lievable chain of events.

**Come along and bee crafty!**

Pop-in for some craft activities before The Bee Movie starts! Join artist Clare Taylor to make seed paper, any time from 12.45pm.



**Relaxed Film Screening**  
**THE WILD ROBOT (U)**

£1 Arnold Library (A)

2pm / Tuesday 15 April

From DreamWorks Animation comes a new adaptation of a literary sensation, Peter Brown's beloved bestseller, The Wild Robot. Follow the journey of robot—ROZZUM unit 7134, "Roz" for short — that is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island and must learn to adapt to the harsh surroundings, gradually building relationships with the animals on the island and becoming the adoptive parent of an orphaned gosling.



**SING  
WITH  
FRIENDS**

FREE Inspire Libraries (N)

Mansfield Central Library  
Starting Wednesday 23 April

Join us for an hour of reminiscence using music from the movies and other favourites – with chat, tea and biscuits!

For all event dates visit:  
[inspireculture.org.uk/SingWithFriends](http://inspireculture.org.uk/SingWithFriends)





Live Music

INSPIRE YOUTH ARTS:

# ABLE ORCHESTRA PRESENTS UNLOCKED

PART OF SOUNDSTAGE FESTIVAL 2025

FREE Nottingham Contemporary 

**Doors open 5.30pm for a sensory  
exploration experience, performance  
starts 7pm / Tuesday 1 April**

An immersive live performance showcasing original music and epic visuals by the Able Orchestra Pioneers. Able Orchestra is an inclusive music and digital arts project for young people in Nottinghamshire produced by Inspire Youth Arts. The Pioneers are young leaders and artists who have collaborated with Producer Kirk Spencer, Artist and Mentor Kris Halpin and Nicci Craig (Dyskinetic), and Digital Artist Bec Smith, (Urban Projections) to develop tracks, artwork and visuals.

WE ARE  
LOOKING FOR  
NEW MEMBERS!

Take part in regular FREE weekly music and digital sessions during term time, open to young people aged 11 – 25 who have a physical and/or learning disability and/or who are neurodivergent. To find out more and book a FREE taster, email:

[iya@inspireculture.org.uk](mailto:iya@inspireculture.org.uk)

The Pioneers will perform individual tracks, followed by ensemble performances with musicians from Orchestra of the Swan.

**Pioneer performers include:**

**JESS FISHER  
CRYOFLAME  
DJ DOBRA  
MARSHALL FAIRBROTHER  
BRADLEY MCKNIGHT  
& ZOE PRITCHARD-TYE**

[inspireculture.org.uk/AbleUnlocked](https://inspireculture.org.uk/AbleUnlocked)

**Booking Info:**  Booking required  Advised booking  No booking needed

# Inspire Adult Learning

Culture | Learning | Libraries

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Learn local, go far!

Develop your skills and  
enhance your CV with  
Inspire Adult Learning

Inspire's Adult Learning courses aren't just  
for fun – we have plenty of ways for you to  
upskill and get ahead in your career!

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with Inspire Adult Learning

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You'll study either in-person or online in small groups with other learners, and our experienced, friendly tutors will support you to work towards your qualification at a level that is right for you. All courses are broken down into accessible units, with homework to complete and an exam at the end.

Visit our website to view more details and how to enrol at [inspireculture.org.uk/functional-skills](https://inspireculture.org.uk/functional-skills)

Maths | English | Digital Skills

## Career Boosting!

If you're looking to progress your career or up-skill, come and talk to us about our superb range of accredited career-boosting courses. We have courses in volunteering, teaching, coding, health, social care or counselling, and business and management. Some even have funding available so your course could be fully or part-funded.

