

## ***September 2017***

Kent's libraries and archives – discover something new

The first National Libraries Week takes place [from Monday to Saturday](#), 9-14 October and Kent's libraries will be celebrating in style with a host of activities for all the family to enjoy.

The county has 99 libraries and this dedicated week provides a great opportunity to show many of the services that residents might not know about.

There is no charge for joining your local library and most activities are also completely free. From Baby Rhyme Time to Talk Time, author talks, exhibitions and the chance to explore Kent's rich Archive collections.

Libraries have activities to suit everyone, including reading groups for the visually impaired, the hard of hearing and adults with learning disabilities.

Library visitors can even have sessions to learn more about computers, get help with job searches and applications, and take part in a range of other social activities plus opportunities to gain knowledge and discover something new.

They also offer a range of free online services - so if you are unable to get to a library, the library can come to you. You can log into [kent.gov.uk/libs](http://kent.gov.uk/libs) or download the library app to access free online magazines, audio books, and e-books. You can also use the online catalogue to search and reserve books, DVDs and CDs for free.

Mike Hill, KCC's Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, said: "We are very proud of our library service and want to ensure that as many people as possible are inspired to visit a library, discover what is on offer and encourage their friends and family to get involved.

"Although we promote our libraries, their facilities and events all year round, National Libraries Week is an opportunity to focus on the service and promote them more widely to residents who may not appreciate everything they have to offer."

To find out more about Kent Libraries and Archives, please go to [www.kent.gov.uk/libs](http://www.kent.gov.uk/libs) or visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/KentLibrariesArchives](http://www.facebook.com/KentLibrariesArchives).

**Baby Rhyme Time** A free, fun way to develop a love of language and a foundation for learning. Each session lasts about 20 minutes and includes the opportunity to join in with nursery rhymes and action songs.

**Talk Time** groups aim to bring people together, to chat and make new friends. Most libraries host a weekly Talk Time group offering a variety of activities - using our services, speakers, quizzes, recreational activities or just tea and chat.

**Archives** The Kent History Library Centre in Maidstone holds a fantastic collection of historic material relating to the ancient county of Kent, most of which is accessible to the public. The 14 kilometres of collections comprise both printed and manuscript (archive) material and are all held in purpose-built archive repositories.

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