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, 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?

Nicola, Senior Librarian
My Lockdown Read: A Spy Among Friends: Philby and the Great Betrayal by Ben Macintyre
I’ve always been fascinated by the story of Kim Philby and how he managed to operate as a double agent who eventually defected to Russia but I know my knowledge of the actual events is really limited. So when I saw this book in the library (pre lockdown) I knew I just had to read it! I’m only half way through but I’m already gripped by how Philby was able to join the ranks of the MI5 so easily and how he hoodwinked so many for so long. He really was quite brazen about it and was able to hide quite literally in plain sight. I didn’t know that Philby was nearly caught early on in his double crossing career and I wonder how that would have changed the course of history as we know it if he had. The book is at times a complex read due to the nature of the subject matter but well worth it so far. I’m already looking at what I can read next by Ben MacIntyre.
Caroline, Phlebotomist at Alder Hey

My Favourite Book: Georgia by Leslie Pearse

My favourite book is ‘Georgia’ by Leslie Pearse, I love that it spans backwards and forwards over the years. Lots of different characters, happy and sad. It kept me reading, it’s one that stays in my mind.

If you like Leslie Pearse books you may also like Susan Lewis, Dilly Court and Sara MacDonald. That’s just a few for you to try. Happy Reading!

Mrs Conway, Library Member- Cronton

I really enjoyed the film of ‘The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society’, I have also read the book of the same title. Enjoyed both.
I also enjoyed the film Hidden Figures. This was about a group of female African-American mathematicians who worked for NASA in the 1960’s and made a huge contribution to the space race.

Hidden Figures was also a recommendation in last week’s newsletter from Joe, great minds think alike.
Wonderful film and wonderful book.
Richard and Judy were back on TV with their book club providing lots of recommendations and interviewing guest authors.
Here’s a link to All4 where you can watch all the episodes so far: https://www.channel4.com/programmes/richard-judy-keep-reading-and-carry-on

I hope these snippets help, if you’d like to tell us what you’re reading we’d love to hear from you. Please email yourlibrary@knowsley.gov.uk and we’ll post you book recommendations.

Here’s a little brain teaser for you, help keep those cogs going.
Mixed-up writers - work out the authors from the anagrams of their names

1. I’LL MAKE A WISE PHRASE 7,11
2. AH, HATE IS TRAGIC 6,8
3. CAT ON HER BLOTTER 9,6
4. WHITE MAN’S ENERGY 6,9
5. TOILETS 1,1,5
6. CHILDREN’S CAKES 7,7
7. I SHRED MANUALS 6,7
8. ARIDLY DRUNK PIG 7,7
9. SOFT CRAFTED GLITZ 1,5,10
10. HYMNAL TOADS 5,6

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

The answers to last week’s teaser are as follows

1. Tom Cruise
2. Clint Eastwood, Gene Hackman, Ed Harris
3. Morgan Freeman
4. Kiss the Girls
5. Marlon Brando
6. David Baldacci
7. Lee Child
8. Mario Puzo
9. James Patterson
I’d like to share some easy to follow and lovely to eat recipes from family, friends and colleagues. This one is from Jan, one of our Principal Librarians.

**Great Auntie Nellie’s Fruit Loaf**

This is a recipe passed down from my Great Auntie to my Mum and then to me, it’s a family favourite and rarely lasts for longer than a day in the cake tin because it’s so tasty!

It’s got a lot of things in it that are naughty, but if you want to feel a little bit better about eating it the recipe has no fat or oil.

**Equipment:**
- 1 large bowl
- 1 tablespoon
- 1 large mug
- A greased loaf tin.

**Method:**
- Empty into the bowl 1 mug of Bran Fakes or Crushed Weetabix, 1 mug of dried fruit, 1 mug of sugar and 1 mug of milk.
- Mix thoroughly, cover with a clean cloth and leave to stand overnight or if you are really impatient for a minimum of 4 hours.
- After you have done this mix in 1 cup of self-raising flour, you could use plain flour with ½ spoon of baking powder, 1 egg and 1 tablespoon of warm water.
- Pour into the greased loaf tin and bake for 1 1/2-2hrs at gas mark 4 or 180C.
- Leave to cool down a bit before turning out of the loaf tin.