Find out more at [inspireculture.org.uk/accredited](https://inspireculture.org.uk/accredited)

Business & Management | Teaching | Coding | Health | Social Care | Volunteering | Counselling

**ENROL NOW!** Go online [inspireculture.org.uk/learning](https://inspireculture.org.uk/learning) or call 01623 677 200\*

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#BeInspired #InspireLearning

\*subject to eligibility criteria



**SUMMER  
TERM  
PROGRAMME**  
Coming soon!

**INSPIRE  
COLLEGE**  
Enrolling NOW  
for September  
2025!

**FREE\*  
AND LOW  
COST**

**IN-PERSON  
OR  
ONLINE**





## EVENTS DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	LOCATION	£	PAGE
4 Mar – 20 Apr	<b>I Am A Writer</b>	Exhibition	Workshop Library	<b>FREE</b>	20
1 Apr	<b>Able Orchestra Presents UNLOCKED</b>	Live Music	Nottingham Contemporary	<b>FREE</b>	28
1 Apr – 17 Jul	<b>Little Creatives Workshops*</b>	Under 5s	Various Inspire Libraries	<b>FREE</b>	7
1 – 29 Apr	<b>Ollerton Then and Now</b>	Exhibition	Ollerton Library	<b>FREE</b>	24
3 Apr	<b>Nottinghamshire Archives Tour</b>	Heritage	Nottinghamshire Archives	<b>£6</b>	16
5 Apr	<b>The Minute Memoir</b>	Writing Workshop	Mansfield Central Library	<b>FREE</b>	18
5 Apr	<b>Ollerton Then and Now: Celebration Event</b>	Heritage	Ollerton Library	<b>FREE</b>	24
8 Apr	<b>Family History One to One Sessions</b>	Heritage	Online or phone	<b>FREE</b>	15
9 Apr	<b>Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (U)</b>	Film Screening	Mansfield Central Library	<b>£1</b>	26
12 Apr	<b>Ollerton Then and Now: Artist Workshop with Edwina Kung</b>	Family Workshop	Ollerton Library	<b>FREE</b>	24
14 Apr	<b>Jazz Steps: Threeway</b>	Live Music	Beeston Library	<b>£13</b>	25
15 Apr	<b>Jazz Steps: Threeway</b>	Live Music	Workshop Library	<b>£13</b>	25
15 Apr	<b>The Wild Robot (U)</b>	Film Screening	Arnold Library	<b>£1</b>	27
16 Apr	<b>Rogues, Vagabonds, or Heroes? The Story of the Rufford Park Poachers</b>	Heritage Talk	Workshop Library	<b>£3</b>	13
16 Apr	<b>Jazz Steps: Threeway</b>	Live Music	West Bridgford Library	<b>£13</b>	25
From 22 Apr	<b>Adventures in Music*</b>	Under 5s	Various Inspire Libraries	<b>FREE</b>	7
From 22 Apr	<b>The Lullaby Bank*</b>	Under 5s	Various Inspire Libraries	<b>FREE</b>	8
From 23 Apr	<b>Sing with Friends</b>	Community	Mansfield Central Library	<b>FREE</b>	27
