

COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

April - June 2025



Barnet Libraries Literary Festival









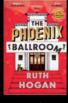


































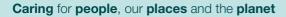








www.barnet.gov.uk/creative-communities-events www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries





ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND







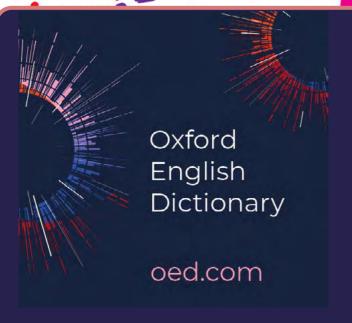














The Oxford English Dictionary is the definitive record of the English language, featuring 600,000 words, 3 million quotations and over a thousand years of English.

An unsurpassed guide to the meaning, history and usage of thousands of words and phrases across the English-speaking world.

Search the respected dictionary of the English language to find out the origin and use of words.

Scan the QR code to discover the Oxford English Dictionary.





Welcome to our Creative Communities programme for April to June 2025.

This spring, there are plenty of fresh and inspiring events for all ages. Our annual two-day Literary Festival returns in May, featuring a stellar line-up of authors, featuring Mark Billingham, Ian Moore, Barbara Nadal and Janice Hallet. Our Loving Life activities continue at Chipping Barnet and Colindale libraries for those aged 60+ including Singing for the Brain, dance and art workshops.

There's lots of fun for children throughout the Easter and May holidays, the London Festival of Architecture returns in June and there are exciting exhibitions to look forward to at The Gallery at Chipping Barnet Library.

We hope you enjoy the many special events taking place in our libraries this April and beyond. Step inside and discover something new at your library today.

Tickets and Booking

Some of our events require a small charge. This allows us to continue to provide a range of events and activities. We keep our charges as low as possible to cover our basic costs and reinvest all takings in our library services, including future events.

You will find the QR code to book tickets on each page. Scan the code with the camera on your phone and tap on the web address when it pops up. Or you can visit https://barnet-libraries.played.co. Find the event you wish to book and add tickets to your cart, then follow the instructions to pay. You may need to select the library the event takes place at to find it. If you can't find an event, booking has yet to open. Sign up to our e-newsletters to find out when booking opens and for the latest news. Visit www.barnet.gov.uk/librarynewsletters to find out more.

Cancellation Policy: we offer a full refund for tickets cancelled more than 48 hours before an event. We are unable to refund tickets cancelled within 48 hours.



Barnet Libraries Literary Festival

3 - 4 May 2025, Finchley Church End Library

Our annual Literary Festival is back! The weekend is packed with authors and books for you to enjoy. Each event includes a question and answer session and an author book signing. You can buy copies of the books with cash or card.



An audience with children's author M. G. Leonard Saturday 3 May • 11am - 12.30pm

Meet award winning author, M.G. Leonard as she talks about her new book 'Hunt for the Golden Scarab'. M.G. Leonard is author of the bestselling Adventures on Trains series, The Ice Children and Beetle Boy, currently in development as a live-action series for television.



Age guidance: 8 - 12 year olds.

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book

Cost: Adult - £5, Child - £3.50

Family ticket deal: book 3 or more tickets for this event and receive a 25% discount.













Nicci Cloke, Ruth Hogan, Gemma Reeves and M. J. Robotham in conversation with Amy Williams Saturday 3 May • 2.30 - 4pm

Join us for our panel discussion, as four women writers discuss their latest books.

Nicci Cloke is the author of seven previous novels, including two psychological thrillers under the pseudonym Phoebe Locke. Her novels have been published in twelve languages.

Ruth Hogan's debut novel, The Keeper of Lost Things, was a Sunday Times Bestseller. She has written six novels and, to date, her books have sold 2 million copies across the world.

Gemma Reeves is a writer and teacher. She has been shortlisted for the V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize and Highly Commended in the Bridport Prize. Gemma's debut novel, Victoria Park was published in 2021.

