

YEAR

IN REVIEW

LIBRARIES  
SERVICE REPORT

2017/18

leisure &  
culture DUNDEE

Leisure & Culture Dundee is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. SC042421

# INTRODUCTION

During the past year Dundee Library and Information Services have continued to deliver and develop services to our local communities. We are one of the few places where people excluded from mainstream society for whatever reason, can enjoy equality of provision and our priority is to develop services which address any access and inclusion issues as well as a focus on health and wellbeing services. As recognised non-judgemental, welcoming spaces at the heart of our local communities, we are used by a range of local and national partners to promote key messages and services to local people.

Our challenge is in continuing to provide a dynamic quality library service which is responsive to changes in demand as well as investing in new initiatives in a difficult economic climate. Identifying funding to enable growth has increasing importance and last year we were successful in receiving £7500 which will enable upper foyer area of Central Library to be transformed into a wellbeing garden. The key element of this project is to provide a beautiful, calm area which is unexpectedly situated in a bustling library. Our customers visit the library for a variety of reasons, but in recent years the number of people looking for support with life-challenging issues has increased.

This space will provide an area where anyone can go to relax and de-stress. An ongoing challenge is to identify funding to provide the community extension to Broughty Ferry Library with nearly 50% of a project costing £1.8 million now reached. Libraries across Dundee had over 1 million visitors in 2017/18, representing a fall from the previous year; however, the overall trend is slowing significantly. The number of reading related activities held by library staff during the year was 6,293, representing an increase of 9.5%. Working with partners over the past year we have prioritised the delivery of initiatives services which help to address health, wellbeing, digital literacy, provide support for individuals, families and young people, inclusion and poverty. We have supported the work of a range of providers including Macmillan, Dundee Women's Festival, NHS Tayside, Dundee Design Festival, Great War Dundee, and the University of Dundee as well as Dundee City Council.



# PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

	'15-'16	'16-'17	'17-'18
Visitors	1,268,929	1,156,819	1,078,974
Loans	501,861	492,119	458,237
Requests for library items	27,704	29,767	38,962
E –book & e-audio book downloads	7,859	9,633	14,641
E-magazine downloads	4,416	5,488	6,291
Digital literacy sessions	8,179	10,531	8,276
Volunteer Hours	4,163	4,058	3,516
Class & Playgroup visits	1,414	1,442	1,478
Reading events	4,979	5,722	6,293
Storytelling sessions	742	709	767

# QUALITY OF LIFE

The network of libraries in Dundee ensures that local people have access to high quality services and resources at a local level. In partnership with local and national partners, libraries are increasingly being used as venues where a range of cultural activities can take place.

## DUNDEE WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

### Women's Suffrage

Women's History Scotland officially launched their learning resource pack in the Central Library on Saturday 10th of March as part of Dundee Women's Festival. This online resource provides access to materials and information to promote study and research in women's and gender history.

The Local History Department provided display materials from 'Voteless not Voiceless', a very successful exhibition held in the library a number of years ago. Dr. Valerie Wright from Glasgow University and Esther Breitenbach of the Women's History Scotland steering committee gave an overview of the suffrage movement in Scotland. Norman Watson, journalist and author of several books on women's history in Dundee, then spoke very engagingly on the activities of members of the Women's Social and Political Union and Women's Freedom League in Dundee. The talk drew on his vast collection of postcards, suffrage memorabilia, not to mention extensive knowledge and great humour.

Historian Kenneth Baxter from the University of Dundee also gave an enlightening presentation on the political representation of women in Dundee.

A large range of resource material on suffragettes was available in the Local History Department.

Dr Valerie Wright commented:

*'DUNDEE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A BETTER PLACE TO HOLD THE LAUNCH GIVEN THE RICHNESS OF THE EXISTING HISTORY OF WOMEN IN THE CITY.'*

Author Jayne Baldwin talked about the life of Elsie Mackay, described in the 1920s as a fine example of the 'new woman.' Actress, heiress, designer and aviator Elsie went missing in 1928 during her attempt to become the first woman to fly the Atlantic.

Sue Reid Sexton travels solo in a tiny campervan and uses it as a creative space and general escape hatch. For a day or weeks at a time, she disappears up glens and over mountains to write novels.