If you have any recipes that you would like to share please email yourlibrary@knowsley.gov.uk and we’ll add them on.
Whilst we’re staying safe some of us are having a break from reading by listening to music, watching TV and a whole host of other activities. Here are some recommendations:

**Films of the Week:**

**Monday: About a Boy**  
9pm 5Star (Freeview 30, Freesat 131, Sky 128, Virgin 151)  
Hugh Grant stars as the man child with a case of arrested development in this slick adaptation of Nick Hornby’s book.

**Tuesday: The Grand Budapest Hotel**  
9pm Film 4 (Freeview 14, Freesat 300, Sky 313, Virgin 428)  
A once magnificent hotel in central Europe is the setting for a series of tall and wild tales. Gustave H, a concierge, is wrongly framed for murder at the Grand Budapest Hotel. In the process of proving his innocence, he befriends a lobby boy. Fans of author Stefan Zweig will enjoy this.

**Wednesday: A Beautiful Mind**  
6.10pm Film4 (Freeview 14, Freesat 300, Sky 313, Virgin 428)  

**Thursday: A Walk in the Woods**  
6.10pm Film4 (Freeview 14, Freesat 300, Sky 313, Virgin 428)  
Robert Redford stars as writer Bill Bryson who, hoping to find some peace, decides to go on an adventure by hiking the Appalachian Trail along with his old friend, Katz, in this drama based on his 1998 memoir.

**Friday: Heat**  
9pm Film4 (Freeview 14, Freesat 300, Sky 313, Virgin 428)  
Lieutenant Vincent Hanna decides to try and catch a highly intelligent seasonal criminal who has vowed to pull off one last robbery before he retires for good. Al Pacino and Robert De Niro face off in this Michael Mann classic.

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:**

*Signs & Signifiers by JD McPherson recommended by Joe*

If you’re looking for an album to pick your spirits up and put you in a good mood, look no further. I came across JD McPherson when his first single ‘North Side Gal’ was released in 2011, and I’ve been a huge fan ever since. I’ve watched him in Leeds, Manchester, and I luckily caught him when he played Glastonbury a couple of years ago too. His live performances are as infectious as his albums. Hope you enjoy!

![Image of JD McPherson](image)

**Louise, Branch Supervisor:**

‘I listened to last week’s recommendation Leon Bridges – Better Man and enjoyed it, the artist wasn’t one that I’d come across but I’ll definitely be listening to him again.’

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
Meet the Staff: What are we doing during Lockdown?

Hi, I'm Michelle and one of the Library Advisers and I work in Huyton Library. I run a few of the many groups that we have in the library, which is the best part of the job for me so some of you may know me from doing that. I also work in the branch and behind the scenes.

As you all know during lockdown the Library has had to close, so most of us are working from home doing a variety of different things to help people during these trying times, as well as finding things to put on our website that you may find useful. We are all still communicating while we are at home checking in with each other and having online team meetings, which can be a bit of a problem when you have a 14 year old son who decides to make bacon butty in the background while you’re in the middle of a meeting, the joys of home working I suppose………

One of the things I have been doing is looking at online courses for both adults and children that you can do in the comfort of your own home. Nothing too onerous just basic courses that can be completed quickly while you’re sat on the couch with a cuppa and a biscuit, which is even better. A bit like myself while I’m working from home a coffee in one hand a digestive in the other, makes it all a bit easier, I’ve never drank so much coffee. Joking aside hopefully this will be coming soon, so keep an eye out.

I and a few of my colleagues have been given another role during this time and have been assisting in Knowsley Registry Office in Prescot and have been given training by their lovely staff just in case we are needed. It has been such an interesting experience and a real eye opener in what goes on behind the scenes, I think I can safely see we have all learned so much while we have been there.

We don’t know how long this lockdown will carry on for, but please be assured while we are off we are all working hard so when we do open up for our wonderful and supportive customers the library will still be a safe and welcoming place for you all to visit, stay safe everyone we all look forward to seeing you soon.