A former journalist and midwife, Mandy Robotham swapped birth for books when her first novel was published in 2018. Since then, she has been a USA Today bestseller and a five times Globe and Mail bestseller, with seven historical dramas selling over a million copies. Branching out as M. J. Robotham, The Scandalous Life of Ruby Devereaux was published in 2024.

Age guidance: Adults only.





Barnet Libraries Literary Festival









An evening with Ian Moore and Mark Billingham Saturday 3 May • 6.30pm - 8pm

Bestselling crime writers, Ian Moore and Mark Billingham discuss their latest books with Cari Rosen.

After 30 years as a stand-up comedian, Ian Moore turned to writing in 2021 with the first in his Follet Valley Mystery series.

Mark Billingham is one of the UK's most acclaimed and popular crime writers. A former actor, television writer and stand-up comedian, his series of novels featuring D.I. Tom Thorne has won multiple awards.

Age guidance: Adults only.





Matt Cain meets Claire Gardener Sunday 4 May • 11am - 12.30pm

Writer, broadcaster and leading commentator on LGBTQ+ issues, Matt Cain discusses his book 'One Love' in conversation with Claire Gardener.

Matt was Channel 4's first Culture Editor, Editor-In-Chief of Attitude magazine, has written for all the national newspapers and appeared on BBC Breakfast, Lorraine, Good Morning Britain, The Today Programme and Woman's Hour.

Age guidance: Adults only.











Barnet Libraries Literary Festival











Award winning author, Barbara Nadel discusses Belshazzar's Daughter and The Darkest Night from her Cetin Ikmen series, recently adapted for television as BBC's The Turkish Detective series.

Janice Hallett's bestselling debut novel. The Appeal, was a Waterstones Thriller of the Month and won the CWA Debut Dagger Award. She is a Sunday Times bestseller and won the British Book Awards Crime and Thriller Book of the Year and has been a Richard and Judy Book Club pick.

Age guidance: Adults only.





CLARF MULLEY

Clare Mulley discusses Agent Zo Sunday 4 May • 6.30 - 8pm

Award-winning historian, author and broadcaster Clare Mulley discusses her book 'Agent Zo', the untold story of fearless World War 2 resistance fighter Elzbieta Zawacka.

Elzbieta trained secretly in the British countryside and was the only female member of the SOE affiliated forces to be parachuted back behind enemy lines to Nazi-occupied Poland.

After the war, she was demobbed as one of the most highly decorated women in Polish history. Yet her remarkable story remained hidden for over forty vears.

Age guidance: Adults only.

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book.



Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book.

Adult tickets: £5

Festival ticket deal (for any 3 adult events) £13.50



Loving Life is an exciting creative health project for older adults running in Chipping Barnet and Colindale Libraries throughout 2025.

The project provides a range of free creative events and activities and is designed to maintain and improve health and wellbeing and provide essential social interaction.

We particularly welcome those living with dementia and their carers to our Loving Life activities. Loving Life is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Singing for the Brain

Singing for the Brain brings older adults and people affected by dementia together to sing a variety of



songs they know and love in a fun and friendly environment. Singing can improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. You don't need to be a good singer to benefit.

Sessions will be led by the Alzheimer's Society Barnet and take place fortnightly. Come and express yourself, feel positive and make new friends!

Age: 60+ and their carers only No booking required. Drop in.

Chipping Barnet Library
Wednesday 2 April, 10:30am - 12pm
Wednesday 16 April, 10:30am - 12pm
Wednesday 30 April, 10:30am - 12pm
Wednesday 14 May, 10:30am - 12pm
Wednesday 28 May, 10:30am - 12pm
Wednesday 11 June, 10:30am - 12pm

Colindale Library
Friday 11 April, 10:30am - 12pm
Friday 25 April, 10:30am - 12pm
Friday 9 May, 10:30am - 12pm
Friday 23 May, 10:30am - 12pm
Friday 6 June, 10:30am - 12pm
Friday 20 June, 10:30am - 12pm

Bubbles with Olena

Watch Bubble Artist Olena create a fabulous display of bubbles set to music.