Writing on the road is about these flights but it is also a travel journal, a guide to living in the moment, to coping when your marriage unravels and staying creative against all odds, campervan dos and don'ts and how not to be scared in the dark.





### **3D PRINTER**

As part of a continued programme of library outreach activities, the Library Service's 3D printer champion has been taking the new 3D printer to community libraries in Dundee. The 3D printer is far more portable than previous models and has been demonstrated to teenage reading groups, community libraries, craft groups and primary school pupils throughout Dundee. Participants have been designing keyrings, jewellery and other small craft items and exploring the 3D printing library on TinkerCAD, the design website. Further 3D design and printing visits are planned.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

Central Library hosted 18 exhibitions this year as well as providing high profile space for local organisations such as Dial-op and DVA. Exhibitions ranged from local photography groups, Dundee Carers and One World Centre to the National History of Women's Aid, Enable and the very moving exhibitions and film about Basque child refugees of the Spanish Civil War and the current plight of Syrian child refugees. During the Dundee Women's Festival, Glasgow Women's Library curated an exhibition about the suffrage movement.

Magnus the pony, made from parts of vintage tools, reclaimed metal, farm machinery and old vehicles, was displayed in the foyer of Central Library for several weeks. Magnus was created by emerging young talent Steve Burke McKay, who is based in Tealing. Magnus took four months to make and attracted great interest from all the community including children, families, art students and engineers.

### **LOCAL HISTORY**

Local History has been collaborating with the McManus 168 project (link: <https://mcmanus168.org.uk/>), providing support and guidance to researchers investigating the history of the subscribers who funded the Albert Institute in 1863. The research, being done by community groups across Dundee, will make an important contribution to the history of social networks and culture in Victorian Scotland. The Local History collections were also the basis of a Lifelong Learning Dundee course on People and Poetry in Dundee with the class visiting to explore sources and research methods.

Local History was highlighted during two events at the last Dundee Literary Festival in October, both partnerships with other heritage institutions in the city. A sold-out costumed poetry tour of Verdant Works led by Erin Farley brought voices of mill workers past to life. On board HMS Unicorn, Erin also partnered with Professor Kirstie Blair of Strathclyde University to explore the radical history of Dundee's People's Journal.

The department is visited by visitors from around the world; people from countries including South Africa, Australia and New Zealand have visited to get in touch with their Dundee ancestry. Digitisation is a key focus, with digitisation of particularly popular or fragile parts of the collections continuing, and valuable contributions by our long-term volunteers. The coming year will also see Local History give a new focus to outreach activity and events, through collaborations with other organisations in Dundee and further afield.

### **BRITAIN AT LOW TIDE**

Filming for Channel 4's 'Britain at Low Tide' took place during May in the Central Library. Using resources and research undertaken by local history staff, it focused on vessels exposed at low tide in the Tay. Highlighted was the elusive 200,000 gold coins from General Monck's sunken fleet, supposedly lying beneath thousands of tons of shifting sand somewhere on the bed of the Tay. During their research, staff unearthed a number of long abandoned 'wrecks' remaining in the river. The cast and crew spent several hours in the library filming sequences for the episode.

### **LOCAL HISTORY IMAGES INSPIRE DESIGNER**

Award-winning designer Nicholas Daley (pictured left) used images from the Local History Department of the Central Library to inspire his new Juteopolis menswear collection. Two generations of Nicholas's family worked in Dundee's jute mills and he used this to create his jute and textile-based designs. Nicholas spent many hours trawling through archive materials, resources and images held in the Local History Library. He described the support of library staff as 'fantastic'.

His Juteopolis collection *"reinterprets the history of the unconventional fashion material and explores the role of industrial production within culture."*

### **GO FOR GOLD**

The Go for Gold project encourages residents in care homes in Dundee to become more physically active. The first event, with an Olympic Games theme, proved very popular. The theme for 2017 was school days and playground games. Library staff organised relevant and appropriate resources for the event including reminiscence activities to stimulate discussion and aid recall of the elderly participants. Libraries also worked with primary schools in the area to obtain artefacts and materials from a Victorian classroom to further enhance the experience. This event is now in its second year and is supported by staff from Outreach Library Services.

