

Knowsley Libraries Big Lock In

Hi All

While we're all still having to adjust and **stay safe** at this worrying time, we thought we'd bring you another issue of **Knowsley Libraries Big Lock In**. Lots of us are missing our family, friends and especially going out to our favourite places like the Library ☺ We decided that we'd put together this little newsletter with lots of bits and bobs in such as recipes, book recommendations, and we've even included a quiz to help ease the boredom.

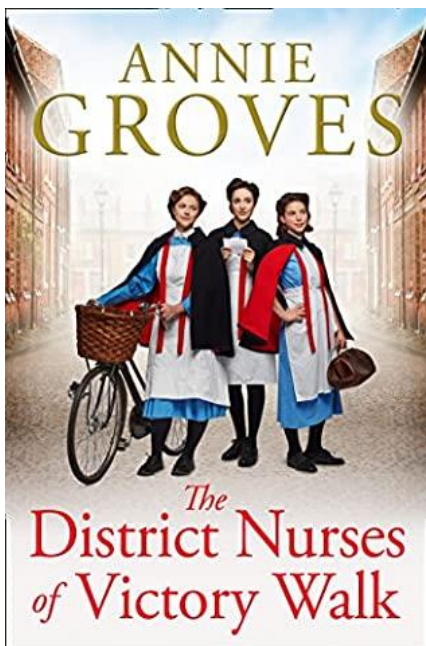
So, a little bit of homework for you while you're unable to go out and about. I was wondering if you'd share with us 'What You're Reading in Lockdown', or your favourite book/author that you'd like to recommend to others.

I've asked friends, family and colleagues to share with us what they're reading and it's quite a mix!

What are people reading?

The District Nurses of Victory Walk

by Annie Groves



Alice Lake has arrived in London from Liverpool to start her training as a District Nurse, but her journey has been far from easy. Her parents think that she should settle down and get married, but she has already had her heart broken once and isn't about to make the same mistake again. Alice and her best friend Edith are based in the East End but before they've even got their smart new uniforms on, war breaks out and Hitler's bombs are raining down on London. Alice must learn to keep calm and carry on as she tends to London's sick and injured, all the time facing her own heartache and misfortune while keeping up the Spirit of the Blitz.

This is the first book in The District Nurse series

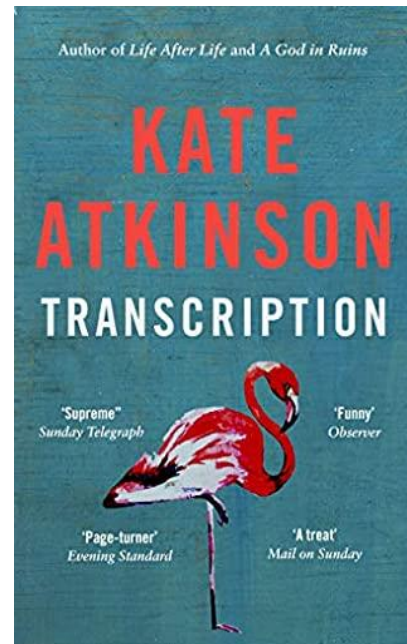
Transcription by Kate Atkinson

In 1940, 18-year old Juliet Armstrong is reluctantly recruited into the world of espionage.

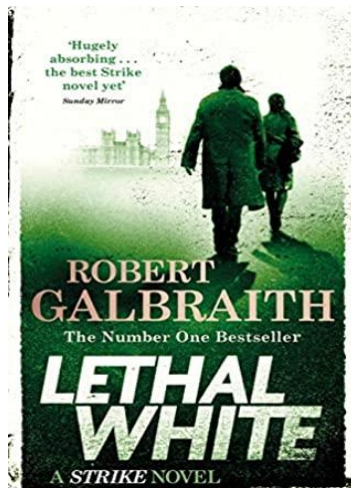
Sent to an obscure department of MI5 tasked with monitoring the comings and goings of British Fascist sympathisers, she discovers the work to be by turns both tedious and terrifying. But after the war has ended, she presumes the events of those years have been relegated to the past for ever.

