

Weekly Bulletin

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Devon
Libraries

Devon
County Council

W/C 7th September 2009

Please ensure that staff who do not have their own email accounts see this message

Dear All

Last week research was published showing that only one in ten parents took their child to the library regularly. The research forms part of a new campaign, encouraging parents to spend “5 minutes more” a day reading and sharing stories with their child.

I’ve been wondering why so many parents don’t apparently read regularly with their child and wonder whether it’s a combination of:

- Feeling harassed and not feeling that they have the time in an otherwise stressful day
- Not having easy access to books that are stimulating and appealing to both parent and child
- Feeling that stories are only a “before bedtime” routine and, not having the time or energy, once bedtime comes around
- Not understanding how beneficial reading is for the life chances of their child
- Not having the skills or confidence to read aloud with their child

Libraries have a key role in encouraging and supporting parents to read with their child. We already do a lot to support parents, including:

- Bookstart packs reach parents of babies and toddlers across Devon. These provide parents with a couple of free books, an invitation to join the library and hints and tips on sharing stories
- Providing regular story times and Bounce and Rhymes. Though watching library staff read stories and sing rhymes, parents can pick up tips and build their repertoire of nursery rhymes
- Providing a whole range of books for children of all ages, available free of charge
- Visiting Children’s Centres and other places in the local community to engage parents who might not otherwise visit the library

As a librarian and mum to a toddler, it’s no surprise that I love and hugely value the time I spend reading with Betsy. We read everywhere and at lots of different times of the day. We were in Taunton Library on Saturday and, whilst she wasn’t that keen to hear me read a story, she did sidle up to another parent, who was reading a story to her young children! I suspect there is even more we can do to support parents to read more often with their child – if you have any ideas on what we can do – or indeed what you are already doing – please drop me a line.

Thought you might be interested to see my whereabouts this week:

Mon – County Hall meetings all day; Tues – Okehampton to assess possible site for new library; Wed – SMT meeting (am), visit Ivybridge Library (pm); Thurs – presentation to the County Council’s Leadership Group on the mobile library review; Friday – in Plymouth for meeting with other Heads of Libraries from the South West.

Have a good week.

Ciara

STAFF TRAINING

Training Update

You may have noticed an item in last week's Insider advertising autumn training courses. As always with these corporate courses, please express interest to your line manager who then feeds back to me. Please do not book yourself on these courses direct. Once the Training Plan for the remainder of the year has been approved by SMT, I will put details in this Bulletin of the training we will be supporting this year. Bookings will then be made for the appropriate courses and the staff involved will be contacted about dates.

SYLVIA JACKSON

TEMPORARY CLOSURES

Topsham Library

Topsham Library is temporarily closed Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September for installation of double glazed windows and external building maintenance. Usual closed day on Wednesday and re-opening on Thursday 10th September at 9.30 am.

CAROL BURGESS

Newton Abbot Library to close temporarily for essential maintenance

Newton Abbot Library will be temporarily closed for the period Monday 21st September to Saturday 3rd October, re-opening to the public on Monday 5th October. Closure is to allow for essential repairs to the front elevation windows. During the closure period, the opening hours have been extended at Kingskerswell Library and Kingsteignton Library to assist our customers.

MOIRA ANDREWS

PROMOTIONS

Events mailing

I plan a mailshot/email-shot to reading groups on Fri Sept 11th. If you have an adult event or promotion you'd like mentioned, please send me details now. I'll be covering the period up to National Poetry Day - so remember to let me know what you're planning and I'll include it.

CAROL ACKROYD

The ITV3 Crime Thriller Dagger Awards

You may remember that some time ago I put a piece in the Bulletin outlining some of the national promotions due this Autumn, in case you wanted to focus any adult events or activity around them (to refresh your memory see the Bulletin of August 3rd). One of these was **The ITV3 Crime Thriller Dagger Awards**.