### **WAR BLIND**

A member of Outreach Library staff was invited to speak to the Dundee group of Scottish War Blinded to promote library services such as e-books and e-audio books and facilities. The veterans group meets every month in the Dundee Blind Society building and is one of a newly formed network of groups across Scotland for veterans.



## HERITAGE FILM SCREENINGS

Friends of Dundee City Archives, the National Library of Scotland and Central Library have collaborated to show films from the Moving image Archive. The short films have been chosen to fit into a lunch hour and are free to attend.

Iain Flett from The Friends of Dundee City Archives provided an introduction and commentary of the films which have so far shown Dundee's famous jute and journalism industries, Dundee as a tourist destination, the welfare of children, Mary Slessor and the civil defence manoeuvres of Exercise Challenge.

The film shows were publicised through the Verdant Works, the Courier, and within the library. Free tea and coffee was provided by the Steps Café. There were many positive comments Members of the audiences have seen their younger selves, parents or other relatives in the films. One of the audience saw herself as a child in "Standing at the Gate", and several of those attending had worked for Halley's, DP&L or Caldum. So far 596 have enjoyed watching the way things were.

## BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND

The Dundee Penguins were dressed as chefs to celebrate the beginning of Book Week Scotland. The theme this year was 'Nourish' and events at Dundee Libraries included food related talks and author visits.

Local ladies of crime, Wendy H Jones and Chris Longmuir held a Crime and Cake Café at Lochee Library. Rachel McCormack food writer and broadcaster brought a foodie line up to a Gastro Salon with Scottish chef of the year finalist Jamie Scott, writer and broadcaster Billy Kay and Kitchen Press founder Emily Dewhurst. Sue Lawrence entertained with her baking stories and crime novels and we were intrigued to meet Mary Paulson-Ellis, the author of the award winning novel The Other Mrs Walker. Local writer Mae Stewart joined library staff in bringing the week to a close with Souper stories.

## AUTHOR EVENTS

Eddie Mair, formerly of Whitfield High, now of BBC Radio 4 spoke to a full audience in the Steps Theatre about his book "A Good Face for Radio: Confessions of a Radio Head". Eddie talked about his childhood in Whitfield, and his time at Radio Tay, as well as his more recent work with Radio 4. After the talk, most of the audience took the opportunity to share a few words with Eddie, and to buy a signed copy of his book. Tom Russell, a Radio Clyde DJ, asked to visit Dundee Central Library as part of his 'Library Tour' to promote his memoirs.



He talked about being the first DJ to host an exclusively rock-based radio programme, and told stories about the many famous bands he had interviewed. The audience were very engaged – people were keen to find out if he had met their own rock heroes. Tom proved to be a gifted raconteur, willing to answer all questions, and it was an entertaining evening. This event attracted a number of people who were new to library talks, as well as regular supporters.

*"WHAT A FASCINATING GUY, I COULD HAVE LISTENED TO HIM ALL NIGHT"* - Attendee.

The Douglas Bears Book group invited the Hub's Hubbabuba Book Group to Douglas Library for a Live Lit event organised through the Scottish Book Trust, with author of the "Lee" books, Keith Charters. The children came after school and settled into the Library for stories and tips on creative writing with Keith. His humour went down well and there was lots of fun and laughter. All the children participated by sharing their own experiences of writing and funny stories and had lots of questions for Keith. All the children left feeling positively inspired to go on and read more of Keith Charters books and to try out his "Action Sandwich" approach to story writing.

## MAGGIE'S MITTENS

Primary 1 and 1/2 from Our Lady's Primary School visited the Children's Centre to find out about the fabulous new Scottish picture book 'Maggie's Mittens' as part of Book Week Scotland.

The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the library this morning to meet author Coe Clayton and illustrator Alison Soye. They returned to school full of stories and exciting information that they were eager to share.

*"MANY THANKS AGAIN FOR THIS MORNING. I'M SURE IT IS AN EXPERIENCE WHICH WILL STAY WITH THE CHILDREN (AND ADULTS!) FOR A LONG TIME TO COME."*  
- Principal Teacher, Our Lady's Primary School.