Age: 60+ and their carers only No booking required. Drop in.

Friday 4 April 11am - 12pm Colindale Library Wednesday 18 June 11am - 12pm Chipping Barnet Library

Cherry Blossom in Oil Pastel

Join Violina and learn how to use oil pastels. You will create your very own cherry blossom drawing. All abilities welcome.

Wednesday 23 April 10.30am - 12pm Chipping Barnet Library

Age: 60+ and their carers only Booking required. Scan the QR code or visit the library in staffed opening times to book.













Cupcakes in Oil Pastel

Join Violina and learn how to use oil pastels. You will create your very own oil pastel cupcake drawing. All abilities welcome.



Friday 2 May 10.30am - 12pm Colindale Library

Age: 60+ and their carers only Booking required. Scan the QR code

or visit the library in staffed opening times to book.

Landscape in Oil Pastel

Join Violina's art class and learn the techniques of oil pastels



to create your very own landscape drawing. All abilities welcome.

Wednesday 7 May 10.30am - 12pm

Chipping Barnet Library

Age: 60+ and their carers only

Booking required. Scan the QR code or visit the library in staffed opening times to book.

Chickenshed Gladrags Secret Society

Chickenshed bring a flavour of their hugely popular Gladrags Secret Society to Colindale library...Come and be pampered, choose some glamourous garments from our Gladrags rail and enjoy music from decades gone by.

The Gladrags Secret Society provides events of connection, joy and the timeless magic of music. A world where glitter meets glamour, where hearts are touched and souls are lifted.

Age: 60+ and their carers only No booking required. Drop in.

Friday 16 May 10.30am - 12pm **Colindale Library**

Wednesday 21 May 10.30am - 12pm **Chipping Barnet Library**







"I hope you know that Gladrags doesn't 'just' entertain people - it adds some beautiful magic dust that reaches people on many levels and makes such a difference." Health & Wellbeing Practitioner, Age UK Enfield











Animal Life from a Different Perspective

Unleash your individuality and create your own unforgettable masterpiece. Express yourself with beautiful colours using mixed media and let your imagination take you to a whole new world with the artist, Esperanza Walsh.

Wednesday 4 June 10.30am - 12pm

Chipping Barnet Library

Age: 60+ and their carers only Booking required. Scan the QR code or visit the library in staffed opening

times to book.

Loving Summer Blooms

Unleash your individuality and create your own



unforgettable masterpiece. Express yourself with beautiful colours using mixed media and let your imagination take you to a whole new world with the artist, Esperanza Walsh.

Friday 27 June 10.30am - 12pm

Colindale Library

Age: 60+ and their carers only Booking required. Scan the QR code or visit the library in staffed opening times to book.

Dance with Ansu

Ansu's health and wellbeing dance sessions for older adults are simple to follow and designed to improve flexibility, posture and balance. Ansu includes seated movements and classical Indian hand gestures, which she learnt as a child.

These sessions are particularly suited to those at risk of social isolation and those living with dementia and their carers.

Colindale Library

Age: 60+ and their carers only No booking required. Drop in.

Friday 30 May 10.30am - 12pm Friday 13 June 10.30am - 12pm











Exhibitions

The Gallery at Chipping Barnet Library is an inspiring and calming space where you can discover new artists. Each month we feature an exhibition by a talented local artist or art group.

April - David Littlewood featuring Mixed Media and Painting

May - Barnet Printmakers from Barnet Guild of Artists

June - Community as a Superpower, art from refugees and asylum seekers

The Gallery is located on the upper floor of the library.

If you are interested in exhibiting your work, please email **chippingbarnet.library@barnet.go.uk**

If you are interested in exhibiting your 3D artwork in our display case at Edgware Library, please email edgware.library@barnet.gov.uk

A Windrush Journey with author Pam Williams

Pam will talk about her Women's Prize for Fiction nominated book A Trace of Sun to celebrate Windrush Day. Following a boy who stays behind in the Caribbean as his parents leave for England in search for a better future for them all, A Trace of Sun is a beautiful, emotionally searing saga of separation, sacrifice and family.

