

Inspire Libraries & Beyond What's On

April – July 2025

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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.](#)

Living Knowledge Network

Exhibition

[Unearthed: The Power of Gardening](#)

- 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

A taster of the Unearthed Exhibition exploring the transformative power of gardening that is on display at the British Library's St Pancras site in May 2025.

Free. No booking required.

Children and Families

Summer Reading Challenge 2025

[Story Garden: Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors](#)

- All libraries – Saturday 5 July – Sunday 7 September

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.

Free. Sign-up at your local library.

Exhibition

Seed

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

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.

Free. No booking required.

Under 5s

Little Creatives

- Arnold Library – 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July
- Beeston Library – 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July
- Bingham Library – 10 April, 8 May, 12 June, 10 July
- Hucknall Library – 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library – 17 April, 15 May, 19 July, 17 July
- Mansfield Central Library – 4 April, 2 May, 6 June, 4 July
- Newark Library – 1 April, 6 May, 3 June, 1 July
- Retford Library – 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July
- Southwell Library – 10 April, 8 May, 12 June, 10 July
- West Bridgford Library – 17 April, 15 May, 19 June, 17 July

- Worksop Library – 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July

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 23 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
- Cotgrave

- Eastwood
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield
- Mansfield Central
- Newark
- Retford
- Stapleford
- Sutton-in-Ashfield
- Worksop

Free. Booking Advised.

Under 5s

[The Lullaby Bank](#)

At 7 Inspire Libraries starting from 23 April. Libraries include:

- Arnold
- Beeston
- Bingham
- Carlton Hill
- Cotgrave
- Eastwood
- Stapleford

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.

Children's Illustrator Visit

[Stick & Fetch Investigate with Elissa Elwick](#)

- West Bridgford Library - Saturday 26 April, 10.30am
- Beeston Library – Saturday 26 April, 2pm

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.

For ages 5 – 9.

£3 for children. Accompanying adults free.

Family Concert

[The Sounds of Music](#)

- Retford Library – Saturday 26 April, 1pm
- Mansfield Central Library – Saturday 7 June, 1pm
- Bingham Library – Saturday 21 June, 1pm

Travel with us on a magical musical tour to find out how the development of musical instruments changed the sound and the style of music we listen to. For ages 5 – 11.

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

Children's Author Visit

Tom McLaughlin

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 27 May, 10.30am
- Worksop Library – Tuesday 27 May, 2pm

Hear Tom McLaughlin talk all things comic book related.

£3 for children. Accompanying adults free.

Under 5s

The Magical Major Oak: Summer in Bloom

- Arnold Library – Thursday 10 July, 10.30am
- Beeston Library – Monday 7 July, 2pm
- Bingham Library – Thursday 10 July, 2pm
- Hucknall Library – Tuesday 8 July, 10.30am
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library – Tuesday 8 July, 2pm
- Mansfield Central Library – Friday 11 July, 11am & 1.30pm
- Newark Library – Wednesday 9 July, 2pm
- Retford Library – Saturday 12 July, 10.30am
- Southwell Library – Wednesday 9 July, 10.30am
- West Bridgford Library – Monday 7 July, 10.30am
- Worksop Library – Saturday 23 July, 2pm

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

For ages 2 – 4. £2 per person.

Under 5s

[Rattle, Rhyme and Roll with Peter Rabbit](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 13 May, 10am
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library – Tuesday 13 May, 2pm

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.

Free. No booking required.

[Digital Spaces](#)

Virtual Reality Library

Mansfield Central Library

- Saturday 17 May, 10am – 2pm
- Sunday 18 May, 12 – 2pm

Worksop Library

- Saturday 24 May, 10am – 3pm

- Sunday 25 May, 12 – 2pm

Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library

- Wednesday 28 May – 10am – 3pm

Beeston Library

- Friday 30 May, 10am – 3pm
- Saturday 31 May, 10am – 3pm

A national virtual reality tour visiting four libraries. Drop in, put on a headset and enjoy a thrilling programme.

Heritage

Heritage

[Hands On Heritage Day 2025](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Saturday 17 May, 10am – 2pm

A day of fun and free activities from heritage groups and organisations across the county.

Free. No booking required.

Heritage Talk

[Rogues, Vagabonds, or Heroes? The Story of the Rufford Park Poachers](#)

- Worksop Library – Wednesday 16 April, 2pm

- Beeston Library – Wednesday 16 July, 2pm

This talk by local historian Sam Millard tells of a violent clash between poachers and gamekeepers on the Rufford Abbey estate.

£3. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

Women of the British Civil Wars 1642 - 1659

- West Bridgford Library – Tuesday 29 April, 2pm

Local historian Sandra Berrington will explore the significant role women of Nottinghamshire played in the British Civil Wars.