## COW PIE

LITERARY Dundee,  
The University of Dundee

Desperate Dan's Cow Pie sculpture, which had been on loan to Dundee Libraries from the University of Dundee's Literary Dundee, was gifted to D.C Thomson's on the reopening of their Meadowside offices in November. The pie had originally been housed at the National Library of Scotland.



# PROMOTION OF HEALTH & WELLBEING

Library and Information Services play a key role in the promotion of services which address health and wellbeing. There is substantial evidence that reading makes an important contribution to an individual's health and wellbeing and the service builds on this through the provision of resource collections which promote health issues and support. We actively seek funding opportunities with partners and involve local groups and individuals to ensure that the services and resources provided are relevant to local communities.

## READ THE PAST

Dundee Libraries took part in 'Read the Past Imagine the Future', a campaign to encourage more people to visit their local library more often. This was supported by the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) and promoted reading throughout communities across Scotland, widening knowledge of local and national history and the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. Library user Lin Field received a book token for best book review as part of this initiative.

## MACMILLAN

A new Cancer Information and Support Service for people living with cancer and their families in Dundee opened in Central Library. The new service, which is a partnership between Leisure & Culture Dundee and Macmillan Cancer Support, will be available for anyone affected by cancer, including the person with a cancer diagnosis, family, friends and carers. Trained volunteers will provide emotional and practical support, access to information materials on various types of cancer and treatment, referrals to partner services, or simply a listening ear. Connections have been established with partner Macmillan services Move More and Improving the Cancer Journey, as well as organisations such as Maggie's, Tayside Cancer Support, Dundee Drop-In Services and Dundee Carer's Centre.

Rebecca Adams, Central Library's Macmillan Project Assistant, said; *"This creative use of library space and resources will provide a comfortable, welcoming environment for anyone effected by cancer. As the project expands to Coldside and Lochee libraries, it will also help to bring the service to a community setting."*

## DEMENTIA AMBASSADORS

Central Library's Dementia Library hosted a conference for Dementia Ambassadors led by Rachael Ferguson of the Scottish Social Services Council.

The Dementia Library was set up in 2015 to provide free access to information and resources on dementia. This event provided the opportunity for Dementia Ambassadors to meet to develop local contacts and explore the dementia library.

This facility is receiving national acclaim and recently welcomed Professor Saori Donkai and Professor Chieki Mizoue from the University of Tsubuka in Japan. They were in the UK for a factfinding visit to see how public libraries are improving their services for people with dementia. They advised that over 4 million people in Japan have received a dementia diagnosis so were interested to hear about the experience of setting up the Dementia Library and engaging with local dementia support services as well as group work and outreach services involving reminiscence packs.

A dementia support group now holds a weekly meeting in the library and are encouraged to chat about their memories and experiences, supported by Alzheimer Scotland.

## ENGAGING WITH LIBRARIES (CARNEGIE UK TRUST)

Following a successful bid for to Carnegie UK Trust's Engaging Libraries fund, Library Services were awarded £17,500 for the Talking 'Bout Teddies Project. Working in partnership with the organisation Connected Baby, led by research scientist Dr. Suzanne Zeedyk (Honorary Fellow at the University of Dundee), the project is explore children's biological need for comfort and reassurance. It was one of only 14 projects selected from across the UK.

We instinctively know that teddies offer children comfort, and Dr Zeedyk uses that knowledge in her own work to explain how adults carry within them an 'internal teddy bear', which helps them cope with life's stresses. It is this link between childhood experiences and adult health that gives the project a unique take on an important message for all of us, whatever our age.

The project will include short films of children and adults talking about their teddies, a Teddy Bears' Picnic, and public lectures on the neuroscience of relationships will take place for those interested in the underlying science.

## DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

Libraries used SLIC funds awarded to make libraries more dyslexia friendly to purchase two circulating collections of dyslexia related books. Adult and children's books were purchased including fiction and non-fiction titles. The collections began their circulation at Broughty Ferry and Central Libraries to sit alongside existing dyslexia material already held in stock which included novels, quick reads and biographies of celebrities who have overcome their diagnosis.