Thursday 26 June
7 - 8pm
Finchley Church End Library
Age: Adults

Age: Adults Cost: £3.50

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book.



Events for Children and Families



Bubble Magic for Under Fives

Bubble artist Olena will be performing her amazing bubble show to music.

Please note that this is a performance and children are required to sit and watch with their adult throughout. For health and safety reasons, children cannot wander around during the performance.

Age: Under Fives

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book.

Adults £4

Children (0 - 5 years) £2

Family ticket deal: book 3 or more tickets for this event at the same time for a 25% discount.

Friday 4 April 10 - 10.30am Colindale Library

Wednesday 18 June 10 - 10.30am Chipping Barnet Library



Introduction to Chess for Children

Join us for an exciting and educational session where we explore the captivating world of chess. Whether you're a beginner eager to learn the basics or a seasoned player looking to hone your skills, our Introduction to Chess offers something for everyone.

Age: 6 - 16 year olds only.

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book.

Cost: £3.50 per child.

Tickets required for children only.

Saturday 5 April 2.30 - 4pm Colindale Library

Friday 30 May 2.30 - 4.30pm Hendon Library



Llamas in Pyjamas Story and Puppet Making Workshop

the book Llamas in Pyjamas by Russell Punter and David Semple, we will design and create exciting llama puppets.

Monday 7 April 10.30 - 11.30am Edgware Library

Age: 3+

Inspired by

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book.

Cost: £3.50 per child. Tickets required for children only.

Tech Innovation Workshop: Electronics, Sensors & Computing!

Jump into an exciting world of electronics, sensors, and microcontrollers! Technologist & inventor Assad Ebrahim will take you on a fascinating adventure that will inspire you with ideas and give you a hands-on taste of what's possible. Participants will learn how to create gadgets that do cool things, hack new capabilities into old toys, and learn what sits behind high-tech inventions. See for yourself how accessible the "maker culture" is and the kinds of 21st century skills and academic benefits it unlocks. Build cool things and get started in Robotics, Intelligent Systems, Sound Effects Generation, Digital Music & more! No prior experience necessary. Beginners are welcome. All electronic equipment and computing stations are provided. Feel free to bring a creation of your own if you have one to show.

Monday 7 April

4 - 5.30pm

Finchley Church End Library

Age: 10 - 14 year olds only.

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book. Free. Tickets required for young people only.



"Hacking" Your Toys: How to use Electronics, Sensors and Microcontrollers to give your Favourite Things New Capabilities!

Jump into an exciting world of electronics, sensors and microcontrollers! Technologist & inventor Assad Ebrahim will take you on a fascinating adventure that will inspire you with ideas and give you a hands-on taste of what's possible.

Learn how to make your toys come alive with new capabilities, create new gadgets and learn what sits behind hightech inventions. For parents, this is an opportunity to learn how accessible the maker culture is for children as young as 4 years old, and the kinds of 21st century skills and academic benefits it









unlocks. Build cool things and get started in Robotics, Intelligent Systems, Sound Effects Generation, Digital Music & more. No prior experience necessary. Beginners are welcome. All electronic equipment & computing stations are provided. Feel free to bring a creation of your own if you have one to show.

Monday 7 April 2 - 3.30pm Finchley Church End Library Age: 4 - 8 year olds only. Booking essential.

Free. Tickets required for children only.





Shark in the Park!

Timothy Pope is looking through his telescope...and this is what he sees... "THERE'S A SHARK IN THE PARK!" Join Timothy on his adventure, grab a telescope, and enjoy this FIN-tastic adaptation by library staff as our hit performance goes on tour!

Tuesday 8 April 10 - 10.45am Finchley Church End Library

Thursday 17 April 10 - 10.45am Colindale Library

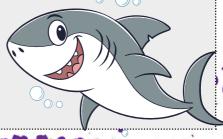
Age: 2+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book.

Cost: £3.50 per person. Tickets required for all children and adults

attending.





Bunny Story and Puppet Making Workshop

Design and create your own bunny puppet, using stories for inspiration.

