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LIBRARY NEWS

Over the next week 17 more volunteers will be receiving training in the library, so we'll soon be able to open on a third day and we're planning to extend our opening hours gradually over the coming months.

Our library is getting busier every week and it's great to see how pleased people are to find us open. All Covid safety measures are in place and when you visit we will be asking you to help us keep library users and volunteers safe.

CURRENT OPENING TIMES

Saturdays from 10:00am to 12:30pm

Wednesdays from 1:30pm to 4:00pm

We'll continue to offer the following services if you'd rather not browse in the library just yet . . .

Click and Collect

Our Click and Collect service is available at Northfields Community Library. Order items online using the Ealing Library Service website at www.ealing.gov.uk/libraries You can request a hold on a book (check first that it's in stock in Northfields Library) and choose to pick it up at our library.

Email Requests

If you know what items you would like to borrow but do not have a PIN number, then email a list of authors and titles to nclbooks@outlook.com Please include your library card number in your email.

Lucky Dip

If you would like to borrow books and are happy for library volunteers to choose for you then email us at nclbooks@outlook.com telling us what type of books you would like to borrow and we will choose 3 books for you. Please include your library card number in your email.

LIBRARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

NORTHFIELDS COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

NEXT MEETING: 20:00 TUESDAY 25TH MAY, 2021

Our Book Club meets monthly on Zoom, and we read a selection of fiction and non-fiction titles. At our next meeting we'll be discussing "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett - it's on the shortlist for the upcoming Women's Prize for Fiction.

Email getintouchncl@outlook.com with the heading **Book Club** if you'd like to join us.

 **alison stewart**
@alimstewart

Northfields Community Library Book Club celebrating [#WorldBookNight](#) with a smile!



9:55 PM · Apr 23, 2021 · Twitter Web App

SINGING WITH GILBERT IS BACK!

THURSDAYS AT 11:30AM

Our youngest residents and their carers will be delighted to hear that these rhyme time sessions are returning this Thursday and will continue weekly. Led by Gilbert the Rabbit and his friend Wei Hei, these 20 minute sessions for babies and toddlers feature well known nursery and action songs.

To join in, email gilbertr.stmarys@gmail.com with your name and the name of your child/children and you will be sent a link to the Zoom session.

ITALIAN CLASSES

Our beginners' Italian class is now full, but we've had enquiries about running an intermediate level conversation class as well. If you'd be interested to join this class then email getintouchncl@outlook.com - headed **Intermediate Italian Classes**

LIBRARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

SPANISH CLASSES

MONDAYS FROM 3RD MAY AT 11:30 AND 12:35

ONE PLACE IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR OUR INTERMEDIATE LEVEL CLASS!

There are eight classes, starting at 12:35 for an hour. The classes are held on Zoom. If you'd like to join then please email getintouchncl@outlook.com with the heading Spanish Intermediate Class

SHARED READING GROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00AM

The national organisation The Reader has established shared reading groups across the country, providing a place for people to come together and talk, laugh and share through stories and poems. At these free weekly groups the group leader reads a text aloud, giving everyone the space to think about and discuss what it means to them. There's no pressure to take part actively - you can just come along and listen!

Our Shared Reading group meetings are held online every Wednesday from 10:00am-11:30am. No preparation required. If you would like to attend, email getintouchncl@outlook.com with the heading Shared Reading Group.

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR EVENTS OR GROUP ACTIVITIES?

We're always happy to extend our offer of events and activities - if you have skills to share or ideas for new groups then do let us know by emailing getintouchncl@outlook.com.

All activities need to take place online at the moment, but when Covid restrictions finally relax we'll look forward to moving groups into the library.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

Mental Health Awareness Week is an annual event when there is an opportunity for the whole of the UK to focus on achieving good mental health. The Mental Health Foundation started the event 21 years ago. The event has grown to become one of the biggest awareness weeks across the UK and globally.

Mental Health Awareness Week is open to everyone. It is all about starting conversations about mental health and the things in our daily lives that can affect it. The Week is an opportunity for people to talk about all aspects of mental health, with a focus on providing help and advice.

This year we want as many people as possible – individuals, communities and governments – to think about connecting with nature and how nature can improve our mental health.

We want people to notice nature and try to make a habit of connecting to the nature every day. Stop to listen to the birdsong, smell the freshly cut grass, take care of a house plant, notice any trees, flowers or animals nearby. Take a moment to appreciate these connections.

We also want people to share images/videos/or just sound recordings of the nature on your doorstep (and how this made you feel) on social media using **#ConnectWithNature** and **#MentalHealthAwarenessWeek**

The theme was chosen because being in nature is known to be an effective way of tackling mental health problems and of protecting our wellbeing.

This seemed particularly important this year - in the year of a pandemic. Our own research has shown that being in nature has been one of the most popular ways the public have tried to sustain good mental health at a challenging time.

MAY IS LOCAL AND COMMUNITY HISTORY MONTH

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR AREA OF EALING?

THIS ARTICLE COMES FROM THE [HIDDEN LONDON WEBSITE](#)

The Northfield Ward is situated in the south-western corner of Ealing, with a history of fruit-growing and tightrope-walking - and street names that reflect this

From the 14th century this area was part of the manor of Coldhall, or West Ealing. Great and Little Northfields were two large fields in the late Middle Ages, lying in the extreme west of Ealing parish.