Ten years later, now a producer at the BBC, Juliet is unexpectedly confronted by figures from her past. A different war is being fought now, on a different battleground, but Juliet finds herself once more under threat.

A bill of reckoning is due, and she finally begins to realise that there is no action without consequence.



Lethal White Robert Galbraith



When Billy, a troubled young man, comes to private eye Cormoran Strike's office to ask for his help investigating a crime he thinks he witnessed as a child, Strike is left deeply unsettled. While Billy is obviously mentally distressed, and cannot remember many concrete details, there is something sincere about him and his story. But before Strike can question him further, Billy bolts from his office in a panic. Trying to get to the bottom of Billy's story, Strike and Robin Ellacott - once his assistant, now a partner in the agency - set off on a twisting trail that leads them through the backstreets of London, into a secretive inner sanctum within Parliament, and to a beautiful but sinister manor house deep in the countryside.

I hope these snippets help, if you'd like to tell us what you're reading we'd love to hear from you, and also if you've read any of the books recommended and what you thought of them. Please email yourlibrary@knowsley.gov.uk and we'll post your book recommendations.

Quiz: provided by Hilary, Library Assistant

QUIZ - RUBBISH REVIEWS



See if you can recognise these books from these one star reviews. Believe it or not, they are all genuine reviews on Amazon!

1. Would not recommend, not about birds. Very sad.
2. No mention of Blankety Blank, Frankie Says Relax or Dallas. He seems to have ignored Maggie Thatcher and Neil Kinnock and totally forgotten leg warmers! Wouldn't recommend.
3. The most over rated author of the century, poorest dribblings I've ever read. Plagiarism of children's' films with hint of rings in them, golden snitch itching to make a quid, Witchcraft should be avoided for your intended audience, children, it's not funny to tempt children to the dark side.
4. I was looking forward to reading this book as being an insight into American life in the early 1920's. Big mistake. It is neither interesting or well written. Just thoroughly boring text about empty headed people with nothing in their lives. Story does not flow easily and jumps backwards and forwards trying to explain itself.
5. Horrid but compelling, I certainly won't read any more though, very unpleasant. An unreal imagined world where women are forced to servitude.
6. One of the very few books I can't read. Every time I say "NOW I'VE GOT IT!" and by page 20 I'm asleep or try to kill myself with a wooden spoon. Eventually I ran out of spoons, but still the outcome was the same. People seem to love it, but I really can't understand why. Probably it gets better later. I may even try the zombie version, just in case.
7. Yet again I'm left wondering what makes a book a 'classic'. I found this a tedious account of a couple of days in the life of a self-obsessed teenager. Dreary and uneventful.
8. Having recently retired I felt it was time to read all the books I had never had time for. I wish I had not read this book , I found it nasty and twisted. As it was short I persisted to the end but was so relieved to pass it on to a local charity shop. The story is not life affirming or even joyous for our school years. Just a manipulative woman using her position to influence young minds in a rather disturbing way. Not a keeper ...
9. 'Reader, I married him'- it's enough to make you puke 😊
10. I am obsessed with Survivor, so I thought it would be fun. WRONG!!! It is incredibly boring and disgusting. I was very much disturbed when I found young children killing each other. I think that anyone with a conscience would agree with me.

I'll add the answers next week, good luck!

The answers to last week's teaser are as follows:

1. Robben Island
2. Scotland
3. North and South Carolina (Latin Carolus)
4. The Pepper Coast
5. a) Spain (Punta de Tarifa)
6. Red, White and Green
7. Budokan
8. Lipizzan
9. Vatican City, San Marino
10. Antarctic
11. Hindi and Bengali

Recipes:

I'd like to share some easy to follow and lovely to eat recipes from family, friends and colleagues.