26 Apr	<b>Exploring Ancestry</b>	Heritage	Bingham Library	<b>FREE</b>	15
26 Apr	<b>Murder at the Archives</b>	Heritage	Nottinghamshire Archives	<b>£6</b>	16
26 Apr	<b>The Sounds of Music</b>	Family Concert	Retford Library	<b>£4/£7</b>	9
26 Apr	<b>Stick &amp; Fetch Investigate with Elissa Elwick</b>	Children's Illustrator Visit	West Bridgford and Beeston Libraries	<b>£3*</b>	8
26 Apr – 8 Jun	<b>Open Studios Notts: Bringing Artists into View</b>	Exhibition	Mansfield Central, Beeston, and Retford Libraries	<b>FREE</b>	20
29 Apr	<b>Women of the British Civil Wars</b>	Heritage Talk	West Bridgford Library	<b>£3</b>	13
30 Apr	<b>Cathy Bramley</b>	Author Event	Retford Library	<b>£3</b>	18
1 May	<b>Marching in Time: Discovering Your Military Ancestors</b>	Heritage	Nottinghamshire Archives	<b>£6</b>	16
2 – 29 May	<b>Ollerton Then and Now</b>	Exhibition	Newark Library	<b>FREE</b>	24
2 – 30 May	<b>Unearthed: The Power of Gardening</b>	Exhibition	Mansfield Central Library	<b>FREE</b>	4
7 May	<b>In Conversation with Kathy Slack: Rough Patch</b>	Author Event	West Bridgford Library	<b>£5</b>	18
9 May	<b>Dad's Army (PG)</b>	Film Screening	Beeston Library	<b>£1</b>	26
10 May	<b>Ollerton Then and Now: Photography Workshop with Neil Pledger</b>	Family Workshop	Newark Library	<b>FREE</b>	24
12 May	<b>John Connolly: The Children of Eve</b>	Author Event	Beeston Library	<b>£5</b>	19
12 May	<b>The Minute Memoir</b>	Writing Workshop	Newark Library	<b>FREE</b>	18
13 May	<b>Rattle, Rhyme and Roll with Peter Rabbit</b>	Under 5s	Mansfield Central and Kirkby-in-Ashfield Libraries	<b>FREE</b>	9
17 May	<b>Hands On Heritage Day</b>	Heritage	Mansfield Central Library	<b>FREE</b>	12
17 – 18 May	<b>Virtual Reality Library</b>	VR Experience	Mansfield Central Library	<b>FREE</b>	11
19 May	<b>Jazz Steps: Me &amp; Mr Jones</b>	Live Music	Beeston Library	<b>£13</b>	25
20 May	<b>Jazz Steps: Me &amp; Mr Jones</b>	Live Music	Workshop Library	<b>£13</b>	25
21 May	<b>Jazz Steps: Me &amp; Mr Jones</b>	Live Music	West Bridgford Library	<b>£13</b>	25
21 May	<b>Medieval Workshop</b>	Heritage Talk	Workshop Library	<b>£3</b>	13
22 May	<b>Nottinghamshire Archives Tour</b>	Heritage	Nottinghamshire Archives	<b>£6</b>	16
24 – 25 May	<b>Virtual Reality Library</b>	VR Experience	Workshop Library	<b>FREE</b>	11