By the mid-17th century Northfield Lane (later Avenue) linked Little Ealing with the road to Uxbridge. The manor house of Coldhall probably stood near the southern end of the lane at that time. The Plough inn was in existence by 1722 but has since been rebuilt more than once.

An orchard had been planted in Little Northfield by 1738 and in the 19th century the Steel family of market gardeners grew apples across the entire area on an almost industrial scale. In the 1870s the family built a fruit-packing warehouse, which survived until recently at the corner of Northcroft Road and Northfield Road.

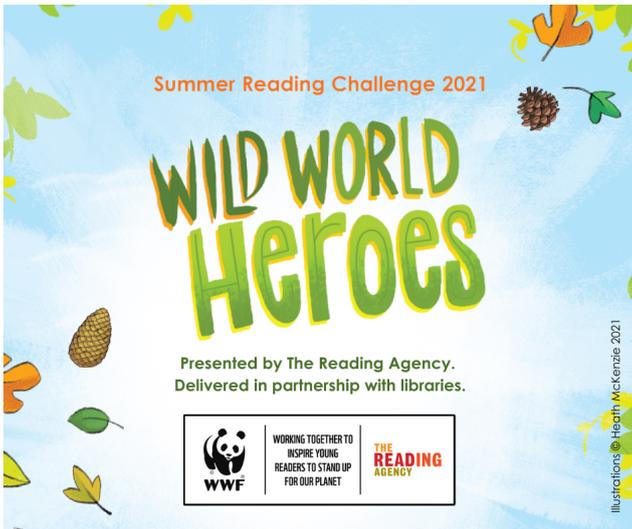
The great French acrobat and tightrope walker Charles Blondin lived in Northfields from 1886 until his death in 1897 in a villa he called Niagara House, a name that commemorated his numerous crossings of Niagara Falls on a tightrope, once stopping midway to cook an omelette and once carrying his manager on his back. Niagara House stood opposite the Plough, probably on the site of Coldhall manor house.

With the coming of electric trams to Uxbridge Road in 1901, the Steels turned property developers and began to grub up the fruit trees and lay out streets, initially between Uxbridge Road and Leighton Road. Julien Road, Wellington Road and Bramley Road, south of Northfields station, are named after cooking apples that the family cultivated.

Niagara House was demolished in the early 1930s and part of its grounds became Northfields recreation ground, now renamed Blondin Park. The adjacent Blondin nature area has a community orchard, wildflower meadow and pond - but no waterfall.

The Avenue cinema was built in 1932 on Northfield Avenue and nicknamed the 'Spanish City' for its Moorish interior. Later an Odeon and then a Coronet, the cinema was rescued from disuse by its conversion to a nightclub in 1981. It has since become the Ealing Christian Centre.

COULD YOU HELP US RUN THE CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2021 ?



The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to help prevent the summer reading 'dip'. Each year the Challenge, delivered with the support of public libraries, motivates over 700,000 children to keep reading to build their skills and confidence.

How the Summer Reading Challenge works

During the Summer holidays children can read whatever they like in their chosen format - fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, graphic novels, audio books and eBooks can all be used to complete the Challenge.

Children receive special rewards each time they finish a book and there's a certificate for everyone who completes the Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all primary school aged children and is designed for all reading abilities. Children will be able to sign up for free and join the Challenge at Northfields Community Library in July and August.

Throughout the Challenge, teenage and adult volunteers support children, helping them to explore a wide range of different types of books and enjoy a range of creative activities and events.

Would you be interested to help run this very worthwhile event? Volunteer roles will include: helping to organise displays in the library, attending some library sessions and managing children's applications and rewards. If you would like to be part of our Summer Reading Challenge support team please email getintouchncl@outlook.com with the heading **Reading Challenge**.

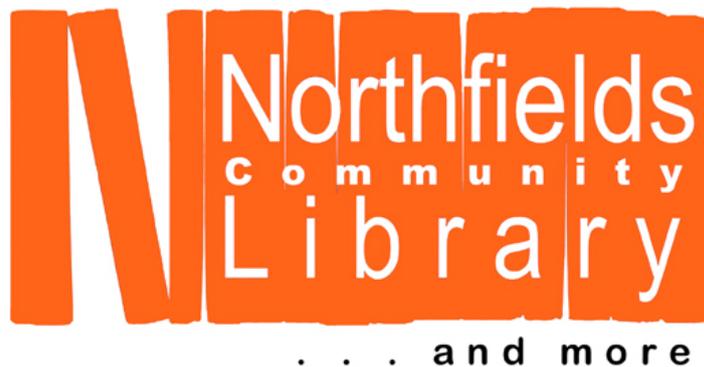
THANK YOU!

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW . . .

Thanks as always for your support and have a good week.

With best wishes,

Jenny, Tanya, Paul, Alison P, Alison S, Monica and Louisa
The Northfields Community Library Trustees.



Website: <https://northfieldscommunitylibrary.org.uk>
Email: getintouch@northfieldscommunitylibrary.org.uk
Facebook: [@northfieldscommunitylibrary](https://www.facebook.com/northfieldscommunitylibrary)