Spiced Carrot & Lentil Soup

This recipe is so quick and easy to make 😊

Ingredients:

2tsp cumin seeds
Pinch chilli flakes
2tbsp olive oil
600g carrots washed & grated
140g split lentils
1L hot vegetable stock
125ml milk



Method:

- Heat a large saucepan and dry-fry cumin seeds and chilli flakes for 1 min, or until they start to jump around the pan and release their aromas
- Scoop out about half with a spoon and set aside. Add olive oil, carrots, split red lentils, hot vegetable stock and milk to the pan and bring to the boil.
- Simmer for 15 mins until the lentils have swollen and softened.
- Whizz the soup with a stick blender or in a food processor until smooth (or leave it chunky if you prefer).
- Season to taste and finish with a dollop of plain yogurt and a sprinkling of the reserved toasted spices.
- Serve immediately

BOOK REVIEWS

Hilary Mantel's *The Mirror and the Light* is one of the most read books of 2020 and has made the longlist for the Booker Prize.

Here is a comprehensive review of the final part of the trilogy concerning Thomas Cromwell.

<https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/the-mirror-and-the-light-hilary-mantel-book-review/>



[The Mirror & the Light by Hilary Mantel book review - The TLS - Fiction](https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/the-mirror-and-the-light-hilary-mantel-book-review/)

Book review - Fiction | *The Mirror & the Light* by Hilary Mantel, reviewed by Edmund Gordon. 'Her final Thomas Cromwell novel is a prodigious feat'

www.the-tls.co.uk

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/the-midnight-library-by-matt-haig-review-%e2%80%93-a-celebration-of-lifes-possibilities/ar-BB18pPI5?ocid=msedgntp>



[The Midnight Library by Matt Haig review – a celebration of life's possibilities](https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/the-midnight-library-by-matt-haig-review-%e2%80%93-a-celebration-of-lifes-possibilities/ar-BB18pPI5?ocid=msedgntp)

Nora Seed feels useless. Her cat is dead, her brother doesn't seem to be interested in her, and she has been fired: nobody needs her. Late one evening, she tries to kill herself. But instead of ...

www.msn.com

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20200818-surprising-secrets-of-writers-first-book-drafts>



[Surprising secrets of writers' first book drafts - BBC Culture](#)

Writers who find themselves mired in procrastination would do well to take a page from Marcel Proust's most famous book. Specifically, a page from *In Search of Lost Time* in manuscript form.

www.bbc.com

LITERARY LOCATIONS

Whilst travel abroad is still proving to be a problem, there are many interesting places to be visited on a break in our country.

Here is a link to the many literary places that can be found within our shores.

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/2020/july/literary-tour-united-kingdom.html>

[A literary tour of the United Kingdom](#)

Hardy's Cottage (Higher Bockhampton, Dorset) This old-world cob and thatch cottage is where Thomas Hardy was born and spent the first 34 years of his life. Surrounded by dense woodland and gargling brooks, it was here that he wrote several works, including the novels *Under the Greenwood Tree* and *Far from the Madding Crowd*. Staying there now, as visitors can, it's easy to see why the ...

www.penguin.co.uk

READING AND LEEDS FESTIVALS

The festivals will not be taking place this year, but there is a weekend of 'best moments' on BBC iPlayer.

<https://www.readingfestival.com/>



[Reading Festival 2020 will no longer be going ahead](#)

Reading Festival 2021 will take place on August 27-29. Alert! Unfortunately, Reading 2020 is no longer taking place. To receive future Reading Festival announcements, updates, artist content and more, sign up to the festival newsletter.

www.readingfestival.com

There's no flag-waving at the Royal Albert Hall, but instead a musical feast in countless living rooms – and on countless mobile devices – across the country and around the world.

<https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/proms/bbc-proms-2020/last-night-of-the-proms/>

[Last Night of the Proms | Royal Albert Hall — Royal Albert Hall](#)

The BBC Symphony Orchestra's Principal Guest Conductor Dalia Stasevska makes her Last Night debut along with South-African soprano Golda Schultz in the climax of a Proms season like no other. Tonight there's no flag-waving at the Royal Albert Hall, but instead a musical feast in countless living rooms – and on countless mobile devices – across the country and around the world.

www.royalalberthall.com

REMEMBER THE WRITING COMPETITION EARLIER ON IN THE LOCK DOWN?