£3. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

Medieval Worksop

- Worksop Library – Wednesday 21 May, 2pm

Join Benedict Jephcote to discover how the Norman and Medieval period laid the groundwork for Worksop in later centuries.

£3. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

[Historic Gardens of Nottinghamshire](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 27 May, 2pm

A talk drawing on the wealth of gardening heritage remaining in Nottinghamshire.

£3. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

[Historical Highlights from Bassetlaw](#)

- Retford Library – Thursday 5 June, 7pm

Talk by local author and historian Adrian Gray, bringing together some of the most interesting places in the historic landscape of Bassetlaw.

£3. Booking required.

Heritage

[Exploring Parish Registers](#)

- Southwell Library – Monday 9 June, 2pm

A small group session focusing on Nottinghamshire's parish registers.

Free. Booking required.

Heritage

[Family History One to One Sessions](#)

- Online or phone – Tuesday 8 April - 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm or 3.30pm

Free. Booking required.

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

Heritage

[Exploring Ancestry](#)

- Bingham Library – Saturday 26 April, 10.30am

Join one of our librarians for a small group session where they will demonstrate key features of Ancestry.co.uk.

Free. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

[The Scandalous Marriages of the Sherwood Aristocracy](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Tuesday 17 June, 2pm

Adrian Gray tells the story of the illicit love affairs of the Sherwood aristocracy.

£3. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

[Gardens of Delight](#)

- Beeston Library – Wednesday 18 June, 2pm

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.

£3. Booking required.

Heritage Talk

[History of St Anns Allotments](#)

- West Bridgford Library – Tuesday 24 June, 2pm

St Anns allotments are the largest Victorian gardens in the county. Learn how they have developed.

£3. Booking required.

Heritage

[Archives Tour](#)

Nottinghamshire Archives

- Thursday 3 April, 11am
- Thursday 22 May, 2.30pm
- Tuesday 24 June, 11am

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.

£6. Booking required.

Heritage

[Murder at the Archives](#)

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Saturday 26 April, 10am – 2pm (one-hour slots)

Visit Nottinghamshire Archives where you will find clues and question suspects to discover the culprit of a historical crime.

£6. Booking required.

Heritage

[Marching in Time: Discovering Your Military Ancestors in Nottinghamshire Archives](#)

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Thursday 1 May, 10.30am

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.

£6. Booking required.

Workshop

[Introduction to Book Binding: Pamphlet Binding Workshop](#)

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Tuesday 4 June, 10.30am

Join the conservation team at Nottinghamshire Archives for a relaxed morning making your own notebook using traditional book binding techniques. Materials and equipment provided.

£12. Booking required.

Heritage

[Archives Escape!](#)

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Saturday 28 June, 10am – 2pm (one-hour slots)

You have become trapped inside Nottinghamshire Archives! Solve the clues from historical records and use augmented reality to find an escape.

£6. Booking required.

Heritage

[WW2: Home Front in Nottinghamshire](#)

- Nottinghamshire Archives – Tuesday 15 July, 2.15pm

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

£6. Booking required.

Reading

Writing Workshop

[The Minute Memoir](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Saturday 5 April, 11am – 1pm
- Newark Library – Monday 12 May, 11am – 1pm
- Arnold Library – Saturday 21 June, 11am – 1pm
- Forest Town Library – Thursday 24 July, 11am – 1pm

Free, guided life writing sessions with writers Anthony Cropper and Eve Makis. For ages 16+.

Free. Booking required.

Author Event

[Cathy Bramley](#)

- Retford Library – Wednesday 30 April, 7pm

Join romance author Cathy Bramley to hear about her writing career, her books and her involvement with World Book Night 2025.

£3. Booking advised.

Author Event

[In Conversation with Kathy Slack: Rough Patch](#)

- West Bridgford Library – Wednesday 7 May, 7pm

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*.

£5. Booking advised.

Author Event

[John Connolly: The Children of Eve](#)

- Beeston Library – Monday 12 May, 7pm

Join John Connolly, the internationally acclaimed author of the bestselling Charlie Parker series, for a thrilling evening as he

discusses his latest novel.

£5. Booking advised.

Author Event

Marcus Alton: Brian Clough The Lost Tapes

- Arnold Library – Tuesday 3 June, 2pm

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

£3. Booking advised.

Exhibitions

Exhibition

[I Am A Writer](#)

- Worksop Library – Tuesday 4 March – Sunday 20 April

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.

Free. No booking required.

Exhibition

[Open Studios Notts: Bringing Artists Into View](#)

- Mansfield, Beeston, 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.

Free. No booking required.

Exhibition

[Nuclear Bunker: A Creative Archive](#)

- Worksop Library – Tuesday 3 June – Thursday 17 July

An exhibition exploring an abandoned Nottingham nuclear bunker through the eyes of photographers.

