

Shropshire Libraries Weekly

Friday 29 May 2020

Library Management Team

Reopening Libraries

We are still working on plans for a phased reopening of Libraries from the end of June. Our plan has been reviewed by Public Health who have made some useful suggestions.

Libraries Connected have completed their work on developing a toolkit for recovery. The basic principles set out in the toolkit propose a phased recovery of the library service, in line with local risk assessments, available resources and local community priorities.

In most libraries, it seems that initially public access inside library buildings will remain very limited. Focus will be on sustaining the digital offer, running Home Library Service to priority residents, some form of Order & Collect service, and limited access to IT facilities. A gradually phased recovery allows time to develop staff confidence, and test and revise processes.

The toolkit will provide checklists to support risk assessments and mitigation strategies, and “How To” sections on services such as Home Library Services and IT access.

Libraries Connected are running a webinar on Monday 1 June to give a brief introduction to the toolkit. This will be followed by a discussion on what next for Libraries beyond the immediate crisis. Rawden, Mirka, Annabel and Teresa will be attending.

Library Development Team

Shropshire Summer Reads 2020

Our annual reading challenge for adults (formerly known as the Big Summer Read) will be launching online shortly as Shropshire Summer Reads. We'd like **all staff** to help us with a trial run please before we officially start promotion to the public on 12 June. The link is on the [Libraries from home](https://shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/libraries-from-home/shropshire-summer-reads/) webpage. All you need to do is click here <https://shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/libraries-from-home/shropshire-summer-reads/> to find the registration form for the challenge. Please have a go at entering and make a start on filling in the completion form you'll find on the same webpage (you can use books you've read recently or do the challenge for real over the summer). If you encounter any problems with the process, please let us know as soon as possible. No prizes for any staff, we're afraid – just the pleasure of taking part and helping us iron out any issues so that it's a seamless experience for our customers.

As previously mentioned, we'll also need your help with the promotional campaign on our social media accounts. Please send us a photo of yourself reading in your garden or other outdoor space, together with a sentence about the book. It's up to you whether you reveal your face or not and whether we can

use your name. We'll use photos in Facebook and Twitter posts to engage interest in the challenge and as a way of continuing the reading conversations we would usually be having with readers in our branches in normal circumstances. Our borrowers value our recommendations, so don't be shy! We'll change the theme for photos on a three-weekly basis.

Thanks very much for your help. Do get in touch if you have any questions.

Shropshire Libraries on YouTube

Shropshire Libraries now has its own YouTube channel!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIJXSGNRknFIQbBOSXeno4A>

This week saw our launch on YouTube using lockdown videos made by the branches and the Library Development Team. There are different playlists for Books Aloud, Memory Corner highlighting the Pictures To Share books and even our own book challenge!

We will be uploading new content over the next few weeks and we are creating a new playlist for Empathy day.

If you have any questions or feedback on the channel, please contact Catherine Westwood or librarycontent@shropshire.gov.uk

Volunteers' Week 1st 7th June

A press release will be published to say thank you to our 322 volunteers across Shropshire, who given over 11 000 hours to support our libraries, which equals to over £105 050 in value. This [Volunteers' Week](#) we would also like to acknowledge, and say thank you to all those currently volunteering across the county. There is some truly inspiring work going on in our communities.

Food Hub Follow Up Calls/ Follow Up Calls – Befriending

The team contacted 633 people after they've received the Shropshire Council Emergency Food Parcel to check whether they have enough food and medication provision. The task have been completed last week (this task have been given back to Customer Services to follow as the need for emergency parcels reduced) and the team started to call people (185) who were identified as living in a single household to offer support for befriending either by referring people to social prescribing, NHS volunteers or connecting them with their community befriending support.

Branch News

Bridgnorth Library

We have been so excited to be able to make our own Book Throwing Challenge video, with the kind help of Dani from OS. This has already appeared on our Twitter feed and should be appearing on Facebook and the Shropshire Libraries You Tube Channel soon. We've also just launched our Lego Club, via Facebook.