<https://www.kinglearprizes.org.uk/>

UPDATED 28 AUGUST 2020: DRAMA SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

With this link you can read the short listed drama entries.



[King Lear Prizes](http://www.kinglearprizes.org.uk)

A new national arts competition for the over 70s in quarantine. Entries accepted in writing, poetry, drama, music and art

www.kinglearprizes.org.uk



Borrow, download and enjoy here

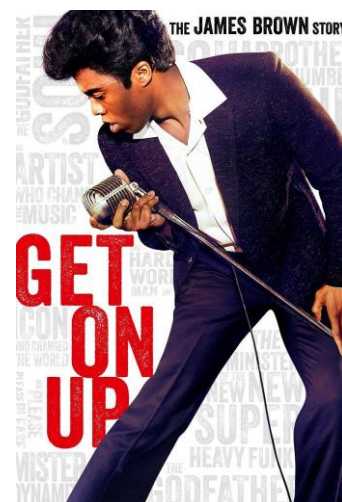
Your library in one app.

Films of the Week:

Tuesday: Get On Up

11.15pm Film4 (Freeview 14, Sky 313, Virgin 428, Freesat 300)

The late Chadwick Boseman stars as James Brown in this biopic that focuses on key moments of the soul singer's life. Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer co-star.



Wednesday: The Way Way Back

6.55pm Film4 (Freeview 14, Sky 313, Virgin 428, Freesat 300)

An introverted teenager joins his mother and her overbearing boyfriend on an awkward family holiday. He befriends a free-spirited employee at the nearby water park, and the relationship inspires him to assert his independence for the first time. Sam Rockwell stars.

Thursday: Hitch

6.40pm Sony Movies (Freeview 32, Sky 321, Virgin 425, Freesat 302)

Will Smith plays a professional relationship guru, who specialises in offering advice to lonely single men, helps an unlucky-in-love accountant woo the girl of his dreams. Eva Mendes and Kevin James co-star.



Friday: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy 10.50pm BBC1

Excellent adaptation of John Le Carre's 1974 novel. Gary Oldman plays George Smiley, who is tasked with finding a possible Soviet mole in a high ranking MI6 position. The heavyweight cast includes John Hurt, Colin Firth, Tom Hardy, Kathy Burke and Benedict Cumberbatch.

If you'd like to share your thoughts on any of the films, we'd love to hear from you. Drop us an email and let us know what you think! yourlibrary@knowsley.gov.uk

Album of the Week:

Black Pumas by Black Pumas recommended by Joe

This band embrace the sounds and styles of the past without ever lurching into nostalgic pandering. This is testament to the talents of duo Eric Burton and Adrian Quesada who make up the band. The Austin based duo bring an electric, soulful prowess and leave you eagerly anticipating their follow up.



Here is one of the tracks from the album- 'Black Moon Rising':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9H8tBbbEMOM> If you'd like to share your thoughts on this album, we'd love to hear from you.

Drop us an email and let us know what you think! yourlibrary@knowsley.gov.uk

Podcast of the Week:

Comedians vs the News

Comics and married couple Jess Salomon and Eman El-Husseini record from New York City each week, tackling the ever-changing world of current affairs with the help of fellow international comedians in this new podcast. Expect fresh takes on the US presidential election and the pandemic.



Here is the link to 'Comedians vs the News':

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w13xtvb4/episodes/downloads>

Something for the Kids:

QUIZ

1. In Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, only one dwarf doesn't have a beard - which one?
2. What is the name of Peppa Pigs young Brother?
3. In the Jungle Book, what kind of primate is King Louis?
4. What CBBC show has been famous for giving out badges for decades?
5. What's the name of Simba's evil uncle in the Lion King?
6. Who is Daniel Tiger's little sister?
7. What did Maui steal from Ta Fiti in Moana?
8. What Island is Thomas & Friends set on?
9. What is the 2007 film Ratatouille about?
10. What is the name of the Cockapoo in Paw Patrol?