The shortlist for this has now been announced. The promotion will run in bookshops and feature on ITV3 from the week beginning 14 September. The award winners will be announced on Wednesday 21 October 2009 (at a very grand bash, if last year was anything to go by). The categories are:

- The CWA Gold Dagger for the Best Crime Novel of the year
- The CWA John Creasey New Blood Dagger – for first books by previously unpublished writer
- The CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger – for the year's best thriller
- The ITV3/Specsavers Bestsellers Dagger – voted for by ITV3 viewers
- The Hall of Fame Dagger – honouring the achievements of the genre's greatest exponents, past and present

A link to the nominated writers / books - <http://staff.devon.gov.uk/daggershortlist09.pdf>

I will have a number of **posters** featuring the shortlisted titles and authors. It's unlikely that many of the said authors will be visiting your libraries in the coming weeks, but if you'd like to have a visit from a local crime writer, or use the national publicity to highlight your own crime/thriller stock in all formats, get in touch. Some of your reading groups could tackle a crime season, or you could get your readers to nominate their own candidates for "The Hall of Fame". Or you could just put up a poster alongside a display of your own crime stock. Email me if you'd like one, or like to talk over ideas for a fuller promotion.

CAROL ACKROYD

Love & Libraries

The Romantic Novelists Association - currently chaired by Katie Fforde - will be 50 years old in 2010 and as part of their celebrations will be running a poll to find the Nation's favourite romantic novel (written between 1960 and 2009). They'll be offering posters "in September/October" inviting readers to submit suggested titles for the longlist - and after that they'll promote it through *Woman's Weekly*. If you'd like to use the opportunity to highlight this area of your stock, let me know and I'll make sure you get posters and any other supporting material you might need. North West Libraries ran a "Pure Passion" promotion a couple of years ago, and were able to use it to bring in new readers. The new RNA Anthology is on order (edited by Fforde, with contributions from Joanna Trollope, Anna Jacobs, Anita Burgh, Katie Flynn and many others) so you might like to start by making sure that one of the 11 copies comes to your library...

CAROL ACKROYD

National Bookstart Day 2009 - Latest news

The Bookstart Bear costume

Hot off the press is the news that Devon's name has been drawn out of the hat to have the use of the Bookstart Bear costume for National Bookstart Day! The costume will be available from Tuesday 6 October until Thursday 15 October (inclusive), and if you would like to borrow it please let me know as soon as possible. If you haven't used it before, please bear in mind that it's quite hot for the person who is inside it, and 15 minutes is the maximum time for anyone to wear it! To help you with staffing for an event with the Bear we can offer you one hour's cover for an additional member of staff.

Free Bookstart Day resources

We have on offer:

- Bookstart Rhyme booklets to give away
- National Bookstart Day stickers
- A few VIP invitations (if you're planning to invite anyone important!)
- Posters

Orders

If you are planning to organise an event, please could you let me know roughly how many children you expect, and I'll send out materials accordingly.

SONIA OVENELL

Free books offer

During the Autumn we will be running a free books offer in conjunction with children's centres. We are going to be supplying them with some free packs containing a board book and other information, which they can give out at their sessions for parents about sharing books with babies. These packs will also contain a voucher, which will entitle parents to a second free book if they visit the library and enrol their child as a library member.

- Please would you let your staff know that parents might be coming in to the library with a **Free book offer** voucher.
- Parents can exchange their voucher for a copy of the 'Busy Bear!' book by John Prater when they have enrolled their child as a library member.
- As usual you can take the opportunity to tell them about what there is on offer for them in your library.
- Supplies of the free books will be arriving over the next few weeks, and if you find you need more please contact me.
- Please keep the vouchers somewhere safe and return them to me in Barnstaple Library at the end of December, so that we can see how many parents took up the offer.

Many thanks.

SONIA OVENELL

WESTCOUNTRY STUDIES LIBRARY

WSL now an official mapping agent for Ordnance Survey

This means that we are able to provide large scale mapping 1:1250 (50") and 1:2500 (25") for customers submitting planning applications, land registry searches etc. We are also able to provide a variety of other types of mapping including historical.

We will be having an official launch day on Tuesday November 10th in the Westcountry Studies Library when we will be having an exhibition of maps and promoting the service widely.