Tuesday 8 April 10.30 - 11.30am

Chipping Barnet Library

Age: 3+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code

to book.

Cost: £3.50. Tickets required for

children only.



Flowers in Bloom Craft Session

Connect with your inner artist and recreate tulips, daffodils and other blooms in your own

style! You can use colouring pencils, tissue paper, card and much more.

Wednesday 9 April

2.30 - 4pm

Finchley Church End Library

Age: 4+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code

to book.

Cost: £3 per child. Tickets required for children only.







Puppet Making Workshop

Design and create a hand puppet using a variety of materials and your imagination to bring your very own character to life.

Thursday 10 April 10.30 - 11.30am

North Finchley Library

Age: 3+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book.

Cost: £3 per child.

Tickets required for children only.



Holiday Baby Bounce and Play

Get ready for a joyful time filled with gentle movements, singing, books and engaging activities that will stimulate your baby's senses and encourage their development.

Age: Babies (Non-Walkers)

Booking essential.

Scan the QR code to book.

Cost: £3. One ticket admits one adult and

one baby or twins.

Friday 11 April

11.15am - 12.15pm

Finchley Church End Library

Tuesday 15 April

11.15am - 12.15pm

Chipping Barnet Library

Thursday 17 April 11.15am - 12.15pm

North Finchley Library



Easter Wreaths

Do not miss this craft eggs-travaganza! Create a beautiful Easter Wreath by designing egg shaped templates to stick onto your paper plate wreath make them look as colourful and eyecatching as you can!

Saturday 12 April

10 - 11am

East Finchley Library

Age: 4+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code

to book.

Cost: £3 per child. Tickets required

for children only.







Activity Room for Under Fives

Visit our Activity Room for children aged 1 to 5 years. The room will be set up with a variety of construction and creative activities for you and your child to explore together.

Age: 1 - 5 Years

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book.

Cost: £3. One ticket admits one adult and one child. Non-walking siblings may attend for free.

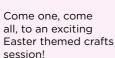
Monday 14 April

10 - 10.50am

11.15am - 12.05pm

Chipping Barnet Library

Every Bunny is Welcome



Monday 14 April

3 - 4pm

Burnt Oak Library

Age: 4+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code

to book.

Cost: £3. Tickets required for children

only.



Paper Crafts that Hop, Skip and Jump!

Come and have fun making paper animals that hop skip and jump!

Tuesday 15 April

2.30 - 3.30pm

Edgware Library

Age: 4+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code

to book.

Cost: £3. Tickets required for children

only.

Easter Craft

Join us for a funfilled Easter Craft event.

Tuesday 15 April

3 - 4pm

North Finchley Library

Age: 5+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code

to book.

Cost: £3 per child. Tickets required for

children only.







May Half Term



Pirates and Parrots

Come onboard and make a pirate, parrot or treasure map!

Tuesday 27 May

2.30 - 4pm

Golders Green Library

Age: 3+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to

DOOK.

Cost: £3.50. Tickets required for children

only.



World Environment Day Crafts

Upcycle plastic bottles and cartons to create a herb garden.

Tuesday 27 May

2.30 - 3.30pm

Edgware Library

Age: 5+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code

to book.

Cost: £3 per child. Tickets required

for children only.

Create Your Very Own Castle from Cardboard!

Join us for a fun session fashioning castles from cardboard.

Wednesday 28 May

10 - 11am

Burnt Oak Library

Age: 4+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to

book.

Cost: £3 per child. Tickets required for

children only.



May Half Term



Book Trail

Find the clues along the library trail and win a prize!

Wednesday 28 May

3 - 4pm

East Finchley Library

Age: 5 - 12 Years

Booking essential. Scan the QR code

to book.

Cost: £3 per child. A ticket is required

for each child.



Read & Craft: Owl Babies

Join us for an Owl Babies storytime and craft.

Thursday 29 May

10 - 10.45am

North Finchley Library

Age: 2+

Booking essential. Scan the QR code

to book.