Free. No booking required.

Exhibition

Time to Connect

- Mansfield Central Library – Friday 13 June – Wednesday 9 July

The result of the Time to Connect project.

Free. No booking required.

Exhibition

Fungi Up Close

- Beeston Library – Friday 12 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.

Free. No booking required.

Talk

Fungi Up Close – Stories Behind the Lens

- Beeston Library – Wednesday 2 July, 2pm

Join wildlife photographer Alex Hyde to discover the wonderful world of Fungi Up Close.

£3. Booking required.

Exhibition

Paying It Forward: A Veteran's Story by Paul Saxby

- Worksop Library – Saturday 19 July – Thursday 28 August

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

Free. No booking required.

Exhibition

Victory Nottinghamshire: Commemorating the Counties

Role in the Second World War

- Mansfield Central Library – Friday 13 June – Wednesday 9 July
- Worksop Library – Saturday 19 July – Wednesday 13 August

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

Online Workshop

[Get Knitting! Handy Headbands with Jane Withers](#)

- Online from Saturday 24 May

Join Jane's online workshop and have fun creating a stylish twisted headband.

Free. No booking required.

Ollerton Then and Now

Exhibition

[Ollerton Then and Now](#)

- 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.

Free. No booking required.

Heritage

Ollerton then and Now: Celebration Event

- Ollerton Library – Saturday 5 April, 10am – 12pm

The official opening of the Ollerton: Then and Now exhibition and explore additional heritage resources.

Free. No booking required.

Family Workshops

Ollerton Then and Now Photography Workshop with Neil Pledger

- Newark Library – Saturday 10 May, 10am – 2pm
- Southwell Library – Saturday 27 June, 10am – 2pm

Snap up this opportunity to take part in a hands-on workshop with photographer Neil Pledger. For ages 14+. Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.

Free. Booking required.

Family Workshops

Ollerton Then and Now Artist Workshop with Edwina Kung

- Ollerton Library – Saturday 12 April, 10am – 12pm
- Newark Library – Wednesday 28 May, 10am – 12pm

Drop in for a fun, interactive artist workshop with Edwina Kung and collaboratively create an art map.

Free. No booking required.

Jazz Steps Live at the Libraries

Live Music

Threeway

- Beeston Library – Monday 14 April, 7.30pm
- Worksop Library – Tuesday 15 April, 7.30pm
- West Bridgford Library – Wednesday 16 April, 7.30pm

An evening of melodic chamber jazz.

£13. Booking required.

Live Music

Me & Mr Jones

- Beeston Library – Monday 19 May, 7.30pm
- Worksop Library – Tuesday 20 May, 7.30pm
- West Bridgford Library – Wednesday 21 May, 7.30pm

Great American tunes plus soul and blues for a summer evening of jazz.

£13. Booking required.

Live Music

Eastside Jazz Quartet

- Beeston Library – Monday 16 June, 7.30pm
- Worksop Library – Tuesday 17 June, 7.30pm

- West Bridgford Library – Wednesday 18 June, 7.30pm

A great chance to hear tomorrow's jazz stars! Recent graduates from the Birmingham Conservatoire jazz course.

£13. Booking required.

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

[Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit \(U\)](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Wednesday 9 April, 1.30pm

Wallace and his loyal dog, Gromit, set out to discover the mystery behind the garden sabotage that plagues their village.

£1. Booking advised.

Dementia Friendly

[Dad's Army \(PG\)](#)

- Beeston Library – Friday 9 May, 2pm

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.

£1. Booking advised.

Dementia Friendly

[The Titfield Thunderbolt \(U\)](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Wednesday 18 June, 1.30pm

Ealing comedy about a group of villagers and their battle to preserve the local railway line by running it themselves.

£1. Booking advised.

Film Screening

[The Bee Movie \(U\)](#)

- Beeston Library – Saturday 21 June, craft activity
12.45pm and film 2pm

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.

£1. Booking advised.

Relaxed Film Screening

[The Wild Robot \(U\)](#)

- Arnold Library - Tuesday 15 April, 2pm

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.

£1. Booking advised.

Community

[Sing With Friends](#)

- Mansfield Central Library – Wednesdays starting from 23 April

An hour of reminiscence using music from the movies and other favourites - with chat, tea and biscuits!

Live Music

[Able Orchestra presents: UNLOCKED](#)

- Nottingham Contemporary – Tuesday 1 April, doors open 5.30pm for sensory exploration experience, performance starts 7pm.

An immersive live performance by the Able Orchestra Pioneers, debuting their latest EP, New World Key. With stunning visuals and sensory elements, the performers will showcase individual

tracks and ensemble performances through collaborations with Orchestra of the Swan, Dyskinetic, Urban Projections and artist's Tom Shawcroft and Kirk Spencer.

Free. Booking required.