In the meantime if you receive any mapping enquiries that you think we could help with do give us a call on 01392 384216 before sending the enquirer along

ANNE HOWARD

EVENTS

Seaton Library news

Children at Seaton have been busy this summer with various events at the library, as well as reading for the summer game, Questseekers. First they enjoyed making wizards and fairies, then a lovely workshop with the Plymouth Marine Aquarium, Finding Nemo, where children learnt about sea life and made some weird and wonderful creatures. And then back to the fantasy theme for making dragons.



Customers were entertained by a visiting young choir from the Midlands - Stream of sound - who came over from the Sidmouth folk festival to sing a few songs, great harmonies

JILL JACKSON, SEATON LIBRARY

Anne Perry at Honiton

On Sept 4th 2009 international best-selling author Anne Perry visited Honiton library. Honiton has a strong tradition of welcoming writers, whether they're first-time authors looking to find readers, or more established authors working to bring an awareness of their latest book. Writers frequently comment on the welcome they have received in Honiton, and the quality of questions asked by the well-informed audience they meet there. They also frequently comment on the quality of refreshments, whether it's a glass of wine on a winter's evening while listening to a medieval storyteller (the launch of Karen Maitland's *Company of Liars* by Penguin in 2008) or - in this case - a delicious cream tea with home-made scones on a summer afternoon.



CAROL ACKROYD

This latest visit was a definite highlight - this year Anne Perry celebrated 30 years as a published author. Her first book was published in 1979, and since then she has gone on to write many more, none of which has gone out of print. Her work is translated into many languages, and she has won numerous prizes in those countries. Worldwide sales are in excess of 25 million books, and she was nominated by the Times as one of the 100 Master of Crime of the Twentieth Century.

Despite this astonishing body of work and world-wide success, Anne proved to be friendly and approachable. She spoke about her work, the motivation for it, and the joy of being a writer, and answered questions. She was happy to chat to readers over tea afterwards, and signed books.

RECYCLING



Natasha Lees, the Waste Management Officer in charge of DCC's [recycle@work](http://staff.devon.gov.uk/recycleatwork.htm) (<http://staff.devon.gov.uk/recycleatwork.htm>) project, is working to get as many DCC establishments as possible, including libraries, to recycle. This includes providing them all with the same facilities.

In our small libraries, not a huge amount of waste is generated; so many send recyclables back to Great Moor House. Where this is the case, Natasha will come and visit you (if she hasn't already!) and provide you with the relevant bins and some Exeter City recycling sacks.

Any existing recycling collections, for example in Torridge and North Devon, will continue. Natasha will simply come and provide you with one or two bins. She'll ask any small libraries that aren't already recycling to begin sending recyclables on the courier van to Great Moor House and will provide further details when she visits you.

Some libraries that don't already have a collection have been deemed too large to send recyclables back to Great Moor House. Natasha will contact these shortly to arrange a visit, and we hope, a future collection!

SUE PARGETER (WEARING ENVIRONMENTAL PROMOTER HAT!)

ICT

Weekly Health Check – Update

As you know every week, we request that you respond to the Weekly Health Check email with details of network stability and any outstanding ICT issues that are not resolved.

Recently there have been some incidences of public complaints due to the general network capability, which were raised with library staff but were not reported in the Health Check.

Please report **all incidences** of poor network stability (slowness, disconnecting etc) especially if concerns are raised by the public. This information is **important**, gives us an understanding on how the network is responding, and highlights any areas of concern.

Please also include any ICT issues that are outstanding and require following up. **Remember** to include the fault references.

We do understand that during busy periods recording this information may be difficult however, it is usually best to keep details of network stability and ICT issues in a diary. A diary can be used as a reminder of particular events and is useful as it informs all members of staff who may not be present of current and previous issues.

Remember to report any ICT incidents to 01392 382222 or email ICT IT Support Unit – Mailbox when they occur.

WILLIAM DOMMETT

NEWS CUTTINGS

<http://staff.devon.gov.uk/newscuttings.htm>

INFORMATION FOR STAFF

Devon Libraries Intranet

<http://staff.devon.gov.uk/eec/eeculture/libraries.htm>

Items for the weekly bulletin

Please send any items for inclusion in the bulletin to **REBECCA BOND AND GILL SALWAY** by 09.00 Monday. Remember that, if your item is long, a summary can be included in the bulletin with a link to the longer document on the intranet.