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Arthurstone Library is involved in two community garden projects. In 2013, after consultation with the Maryfield Regeneration Unit and Dundee Urban Orchard (DUO), a small orchard of fruit trees was planted in the Library's garden. The garden is maintained by local volunteers and has been the focus of other community events. These included the setting up of a minibeast hotel and nest boxes by the Countryside Ranger Service, and the gathering of fruit from the garden as part of the annual community harvest day organised by DUO. The Library continues to support DUO throughout its programme by hosting workshops, galleries and engaging in public events.

Tayview Community Garden was created in the Stobswell area of Dundee on a piece of unused land as a partnership project between the Regeneration Unit, the Stobswell Forum and DCC's Neighbourhood Services Committee, who were then joined by other groups such as the library, One World Centre, Boomerang, the Maryfield Men's Shed, Taybank Medical Centre and The Prince's Trust. Arthurstone library has been given a plot and the Library Supervisor is an Administrator for the community Facebook and Discussion pages. Equipment purchased previously for the Ignite Festival has been made available for people to borrow for local gardening projects. Arthurstone Library also donates cancelled gardening magazines from its collection, as well as promoting current ones from its Zinio digital magazine site. Both projects have proved to be a great success in raising awareness of the Library to those in the community as well as facilitating engagement with community groups.

## BROUGHTY FERRY EXTENSION

A public campaign to raise funds for an ambitious extension has been launched at Broughty Ferry Community Library. Members of the public can get involved by donating. The indicative cost of the project is £1,828,000 and £948,500 has already been secured from Leisure & Culture Dundee alongside Dundee City Council, with the remainder being sought from fundraising including applications to external grant-funders who share common objectives. A previous review of facilities demonstrated a lack of community space in the area and has led to the proposal for a meeting and gathering space that can accommodate up to two hundred people in a safe, easily accessible central location, with Broughty Ferry Library the preferred location. The proposal also seeks to create an inclusive accessible approach which engages the extensive, but underused land surrounding the existing library. Sinclair Aitken, Chair of Leisure & Culture Dundee said *"A review of facilities has recognised the consistent demand from the community for the creation of a space that provides increased availability for community meetings, events and activities. We now aim to provide an exciting solution to meet the needs of Broughty Ferry and beyond. We know there is strong support in the local community for more community space"*.

## FRIENDS OF BROUGHTY FERRY LIBRARY

The Friends of Broughty Ferry Library raised over £5000 to refurbish the youth area. This was achieved with grant funding and donations from local traders. The Friends also applied to the Local Community Planning Partnership for funding to purchase iPads. Leisure and Culture Dundee provided matched funding which enabled the refurbishment of the IT area and provided stands for the iPads.

The young adult section was officially opened by local school pupils Callum McRae and Aiden Watson, who cut the ribbon.

The Friends have organised and hosted a series of evening talks to help raise funds for the library and tackle isolation within the community. This year these included:

Searching your Ancestors by Tay Valley Family History Society (21 April 2017)

Dundee Poor Houses by Martin Allan – City Archivist (31 May 2017)

Williamina Paton Fleming: Dundee's Discoverer of Stars by Brian Kelly (20 September 2017)

World War 1 – Dundee and the Home Front by Linda Nicoll

They also held an open day in the library with crafts, activities and games which was very popular.

## INTERNATIONAL GAMES WEEK

To celebrate International Games Week in November, library staff organised an indoor curling event to allow library users to try something different within the library. The project proved to be very successful with a number of customers coming daily to play.

## CARBON SAVING

As part of a Carbon Saving Project launched by the Gate Church with funding from Scottish Government's Climate Change Fund, libraries have hosted Give Boxes to encourage local people to think about what they are throwing away and to consider donating items which could be re-used.

## DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

In response to customer demand, a Dungeons and Dragons group has been established in Central library and is run by a library volunteer who is knowledgeable in the game and acts as Games Master. This group attracts a new audience to the library. Numbers are growing as the meetings are being advertised on social media platforms.

## BOOKSHOP BAND

During Dundee Literary Festival, the Bookshop Band toured Blackness, Charleston, Broughty Ferry and Central Library. They played book related songs to a very appreciative audience attracting people who would not normally associate libraries with live music.

