



NEWSLETTER

1st June, 2020

Dear volunteers and supporters,

We hope you and your families are well and have been able to enjoy the beautiful weather.

Here's this week's newsletter, with a library update and information about the activities being offered online while our library is closed.

UPDATE ON EALING COUNCIL PLANS FOR LIBRARIES AND PROGRESS WITH THE NORTHFIELDS LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT.

Here is an update from Trustee Alison Pegg, who met with Ealing Council Library Development Manager Karen Henry at Northfields Library on 28th May.

"Internal decs and flooring complete, additional electrical sockets have been installed where possible to do so. They are in the process of unpacking the books so that they can clean the library thoroughly. The additional white moveable bookcases have been provided. We agreed they would get all the books on shelves and we can then decide final layout and reshelve them ourselves.

Once the cleaning has been done we could resume our Trustee meetings in the library as there is space to do this at distance if everyone is comfortable with that. We can also make plans to restart our training in due course, which will need to address the new way of operating.

Karen confirmed they are working to open for dropping off books from 4 July in the council libraries. They will then look to extend to collection of pre-ordered books and booking slots for use of the computers for initially 30 min sessions per person. No browsing for books. All books returned will need to be quarantined for 72 hours before being shelved. Public toilets to be closed. Chairs to be removed so as to discourage people from coming in and staying.

LBE are going to provide a perspex screen for the main desk at Northfields Library but we will need to provide PPE, hand sanitizer etc. and extra cleaning.

We need to get on with sorting out the key safe. I will contact the Police to find out what keysafe they recommend.

Also look to finding a cleaner - I will liaise with Hanwell on this point.”

Northfields Library will not open in early July when the council run libraries start to reopen. Time is needed to set up the building, and to plan for volunteer training. In due course we will contact all our volunteers to find out who will be willing to work in the library in its first stage of opening (with full social distancing measures in place). We understand that some of you will not be in a position to volunteer in this first phase and of course you will be welcome to join the volunteer team later on.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

NORTHFIELDS LIBRARY ONLINE BOOK CLUB

The next meeting will be held on Zoom at 8:00pm on Tuesday 2nd June. At this meeting we will each share with the group a book we're currently reading or have recently enjoyed. We have selected a fiction and a non-fiction book to read and discuss at the following meeting on 30th June. (Members can read one or both titles!)

We have 14 members so far and if you'd like to join us please email getintouch@northfieldscommunitylibrary.org.uk and title your email **Book Club**.

SESSIONS TO JOIN THIS WEEK

1. GUIDED MEDITATION SESSION EVERY THURSDAY

Next session: Thursday 4th June at 11:00

Our volunteer Andreea led the first online guided meditation session last Thursday, and she will be offering sessions every Thursday at 11:00am Andreea explains her process here:

“Our lives have become so busy that sometimes we can find it hard to slow down, and become aware of what is going on inside us. Guided imagery is a way of exploring your feelings through the use of images. The guided imagery session will start with mindfulness meditation to help you become aware of your body and be more present. We will then slowly step into the imagery where I will guide you into an inner journey.”

The session last week was much appreciated by the attendees – lasting approximately 20 minutes it was a peaceful, calming and uplifting experience. Thoroughly recommended if you have time to take a break for a short while and join a session

If you're interested to join us, please email getintouch@northfieldscommunitylibrary.org.uk and title your email **Guided Meditation**. We'll then send you a link for the session, which will take place on Zoom.

2. STORYTIME SESSIONS EVERY WEDNESDAY

Next session: 10:30am Wednesday 3rd June

Brittany, one of our volunteers, is continuing to provide fantastic Storytime sessions for younger children. The thirty minute sessions are packed with fun and educational stories and lots of ideas for things to make.

The sessions take place on Zoom, so if you would like to join with your child / children please email us at getintouch@northfieldscommunitylibrary.org.uk and title your email **Storytime**. You will then be sent a link for the session on Wednesday. We hope your little ones will enjoy the stories and are inspired by the things to do!

3. "SINGING WITH GILBERT" FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS 10:30am every Tuesday and Thursday morning during lockdown

"Singing with Gilbert" is a continuing series of online nursery and action rhyme sessions aimed at pre-school age children lasting for about 20 minutes. A growing number of parents and carers are attending these sessions and it's lovely to see the babies and toddlers joining in with the songs and actions.

These sessions are delivered on Zoom, so please email the host Wei Hei Kipling and she will send you the link to join the sessions. Email Wei Hei at gilbertr.stmarys@gmail.com and entitle your email "**Singing with Gilbert**". Please add your first name and the number and age of the children who will be with you. If you'd be happy to mention your children's names they might be greeted personally during the session.

A REMINDER ABOUT EMPATHY DAY – JUNE 9TH - AND RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

This initiative is run by The Empathy Lab in the UK. <https://www.empathylab.uk>

Empathy Lab Founder, Miranda McKearney OBE, said: *"Empathy is a vital human force, and in these past challenging weeks we've seen its power to fuel community and generosity. Empathy Day is all about understanding people's feelings and acting to help. Since the science shows reading's power to build real-life empathy, it's fantastic to see leading authors and illustrators step up to lead a new empathy drive just when it's needed most. We hope that children and families will be inspired by the programme we've created."*

Children's Laureate **Cressida Cowell**, *Noughts and Crosses* author **Malorie Blackman**, and award-winning illustrator **Rob Biddulph** are amongst the names announced today to spearhead a powerful Empathy Day programme on **9th June 2020**. The day is organised by not-for-profit EmpathyLab, which uses books to help children experience empathy's transformational power. For the first time the programme will be delivered online to inspire children and families with brilliant events and home or school-based celebrations to be enjoyed anywhere, and will be

preceded by a fortnight of family activities, empathy-themed online readings, illustrations and specially written stories.

2020's Empathy Day happens at an uncertain time, when empathy has never been more significant. In this very different year, Empthy Lab has created a **new resource** so everyone can join in at home, and launched a wonderful new Family Activities Pack. It's designed to bring families together to explore, understand and practise empathy.

Countdown to Empathy Day, 26 May - 8 June

The Family Activities Pack has 14 creative activities to do at home and is designed to be as inclusive as possible - once downloaded, all you need is a pencil and scrap paper. These activities help families understand, explore and practise empathy. There are some lovely things to do, like detecting feelings in faces or making Empathy Awards to book characters.

The website has full details of the programme planned for 9th June and lots of fantastic resources for families. <https://www.empathylab.uk>

That's all for now – we'd love some feedback from those of you who have joined in with any of our virtual activities and we'll have some more ideas for you next week.

Thank you so much for your continuing support, and take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

With best wishes,

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

For more information about library developments:
<https://northfieldscommunitylibrary.org.uk>

For offers of help, and any ideas for making our offer even stronger:
getintouch@northfieldscommunitylibrary.org.uk