

15-29 FEBRUARY 2020

BEXLEY LITERARY FESTIVAL

**BOOK
BUZZ**



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Unless otherwise stated, all tickets are free and must be booked in advance at www.bexleylibraries.eventbrite.com



Where books are for sale, please bring cash only

WELCOME TO BOOK BUZZ

Bexley's Book Buzz festival

is going from strength to strength and I am thrilled that we can present our third festival, a two-week programme packed full of events and activities for all.

Highlights for children include 'Horrible Science' shows from the bestselling science writer Nick Arnold, an interactive code breaking session with Bletchley Park's Tom Briggs and comic illustration workshops with Kev Sutherland. We also have storytelling, comedy poetry shows, drama workshops, painting workshops and an Astrodome. New for 2020 is a fun children's trail around Bexleyheath.

For adults, we are welcoming back Ben Aaronovitch, Nick Barratt, Elaine Everest and Alison Weir and we have some highly acclaimed authors visiting for the first-time including Mark Billingham, Elly Griffiths, Andrew Cartmel, James Swallow, Dorothy Koomson and many more.

We are also working with many partners around the borough, so look out for events at Hall Place, The Exchange, Lesnes Abbey, Danson House and Crossness Engines Trust. There's also a pub quiz in the Kings Arms in Bexleyheath.

It is great to be providing a fabulous fortnight of events and activities all around the borough – I'm sure that it won't disappoint.

Don't forget to keep in touch with Bexley Libraries on Facebook and Twitter for news and updates.

Most events are free but will need tickets in advance from www.bexleylibraries.eventbrite.com

www.bexleybookbuzz.com

**Cabinet Member for Places
Cllr Peter Craske**



BERNADETTE RUSSELL

Writer in residence

We are very fortunate to be joined by Bernadette Russell, who will be our Writer in Residence for Book Buzz 2020.

Bernadette is a writer and performer. She writes fiction and non-fiction for adults and children, as well as scripts for live performance. Her children's books include *Do Nice, Be Kind, Spread Happy* and *Be The Change, Make It Happen* and her books for adults include *The Little Book of Kindness* and *The Little Book of Wonder*. She has been a monthly columnist for Balance magazine since 2016.

She has previously written and performed in shows for the Royal Albert Hall, National Theatre, Southbank Centre, Birmingham Rep, Thames Festival, National Trust, English Heritage, BFI, London Month of the Dead, Turner Contemporary and LIFT Festival amongst many others.



Bernadette will be holding an interactive activity and story session for children called the Wishing Tree at Sidcup Library on Tuesday 18 February, as well as a creative writing afternoon workshop on 28 February for our local budding authors.

Bernadette will also be writing a short story inspired by the history of Bexley which will be made available as a downloadable podcast. Look out for more details nearer the time.

www.bernadetterussell.com

Saturday 15 February

BOOK BUZZ 2020 LAUNCH DAY

Come along and join in the fun at the Central Library as we launch Book Buzz 2020.

- **12-4pm** - Join in the free fun and games in the children's library including toddler soft play and crazy golf
- Meet some of your favourite book characters – Peter Rabbit, The Gruffalo and Mog
- Have your face painted by our professional artists
- **1pm** - Listen to the fabulous youth and adult choirs from the Sidcup Choir School perform songs from their varied repertoire



THE
CHOIR
SCHOOL

- **1.30pm** - Watch Bexley's Mayor officially open the festival with special guest authors Ben Aaronovitch and Andrew Cartmel



BEN AARONOVITCH & ANDREW CARTMEL

In conversation

Join graphic novel writing duo Ben and Andrew to hear about their collaboration in writing the bestselling *Rivers of London* graphic novels *Body Work*, *Night Witch*, *Black Mould*, *Detective Stories* and *Cry Fox* – and new mini-series *Water Weed*.

Born and raised in London, Ben Aaronovitch began his career writing for Doctor Who, Casualty and the soap opera Jupiter Moon. After his career foundered he took a job running the Crime and Science Fiction sections at the Covent Garden branch of Waterstones, where he conceived the notion of writing novels instead. Thus was the *Rivers of London* series born, which proved to be a runaway success.

He still lives in the city that he modestly calls ‘the capital of the world’.