# INCLUSION

## OPPORTUNITIES PROJECT

The Opportunities Project volunteers are now also working with Welfare Advice to deliver IT support at Ninewells Hospital Advice Centre on online job searching, electronic benefits applications and e-learning resources. The Volunteer Coordinator for the Project was shortlisted for Volunteer Dundee Volunteer Award in the Volunteer Manager/ Coordinator of the year category.

DWP staff also use to the I.T. facilities and resources in the Opportunities Room. Volunteers and library staff are often on hand to help DWP staff/customers with job searching, CVs and UJ accounts. On average, 6-8 job centre customers attend the sessions each day. They are also encouraged to join the library and make full use of the resources available to them in the Opportunities Room. DWP also refer customers to the Opportunities Room for employability/I.T./ welfare support out-with these times.

Opportunities project volunteers have delivered 2128 digital support sessions during 2017- 18. The session have supported library customer to use or access a wide range of digital devices and services, this has included support with online travel booking systems, job applications and government services. Full service Universal credit was rolled out in Dundee in November 2017, the main route of applying and maintaining this benefit is through a digital account.

The Opportunities Project has provided 197 digital support sessions for customers who are making or maintaining a claim for Universal credit from full service roll out in November 2017 to March 2018. Supported by volunteers, AMINA is offering drop in digital support sessions on a weekly basis to refugees from Syria. A pilot project has been proposed for volunteers to work in partnership with Ninewells Hospital to allow patients on the stroke ward to make Universal Credit claims while they are in hospital.

There has been a month to month increase in support offered to in relation to universal credit and volunteers and staff are preparing for a further increase in April when existing UC claimants will start being migrated from live service to full service.

## LGBT

Libraries continue to support LGBT History Month, the annual celebration throughout February of the history and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people. Central Library displayed a selection of books to boost awareness and highlight the LGBT collection.

## IT CLUBS

The Retro Games Event was a free activity for children in the community to discover about early computer game consoles and the evolution of computer programs and discs. Staff demonstrated examples of how these worked and then the children were able access a range of games dating from the 1980s including "Manic Minor" and "Pac Man" to help them draw similarities to the simple programmes they code in Code Club. The children were fascinated by this and were all keen to play the retro games.





### **MINECRAFT**

The Minecraft LAN club was launched in May 2017. Children's love of all things Minecraft has been well documented and libraries have been incorporating Minecraft into group activities. Library staff participated in the Computing for Schools conference at Dundee University where lecturer Derek Robertson demonstrated the way that Minecraft could be used in schools using games consoles to redesign the City's waterfront. Through partnership working with the BBC Build It Scotland campaign and the consultancy company Immersive Minds, library staff explored how schools were using Minecraft to create replicas of landmark buildings throughout Scotland for 3D printing.

With support from Young Stakeholder and Code Club volunteers, the club uses Lego sets to enable children to physically prototype their ideas. This is very popular with children and parents. It is planned that the groups will evolve to include coding Minecraft for Raspberry Pi, 3D printing and Minecraft EDU.

As a result of participation in the Minecraft Club, the Libraries' Young Stakeholder Group took part in a 50-hour Minecraft marathon to create a new building to celebrate University of Dundee's 50th birthday.

### **GET ONLINE WEEK**

As part of Get Online Week in October, a series of workshops were held in libraries and cafes across the city to demonstrate e-reading and e-listening services. Customers brought in their own devices to have the appropriate apps set up for them. The drop-in event raised awareness of the library's e-book and e-audio book services which have shown significant increases.

### **GAELIC**

A Gaelic Interactive Language session was held with Linda MacLeod from BBC Alba's Leugh le Linda. Nurseries from the West End along with Bookbug toddlers and parents attended this event at Blackness Library for an afternoon of songs, stories, rhymes, games and puppets. Picture books from the Gaelic Collection were available for participants to borrow.

### **POLISH READERS**

In partnership with the Polish Book Institute, Libraries promoted a new e-book service for Polish readers as part of the initiative Read PL, organised by the Krakow Festival Office in Poland. This was the first time that Dundee Libraries had offered free Polish e-books and the initiative was as a direct result of Dundee's membership of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Dundee was among several cities supporting the promotion of this programme outside Poland for the first time. Counterparts included Barcelona, Dublin, Dunedin, Edinburgh, Lviv, Norwich, Nottingham, Prague and Reykjavik.

