



LIBRARY UPDATE
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LIBRARY UPDATE



VOLUNTEERS ARE IN THE LIBRARY!

Over the past week volunteers have joined some of the trustees in the library to start the mammoth task of re-shelving the books and making the library ready for opening.

It's looking lovely already!

ONLINE TRAINING BEGINS THIS WEEK

On Tuesday 6th October the first online training session will take place for volunteers who will be working in the library when it opens on Saturday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

This will be followed by on site training in library operations.



MORE VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

Covid restrictions currently only allow ten people in the library at any one time, but if you'd like to come and see how everything is shaping up then let us know by email. We'll arrange for time slots for anyone interested over the next few weeks.



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER

B:M2020

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

OCTOBER IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The [Black History Month website](#) is full of features, interviews and events listings. This year's theme is "Celebrating Women of Achievement in the UK"

If you're looking for reading suggestions, Waterstones have produced a comprehensive guide - you can find it [here](#).

GUIDED MEDITATION SESSIONS

MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER AT 11:00 AM

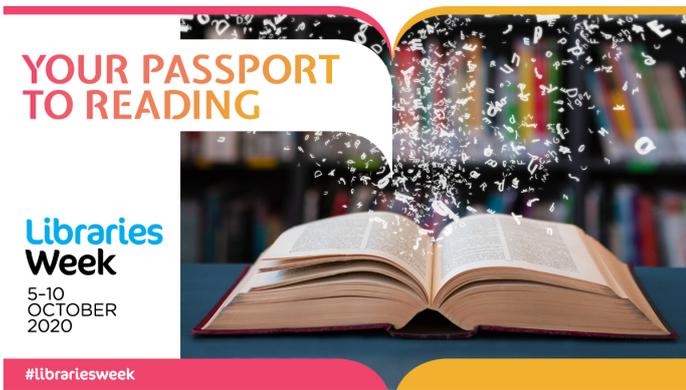
Andreea will again be offering her guided meditation sessions once a week on Zoom. Attendees at her earlier sessions enjoyed them as a very peaceful and relaxing experience. If you'd like to join please email us at getintouch@northfieldscommunitylibrary.org.uk with the heading **Guided Meditation** and we will send you a link to the sessions.

NORTHFIELDS COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

NEXT MEETING: 20:00 TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER

The Book Club meets once a month on Tuesday evenings. The non-fiction title chosen for the next meeting is "Mad Girl" by Bryony Gordon and the fiction choice is "The Thursday Murder Club: by Richard Osman.

New members welcome! If you would like to join us please email getintouch@northfieldscommunitylibrary.org.uk with the heading **Book Club**.



This week is Libraries Week - a week which celebrates the nation's much-loved libraries and their vital role in the UK's book culture.

You can visit the Libraries Week website [here](#) to find all kinds of online resources and news of digital events.

Sadly we can't celebrate yet inside Northfields Community Library - that time will come. In the meantime, here are some fascinating facts about libraries for your edification and delight . . . (taken from "A Library Miscellany" by Claire Cock-Starkey, published by Bodleian)

The oldest library in the world dates from the seventh century BC

The Library of Ashurbanipal in Ninevah, Assyria (now in Iraq), established by Ashurbanipal, King of Assyria (668–c.630 BC), is thought to be one of the oldest libraries in the world. Archaeologists re-discovered the site in the 1850s, uncovering over 30,000 tablets on history and law which appeared to have been arranged in a systematic fashion.

There's a library of smells in France

The Osmothèque is a library of smells in Versailles, France. Founded in 1990, the Osmothèque is a repository for perfumes and contains over 3,200 scents, some 400 of which are no longer made. The collection is an archive of perfume-making history, and many fragrance houses and parfumeurs have kindly donated samples of perfumes, both current and historical, in order to safeguard their formulas.

One of the most overdue library books in the world was returned after 122 years

In 2011 Camden School of Arts lending library in Australia had a first edition of Charles Darwin's *Insectivorous Plants* returned to them. The book had been checked out in 1889 and had lain among the book collection of a retired veterinarian before the library stamp was noticed and the book returned, some 122 years late.

FASCINATING LIBRARY FACTS CONTINUED

Librarians used to have to learn a specific style of handwriting

“Library hand” was a specific rounded style of cursive script that was developed to standardise handwriting, and was taught in schools for librarians from the 19th century into the mid-20th century. During the period when library catalogues were filed on index cards legibility was of extreme importance and it was thought useful for all librarians to share a standard handwriting. The rise of the typewriter in the early 20th century and the use of computerised cataloguing systems negated the need for a standard library hand and the practice died out.

Some libraries employ novel bug-busting methods

At the Rococo Library in Portugal’s Mafra National Palace, a colony of bats is allowed to reside in the library to eat the book-damaging bugs. During the day the bats sleep behind the elaborate book cases, only emerging at night when the library is closed to Hoover up all the pesky insects. Every morning before the library opens, the cleaners must sweep up the scat they drop, a small price to pay to preserve the collection.

There’s a Magician’s Library in New York

The Conjuring Arts Research Center was established in 2003 in Manhattan, New York. A non-profit organisation, its primary role is as a library for books on magic and related arts such as hypnosis, ventriloquism, juggling and sleight of hand. The library currently holds over 12,000 books on magic in numerous different languages and includes rare texts from the 15th century.

The rare books library at Harvard only exists because of the sinking of the Titanic

Book collector and Harvard graduate Harry Elkins Widener perished during the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 and as a result his mother, Eleanor Elkins Widener, endowed a library in his honour at Harvard. It was established in 1915 and holds Widener’s personal book collection of 3,300 rare works at its heart. A legend persists that due to her son’s fate, Mrs Widener made it a condition of her donation that all students must learn to swim

That's all for this 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.



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