Andrew Cartmel was the show runner on Doctor Who for the entire Sylvester McCoy Seventh Doctor era, establishing McCoy’s Doctor as a master-player of dangerous games, a weaver of cosmic strategies, and a powerful and towering enigma under alien skies (the ‘Cartmel Masterplan’). Andrew is also writing *The Vinyl Detective* crime novels including *Written in Dead Wax*, *The Run Out Groove* and *Victory Disc*.



Central Library - 2.30pm



Saturday 15 February

BUTTERFLY WAND CRAFT

Come and join us for a fun-packed activity creating magical butterfly wands.

Whoosh, swish and fly! Send this fluttering fancy soaring through the sky!



Ages 3+

Erith Library – 10.30 am



TRANSPORT CRAFT

Speed your way to crafty success with these amazing free-standing models that are sure to excite any young transport fans.

Ages 3+

Erith Library – 2.30pm

BEE STACKING CRAFT

Come along and join in this fun craft session and make these cute bee stacks. You'll be buzzing along home with them!

Ages 6+

Thamesmead Library – 2pm



WAKE UP AND DANCE

Get active and have fun with Loopy Lou's Fun Factory. Learn dance and movement techniques with fun props such as pompoms, scarves and parachutes to improve co-ordination and build confidence.



Ages 7-10

Central Library – 10.30 to 11.30am

Welling Library – 1pm to 2pm

Sidcup Library – 3pm to 4pm

LUNA LOVES LIBRARY DAY

An interactive storytelling session with author Joseph Coelho. Joseph is a performance poet, children's author and playwright.

Every week Luna looks forward to one special day – the day when she gets to discover magic among the library shelves. The day she gets to spend with her dad. Come along to hear Luna's story brought to life through poetry and performance with some special surprises!



For ages 3+

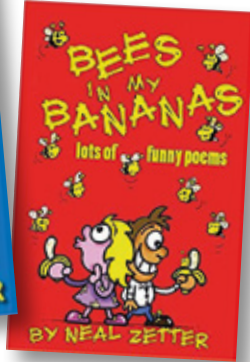
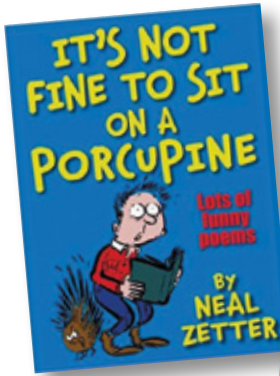
Crayford Library – 11am

Erith Library – 1.30pm

Thamesmead Library – 3.30pm



RHYTHM, RAP & RHYME



With Neal Zetter

Join award-winning children's author and comedy poet Neal Zetter for an interactive fun show for all the family. Neal will be performing material from his eight books on themes of school, food, animals, superheroes and supervillains and more. Books available for sale and signing.

Ages 5+



Welling Library - 11am to 12pm

Central Library - 2pm to 3pm

SEARCHING FOR THE LOST TOMBS OF EGYPT

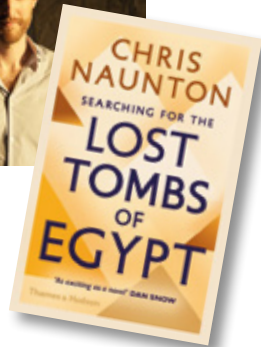
With Chris Naunton

Where is the tomb of Alexander the Great? Is the tomb of Egyptian God Imhotep still awaiting discovery? Can archaeologists find the final resting place of Cleopatra? Could there be tombs lying undiscovered in the Valley of the Kings?

Author, broadcaster and distinguished Egyptologist Chris Naunton has presented numerous television documentaries.



© Chris Naunton



Chris will take some of the most famous names in ancient Egyptian history and ask, will we ever find them?

Danson House - 2.30pm



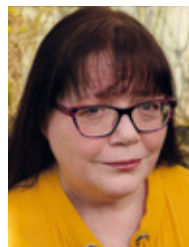
AN AFTERNOON WITH ELAINE EVEREST



Elaine Everest is the Sunday Times Bestselling Author of WW2 sagas such as *The Woolworths Girls* and *The Teashop Girls* series. Along with *The Butlins Girls* and *Gracie's*

War many are set in Erith and Kent. She was born and brought up in Erith. Elaine has written extensively for the women's magazine market with short stories and features as well as national newspapers. She runs her writing classes in nearby Hextable.