Sinclair Aitken, Chair of Leisure & Culture Dundee said *"THIS INITIATIVE IS ANOTHER GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE CITY'S STRONG EUROPEAN LINKS. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAMME AND HOPE THAT POLISH READERS IN DUNDEE TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THESE FREE RESOURCES."*

All libraries act as pick up locations for blue badges allowing those with mobility issues the opportunity to collect their badges locally. 409 badges were picked up in 2017-2018

# CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

## ANIMAL AGENTS

The theme of the 2017 Tesco Bank Summer Reading Challenge was Animal Agents, featuring characters exclusively designed by the award-winning children's illustrator, Tony Ross. Every child helped the Animal Agents, a bunch of furry, slippery and four-legged friends, solve a library mystery - with a huge helping of fun along the way. The Challenge was launched at Ardlar Library with the help of Macastory and pupils from St Fergus PS before the end of the summer term. Each child participating was given a collector folder to keep a record of their Tesco Bank Summer Reading Challenge journey and over 200 children attended medal ceremonies in their local libraries to celebrate completing the task. As part of the Challenge promotion, an audience of 100 children and families welcomed local author Mark A Smith to the Steps Theatre for a fun event *Slugboy Saves the World* on Saturday 22nd July.

## TOP COMMENTS FROM PARENTS/CARERS

*'ANIMAL AGENTS CHALLENGE ENCOURAGED MY KIDS TO READ MORE BOOKS IN THE HOLIDAYS. THEY READ BOOKS WHILE IN THE LIBRARY AS WELL AS TAKING BOOKS AWAY WITH THEM.'*

*'I THINK IT HAD A GREAT EFFECT ON MY SON FOR HIS READING, HE ENJOYED COMING TO THE LIBRARY MORE AND WAS EXCITED TO RECEIVE DIFFERENT THINGS EACH TIME.'*

## JULIA DONALDSON'S VISIT TO CENTRAL LIBRARY

Best-selling children's author Julia Donaldson visited Central Library's Steps Theatre in March as part of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour organised by Scottish Book Trust. 250 pupils from local primary schools Our Lady's, St Pius', Fintry, Ballumbie and St Fergus took part in the special event with Julia, who has written more than 160 books and is a high profile supporter of libraries.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO SONIC PI

As part of National Coding Week in September, a Sonic Pi event was held at Douglas Library to launch a new music coding programme to Dundee Libraries. Library staff introduced children to the skills involved in learning to play an instrument and the benefits of coding music digitally.





#### **4-4-2 READING CHALLENGE**

Dundee Libraries, Scottish Book Trust and the Scottish Professional Football League Trust joined up with a national promotion to encourage primary school-age children to read in exchange for match tickets. Dundee FC and Dundee United FC took part in an afternoon of football fun and stories with Dens Road Primary School in Coldside Library to launch this initiative.

#### **DUNDEE PICTURE BOOK AWARDS**

The award ceremony for the Dundee Picture Book Awards was held in the Whitehall Theatre in June. Over 400 enthusiastic pupils from eighteen P6 classes were involved in reading and sharing the four shortlisted titles to their P1 classes: *Betty Goes Bananas* in her Pyjamas by Steve Antony (Oxford University Press), *Alan's Big Scary Teeth* by Jarvis (Walker Books), *Kiss It Better* by Smriti Prasad-Halls; illustrated by Sarah Massini (Bloomsbury) and *Super Stan* by Matt Robertson (Hachette Children's Group). Every P6 and P1 class in the 16 Primary Schools involved voted for their favourite story. And the winner was...Matt Robertson for *Super Stan*.

#### **WRITE FROM THE HEART**

The School Library Service partnered with DCC's Children and Families Service to deliver *Right from the Heart* workshops at Menzieshill Library in conjunction with the author Vivian French and St. Ninian's Primary 3 school pupils.

The aim of the project was for each pupil to create a special message card to gift to a special person i.e. parent/ sibling/friend etc. and the library was used to launch the display of their work before the cards were gifted.

A slideshow of the pupils' work was shown and refreshments provided along with a small gift to each pupil from the library for their great work and achievement.

Vivian French also kindly donated a signed copy of one of her books to the class.