\* See page event listing for full dates and times. † Free for accompanying adults.

## April – July 2025

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	LOCATION	£	PAGE
From 24 May	<b>Get Knitting! Handy Headbands with Jane Withers</b>	Online Workshop	Online	<b>FREE</b>	23
27 May	<b>Historic Gardens of Nottinghamshire</b>	Heritage Talk	Mansfield Central Library	<b>£3</b>	14
27 May	<b>Tom McLaughlin</b>	Children's Author Visit	Worksop and Mansfield Central Libraries	<b>£3*</b>	9
28 May	<b>Ollerton Then and Now: Artist Workshop with Edwina Kung</b>	Family Workshop	Newark Library	<b>FREE</b>	24
28 May	<b>Virtual Reality Library</b>	VR Experience	Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library	<b>FREE</b>	11
30 – 31 May	<b>Virtual Reality Library</b>	VR Experience	Beeston Library	<b>FREE</b>	11
3 Jun	<b>Marcus Alton: Brian Clough The Lost Tapes</b>	Author Event	Arnold Library	<b>£3</b>	19
3 – 29 June	<b>Ollerton Then and Now</b>	Exhibition	Southwell Library	<b>FREE</b>	24
3 Jun – 17 Jul	<b>Nuclear Bunker: A Creative Archive</b>	Exhibition	Worksop Library	<b>FREE</b>	20
4 Jun	<b>Introduction to Book Binding: Pamphlet Binding Workshop</b>	Heritage	Nottinghamshire Archives	<b>£12</b>	16
5 Jun	<b>Historical Highlights from Bassetlaw</b>	Heritage Talk	Retford Library	<b>£3</b>	14
6 Jun – 5 Jul	<b>Unearthed: The Power of Gardening</b>	Exhibition	Beeston Library	<b>FREE</b>	4
7 Jun	<b>The Sounds of Music</b>	Family Concert	Mansfield Central Library	<b>£4/£7</b>	9
9 Jun	<b>Exploring Parish Registers</b>	Heritage	Southwell Library	<b>FREE</b>	14
13 Jun – 9 Jul	<b>Time to Connect</b>	Exhibition	Mansfield Central Library	<b>FREE</b>	21
13 Jun – 9 Jul	<b>Victory Nottinghamshire</b>	Exhibition	Mansfield Central Library	<b>FREE</b>	22
13 Jun – 23 Jul	<b>Fungi Up Close</b>	Exhibition	Beeston Library	<b>FREE</b>	21
16 Jun	<b>Jazz Steps: Eastside Jazz Quartet</b>	Live Music	Beeston Library	<b>£13</b>	25
17 Jun	<b>Jazz Steps: Eastside Jazz Quartet</b>	Live Music	Worksop Library	<b>£13</b>	25
17 Jun	<b>The Scandalous Marriages of the Sherwood Aristocracy</b>	Heritage Talk	Mansfield Central Library	<b>£3</b>	14
18 Jun	<b>Jazz Steps: Eastside Jazz Quartet</b>	Live Music	West Bridgford Library	<b>£13</b>	25
18 Jun	<b>Gardens of Delight</b>	Heritage Talk	Beeston Library	<b>£3</b>	15
18 Jun	<b>The Titfield Thunderbolt (U)</b>	Film Screening	Mansfield Central Library	<b>£1</b>	26
21 Jun	<b>The Bee Movie (U)</b>	Film Screening	Beeston Library	<b>£1</b>	27
21 Jun	<b>The Minute Memoir</b>	Writing Workshop	Arnold Library	<b>FREE</b>	18
21 Jun	<b>The Sounds of Music</b>	Family Concert	Bingham Library	<b>£4/£7</b>	9
24 Jun	<b>History of St Anns Allotments</b>	Heritage Talk	West Bridgford Library	<b>£3</b>	15
24 Jun	<b>Nottinghamshire Archives Tour</b>	Heritage	Nottinghamshire Archives	<b>£6</b>	16
27 Jun	<b>Ollerton Then and Now: Photography Workshop with Neil Pledger</b>	Family Workshop	Southwell Library	<b>FREE</b>	24
28 Jun	<b>Archives Escape!</b>	Heritage	Nottinghamshire Archives	<b>£6</b>	17
2 Jul	<b>Fungi Up Close: Stories Behind the Lens</b>	Talk	Beeston Library	<b>£3</b>	21
5 Jul – 7 Sep	<b>Summer Reading Challenge 2025: Story Garden</b>	Children's Reading	All Inspire Libraries	<b>FREE</b>	5
7 – 12 Jul	<b>The Magical Major Oak: Summer in Bloom*</b>	Under 5s	Various Inspire Libraries	<b>£2</b>	10
11 Jul – 9 Aug	<b>Unearthed: The Power of Gardening</b>	Exhibition	Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library	<b>FREE</b>	4
12 Jul – 7 Sep	<b>Seed</b>	Exhibition	Hucknall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, and Mansfield Central Libraries	<b>FREE</b>	6
15 Jul	<b>WW2: Home Front in Nottinghamshire</b>	Heritage	Nottinghamshire Archives	<b>£6</b>	17
16 Jul	<b>Rogues, Vagabonds, or Heroes? The Story of the Rufford Park Poachers</b>	Heritage Talk	Beeston Library	<b>£3</b>	13
19 Jul – 13 Aug	<b>Victory Nottinghamshire</b>	Exhibition	Worksop Library	<b>FREE</b>	22
19 Jul – 28 Aug	<b>Paying it Forward: A Veteran's Story by Paul Saxby</b>	Exhibition	Worksop Library	<b>FREE</b>	22
24 Jul	<b>The Minute Memoir</b>	Writing Workshop	Forest Town Library	<b>FREE</b>	18

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