Elaine's next publication will be *Wedding Bells for Woolworths* which brings us back to Erith in the years 1947/8. With the country now experiencing austerity the girls are still working hard at Woolies while looking forward to the wedding of Princess Elizabeth in 1947, and the London Olympics in 1948. This book is to be published in March 2020 but those attending will receive a copy of the first chapter!



Central Library – 2.30pm



MONSTER BUNCH CERAMIC COIN BANKS



Join us in the library to use your crafty skills to decorate your own money box. Save your pennies in style and let these toothy little terrors keep them safe!

Ages 6+

Slade Green Community Library – 10.30am

Tickets are free but must be booked in Slade Green Library

COMIC ART MASTERCLASS



With Kev Sutherland

Kev Sutherland brings his expertise from years of writing and drawing for The Beano and Marvel comics to show the kids how easy it is. By the end of a two and half hour session, you will go away with your own comic containing a comic strip by every single participant, as well as your own individual caricature drawn by Kev.

Ages 7+

Central Library – 10am to 12.30pm
and 1.30pm to 4pm



THE WISHING TREE

With Bernadette Russell

Come and hear the story of The Wishing Tree, said to be the magical guardian of all our hopes and dreams. There will be lots of opportunities to join in with the story, or to just sit and listen, whichever you prefer. After hearing about the adventures of two children and their cat who

loved the tree, you will be invited to make your own wishes to hang on our very own Wishing Tree, right here in the library.

Written and performed by author and storyteller Bernadette Russell, who is the Book Buzz 2020 Writer in Residence.



Ages 5+

Sidcup Library – 11am to 12.15pm
and 2pm to 3.15pm

COLOUR INTO CHARACTER



Painting workshop with Bridget Marzo

Join author/illustrator Bridget Marzo for a fun family painting workshop. Using basic primary colours, you'll learn to mix all kinds of beautiful skin and fur colours and create a world of diverse characters ready for stories to be told.

Please wear old clothes or bring an apron!



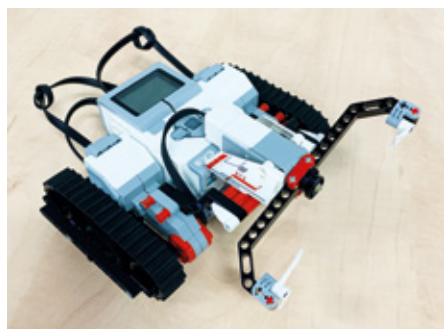
Ages 5+ with accompanying adult

Crayford Community Centre

11.30am to 12.30pm - 1.30pm to 2.30pm - 3pm to 4pm

ROBOTICS

Come along to our fun robotics workshops and try your hand at building a robot! Once you've built your robot, programme it to move then challenge your team to test its speed and strength using remote control.



Ages 8+

Central Library - 10am to 12pm

Welling Library - 2pm to 4pm



Tuesday 18 February

DINOSAUR CRAFT KITS

Come and join us for some dinosaur fun. You'll get to create your own 3D dinosaur to take home for some roaring adventures.

Ages 5+

Central Library - 2pm



WOODEN WINDCHIMES

Create your own decoration that will make music in the wind with these gorgeous woodland animal wind chimes. Take them home, hang them up and enjoy some magical music.

Ages 4-8yrs

Thamesmead Library - 2pm

Ages 6+

Bexley Village Community Library
2.30pm

Bostall Community Library - 2pm

Tickets are free but must be booked at Bexley Village and Bostall Community Libraries

BEE CRAFTY

Come along and join in this fun craft session and make these cute bee stacks. You'll be buzzing along home with them!



DINO PALS

Love dinosaurs? Why don't you come to Crayford Library to create your very own Dino Pal! From a ferocious T-Rex to a plant eating Triceratops, there will be plenty of dinosaurs for you to choose from! Which one will you make?

Ages 4+

Crayford Library – 2pm



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO TODAY?

Who do you want to be?

Be filmed using green screen technology to travel through time and place. Supported by a trained Media Crew from Burnt Oak Junior School.