Cost: £3 per child. Tickets required for

children only.

Lego Club on Tour

Our most popular Lego event in Finchley is coming to Finchley Church End Library! Create and build anything you want with Lego and Duplo.

Friday 30 May

10 - 11am

Finchley Church End Library

Age: 2+

Booking essential. Scan the QR

code to book.

Free. Tickets required for

children only.







The London Festival of Architecture is a month-long celebration of architecture and city-making, taking place every June across London.



Building on the success of the previous two years of Barnet participation in the London Festival of Architecture, we are pleased to welcome the Festival back in June for a third year.

This year the Festival theme of 'Voices' is another opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity that makes up the borough, showcasing its creative talent and inviting residents and visitors to explore what Barnet has on offer. through the 'There's Art in Barnet' campaign.

Visit www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/destinations/barnet to find out more, sign up for events, and don't forget to look out for events throughout June in your local library.



Colindale Community Swap

Do you want to refresh your wardrobe or give your home a new look? Bring your pre-loved clothes, jewellery and other household items and swap them with other locals. A sustainable way to shop! You can also speak with The Loop Grahame Park about ways to upcycle furniture at home.

Please bring lightly worn, non-damaged, clean items for adults and teens only. We cannot accept underwear, socks, hosierv or swimming costumes, shoes or electrical items.

Saturday 3 May 2.30 - 4.30pm

Colindale Library

Age: Adults

No booking required. Drop in.



Introduction to Chess for Adults

Join us for an exciting and educational session where we explore the captivating world of chess. Whether vou're a beginner eager to learn the basics or a seasoned player looking to hone your skills, our Introduction to Chess offers something to everyone. This session is for adults onlv.

Tuesday 24 June

3.30 - 5pm

Golders Green Library

Booking essential. Scan the QR code to book.

Cost: £3.50.



Burnt Oak Library	020 8359 3880
Watling Avenue, Edgware HA8 0UB	burnt.oak.library@barnet.gov.uk
Childs Hill Library 320 Cricklewood Lane, London NW2 2QE	020 8359 3900 Childshill.library@barnet.gov.uk
Chipping Barnet Library	020 8359 4040
3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT	chippingbarnet.library@barnet.gov.uk
Colindale Library Bristol Avenue (formerly Lanacre Avenue), London NW9 4BR	020 8359 3930 colindale.library@barnet.gov.uk
East Finchley Library	020 8359 3815
226 High Road, London N2 9BB	east.finchley.library@barnet.gov.uk
Edgware Library	020 8359 2626
Hale Lane, Edgware HA8 8NN	edgware.library@barnet.gov.uk
Finchley Church End Library	020 8359 3800
318 Regents Park Road, London N3 2LN	churchend.library@barnet.gov.uk
Golders Green Library 156 Golders Green Road, London NW11 8HE	020 8359 2060 goldersgreen.library@barnet.gov.uk
Hendon Library	020 8359 2628
The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ	hendon.library@barnet.gov.uk
Mill Hill Library	020 8359 3830
Hartley Avenue, London NW7 2HX	millhill.library@barnet.gov.uk
New Barnet Leisure Centre and Library Victoria Recreation Ground, 1 Lawton Road, New Barnet, EN4 9BS	020 8359 3860 newbarnet.library@barnet.gov.uk
North Finchley Library	020 8359 3845
Ravensdale Avenue, London N12 9HP	north.finchley.library@barnet.gov.uk
Osidge Library	020 8359 3920
Brunswick Park Road, London N11 1EY	osidge.library@barnet.gov.uk
South Friern Library	020 8359 3946
Colney Hatch Lane, London N10 1HD	southfriern.library@barnet.gov.uk
Home and Mobile Library Service Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Road, London N11 1EY	020 8359 3901 mobile.library@barnet.gov.uk

Find out more: www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries





Events correct at time of printing. Please check our website for any changes to the programme.

Children aged 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.

Cancellation policy: tickets which are cancelled more than 48 hours in advance of the event will receive a full refund. Cancellations made within 48 hours cannot be refunded.