QUIZ ANSWERS

How well did you do with last week's quiz? You can check to see how many you got correct, may be all ten! The answers are below for you to check

1. Sesame Street
2. Jupiter
3. Fix
4. Theresa May
5. Miss Piggy
6. Amazon and the Nile
7. Boots
8. Winston Churchill
9. Homer
10. Arandelle

We'll have another Quiz for you next week.

CRAFT TIME

This is a craft that I have seen on the internet and thought it is so fun, simple and green that I wanted to share with you.

Socktopus

What you'll need

- A sock
- Elastic Band
- Cotton Balls
- Colouring pens
- Scissors
- Googly eyes optional
- Glue if using googly eyes



What to do:

Stuff the tip of the sock with cotton wool balls.

Next tie an elastic band around the sock, just under where the cotton balls are.

Cut the end of the sock into 8 strips to give the Socktopus 8 long tentacles (you'll need to use sharp scissors for this)

Glue on googly eyes, if you're not using googly eyes. Draw on the eyes

Draw a smile and cool suckers on each tentacle

I hope this project inspires a little crafty recycling in your home. I'm sure you and your little ones will love turning rubbish into treasure. Here's to crafting and giving green!

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Agatha Oddly The Silver Serpent by Lena Jones



13-year-old Agatha Oddly - a bold, determined heroine and the star of this stylish new detective series.

Agatha Oddlow is on the case with yet another adventure! An assistant at the National Gallery has gone missing, but when Agatha begins investigating, she uncovers a plot bigger than she could ever have imagined. Join Agatha as she travels throughout London and into the very heart of the mystery....

I've added a few comments from people who have read this book below.

Brilliant

Read it read it read it

It's brilliant 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆

If you enjoy drama and facts read this book

I recommend reading the two books before this one (the secret key and the Murder at the Museum)



So good

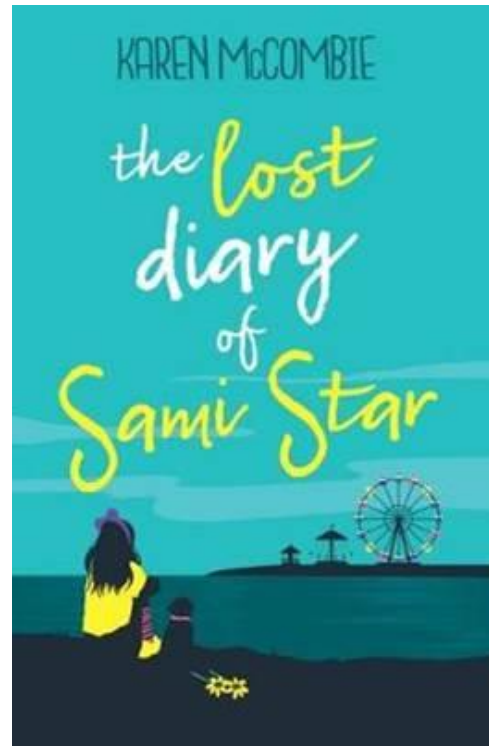
My daughter loved this and would never stop reading it, perfect for 8 -12 year olds fun book.

The Lost Diary of Sami Star

By Karen McCombie

Hannah's parents seem to have forgotten her, preoccupied by current quarrels with her older sister. School isn't much better - Hannah's noticing a rift with her two so-called best friends, who seem wholly concerned with boys and whether other people are wearing the 'right' jeans. Then she finds a journal in the park. Hannah is fascinated by its creator, Sami, whose quirky photos and drawings appear in the diary.

Sami seems cool, but kind of sad. Hannah decides to try and find her and return the diary - but who is she? Can Hannah unpick the clues in the diary to find her?



A short and accessible story about the challenges of teen life, family relationships and friendship. Acknowledging common problems of anxiety and the pressure to conform, it's a perfect read for anyone who likes real-life stories with a touch of mystery.

My 8 year old read this book in one evening. She said that it was the best book she has read. I am going to look for more books by the same author.

Great book to read. Good size letters for any dyslexic readers.

KEEP READING 😊

DON'T FORGET



<https://yourlibrary.knowsley.gov.uk/2020/06/05/32104/>



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and enjoy here**

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