#### **READ, WRITE, COUNT HOME KITS**

Read, Write, Count is a campaign to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of Scotland's children by giving parents the confidence to get involved and providing resources to support learning at home. Through Read, Write, Count all P1 to P3 children receive a free bag with books, counting games and writing materials each autumn. The campaign is a key part of the Scottish Government's commitment to raise attainment for all and close the attainment gap, and is delivered by Scottish Government, Education Scotland and Scottish Book Trust. Whitfield, Ardler and the Hub libraries received Home Kits for lending.

Each Home Kit consists of 22 books, numeracy and writing items, with an activity cards for each book and item. The items are available for children to use at home with their families.

#### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Library Services supported the University of Dundee's Being Human Festival of the Humanities in November. The Central Library hosted an exhibition of unique editions of *Gulliver's Travels* to celebrate Jonathan Swift's 350th anniversary. Some of these items were appearing in public for the first time. Library staff held family friendly activities including a pop-up book surgery alongside the exhibition. International language students from the university held sessions in the library, reading 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson in their native tongue.

# CREATIVE SERVICES

Following a restructure, Marketing, Design, Social, PR and Online were combined to form Creative Services with the new team relocating to Central Library in late 2017. The new structure provides greater clarity of the functions of the service and enables a more collaborative approach to projects. During 2017/18 the Creative Services team successfully completed over 400 individual Design & Marketing requests.

'The Dundee Design Festival 2017 brochure was of international standard. The partnership with G F Smith who provided high quality paper created a product that has been widely admired' Anna Day, UNESCO Manager.

As well as working with staff from Cultural Services and Leisure & Sport, the team is supporting Libraries to develop strong promotional campaigns to raise awareness of services. Creative Services have set up individual blogs which will provide a great source of content that can be shared easily and increase digital engagement.

This year has seen media coverage increase significantly. As well as securing news reports and features in local and regional titles such as the Evening Telegraph and The Courier, there has also been success in obtaining additional profile with national titles. These included The Times, The Guardian, The Independent, The Daily Telegraph and periodicals such as The Skinny. Print and online news sources have been supplemented by Radio and TV news reports from BBC, STV, Tay FM and Wave FM. Media and social channels are monitored and responded to on a daily basis. This helps to further enhance Leisure & Culture Dundee's reputation and allows us to successfully amplify third party endorsements. The Advertising Value Equivalent of print and online media articles, as recorded by Kantar Media, relating to Leisure & Culture Dundee, is estimated to be worth over £800,000 for the last year.



# FORTHCOMING

## **DUNDEE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY 2017**

An exhibition in June 2018 will display the highlights of a joint project between Dundee Libraries and Red Sky Photos, a collective of Dundee based photographers.

The project was to undertake a photographic survey similar to ones conducted in 1916 and 1991, which are currently held in the Local History Collection in Central Library. This lasting record will provide a snapshot of personal and public life in the city throughout 2017, from Amphibious Ancients to Westfest, set against a back drop of the V&A, a new waterfront and a renewed sense of cultural pride.

The exhibition will also travel throughout the city's Community Libraries over the coming year, allowing everyone to enjoy the project.

## **SUE BLACK**

Central Library will welcome Sue Black, Professor of Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology, in May 2018. Discussing her book 'All That Remains', Sue will reveal the many faces of death she has come to know, using key cases to explore how forensic science has developed, and what her work has taught her.

## **COLDSIDE LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT**

Work will begin in late 2018/2019 to provide accessible access to the upper floor of Coldside Library. This will ensure that the community can make full use of the building and enable large scale events to take place.

Fundraising for the Broughty Ferry Community Extension will continue, with planning permission to be submitted in the summer.

## **ANNE FRANK EXHIBITION**

A major exhibition exploring the life and modern legacy of Anne Frank will be hosted by Central Library in June 2018. Ambassadors will be recruited from Dundee secondary schools to provide informative tours of the exhibition.

## **MACMILLAN HUBS**

In partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, two further Macmillan Hubs will be launched in Lochee and Coldside Libraries. Volunteers will be recruited to provide information support to people with a cancer diagnosis and their families.



YEAR  
IN REVIEW  
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SERVICE REPORT