Michelle

Something for the Kids:

If you’ve missed Joe Wicks exercising in the morning you can catch up with him here https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1/videos
He’s keeping kids fit and healthy and lots of the parents are joining in too, looks like lots of fun.
Quiz Time

A picture quiz this week, can you guess the title of the book?
The answers for the quiz will be revealed in next week’s newsletter. Good luck!

How well did you do with last week’s quiz? You can check below to see how many you got correct.

1. D – 4  
2. A – Patrick Star  
3. D – 8  
4. D – Marmalade Sandwich  
5. B – 8 years old

Did you know that last week on 12th May it would have been Florence Nightingale’s 200th Birthday? Wow, isn’t that amazing? Florence was a nurse who nursed poorly sick soldiers in the Crimean war. If you click onto this link you will be able to read all about Florence and how influential she has been [https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52397246](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52397246)

You can follow this link to a free on-line book written by 110 authors and illustrators in response to covid-19.  
Book Trust Story Prize

The shortlist for the Book Trust Story prize for 2020 has finally been unveiled. The nominated books are:

- *B Is For Baby* by Atinuke and Angela Brooksbank (Walker Books)
- *Go Go Pirate Boat* by Katrina Charman and Nick Sharratt (Bloomsbury)
- *I Am A Tiger* by Karl Newson and Ross Collins (Macmillan)
- *My Hair* by Hannah Lee and Allen Fatimaharan (Faber Children’s)
- *This Is Owl* by Libby Walden and Jacqui Lee (Caterpillar Books)
- *1, 2, 3 Do the Dinosaur* by Michelle Robinson and Rosalind Beardshaw (Egmont)

For more information and blogs with the authors click here


Recommended Reading for 8-12 year olds:

Book review by Harry, aged 12 – Library Member

The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton

This is the first book in the Faraway Tree series. It’s about Joe, Franny and Beth who move to the country from the city. Their house is next to a forest and one day they decide to go for a picnic in the woods and find out it is enchanted. They find a tree in the middle of the forest that seems to reach up to the clouds. This is called the Faraway tree.

The children decide to climb up the Faraway tree and they meet different magical people who live in the tree, Moon-Face, Silky the fairy, The Saucepan Man, Dame Washalot, Mr Whatzisname and the Angry Pixie. At the top on the tree they find a ladder which leads them to a magical land. The land changes every time they visit because each land moves away from the top. The children and their friends can visit the lands but have to make sure they go back down the ladder before the land moves away or they'll get stuck.
“I really enjoy reading this book with my mum, my Grandma read it to her when she was a little girl. I imagine what kind of lands I’d like at the top of the tree and what adventures I’d get up to. The other books in the series are:-
The Magic Faraway Tree
The Folk of the Faraway Tree
They all include Joe, Fanny, Beth and their friends. They have many more adventures and a few mishaps.” Harry

Recommended Reading for 6-8 year olds:

Super Happy Magic Forest and the Humongous Fungus by Matty Long

It's the day of the Frolic Festival in the Super Happy Magic Forest and everyone's waiting for the Rainbow Dragon to appear, just like she does every 100 years, to breathe new life into the Mystical Crystals of Life. But, when she finally flies over the Forest, something seems to be very wrong. Fortunately, five heroes - including Trevor, a small talking mushroom and Blossom the burping unicorn - set out to investigate and venture deep into the Sacred Glade, where they discover a giant, smelly, evil mushroom called Fungellus who is intent on world domination and has infected the Rainbow Dragon with his disgusting fumes.

Back in the Magic Forest, the heroes embark on a plan to collect ingredients for an antidote to Rainbow Dragon's malaise, in the hope that she will then be able to defeat Fungellus. But how hard is it to find sprite jam, blue candyfloss and unicorn poop at late notice? And will Trevor fall for Fungellus' smelly charms?

Please feel free to drop us an email about anything in this newsletter, we'd love to hear any thoughts or comments you have. Stay safe and well!
yourlibrary@knowsley.gov.uk