Come along in a costume or try one of ours, ready for a backdrop and subtitles to be added live. Take part on your own, with friends or with family!



Children can leave with a copy of their film. Please bring a memory stick or purchase one on the day.

Suitable for all ages

Central Library – 2pm to 4.30pm

Drop in session

WHO DO YOU THINK YOUR GREAT GRANDPARENTS WERE?

Jes Cooban

Have you researched your family history yet? If not, but would like to start, why not join staff at the Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre for a free taster session using the resources available here at the Centre?

Bring details about your grandparents and/or great grandparents and we will use the 1939 register or the 1911 census to discover details of their baptisms, marriages & burials in the parish records - as well as give guidance in using the Ancestry database, which is freely available in Bexley's core libraries. Who knows what you might discover!

Local Studies and Archive Centre
11am - 1pm

Tuesday 18 February
Thursday 20 February
Wednesday 26 February
Saturday 29 February

Places must be booked in advance.
Please either visit the Centre, call
020 3045 3369 or email
archives@bexley.gov.uk

Wedding Group c. 1900



FROM BEXLEY GIRL TO ROYAL BIOGRAPHER

With Jane Dismore



Join best-selling Royal Biographer Jane Dismore, who grew up in Bexley, as she talks about her work and life. Discover how Bexley influenced Jane's love of reading and history when she was growing up, which inspired the writing of her books - some of which have links to Bexley towns.

Jane's books include *Duchesses: Living in 21st Century Britain*, *The Voice from the Garden: Pamela Hambro and the tale of two families before and after the Great War*, and *Princess: The Early Life of Queen Elizabeth II*.

Hall Place – 2.30pm



STARTING UP? START HERE!

Free start-up support is now available in Bexley in partnership with the British Library's Business and IP Centre.

Our Start-ups in London Libraries service offers insights and access to free resources – including workshops, events and walk-in consultations – to help you imagine, start or develop your business.



Find out more today!

Visit <https://arena.yourlondonlibrary.net/web/bexley/business-support> or contact LibraryStartUps@bexley.gov.uk



Wednesday 19 February

PRETENDING PEOPLE THEATRE DRAMA WORKSHOPS



Climbing hair, crumbs of bread, funny little men and golden thread!

Pretending People Theatre Company would like to introduce the children of Bexley to their interactive performances of some classic Brothers Grimm fairy tales.

Join Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm and become part of the tales through music, games and play acting.

Ages 4-10

Sidcup Library – 10am

Central Library – 12pm

Erith Library – 2.30pm

MAKE YOUR OWN BUG HOTEL

Ever wanted to create a safe place for creatures and creepy crawlies? Now is your chance! Make your very own bug hotel to take away and place in the garden. Before you know it, all kinds of insects will be checking in!

Ages 7+

Crayford Library – 2pm



THE HORRIBLE SCIENCE SHOW

With Nick Arnold

Nick Arnold is a bestselling children's science writer, with titles such as *Vicious Veg* and *Bulging Brains* to his credit. His Horrible Science Show brings his books to life with funny interactive experiments, activities and competitions based on the books.

A treat, not to be missed by our budding scientists...



Ages 8+



Crayford Community Centre – 11am
Sidcup Library – 2pm



BEE CRAFTY

Come along and join in this fun craft session and make these cute bee stacks. You'll be buzzing along home with them!



Ages 6+

North Heath Community Library
10.30am

Tickets are free but must be booked at North Heath Community Library

CODES AND CIPHERS

Are you interested in secret missions, spies and code breaking? Come and join Tom Briggs from Bletchley Park, once the top secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers, for an interactive session learning about codes and ciphers.



Find out how the Enigma machine helped to crack German codes, provide intelligence and help the Allies to win World War Two. You will even get to see an original working Enigma machine.



Ages 9 - 13

Central Library – 2pm

DECODING BLETCHLEY PARK

Join Tom Briggs for a fascinating talk about the code breaking activities of Bletchley Park during World War Two and see a real working Enigma machine.

Codebreaking by the Government Code and Cipher School (GC&CS) began in earnest at Bletchley Park in September 1939. The team devised methods to decipher codes used in German, Italian and Japanese communications which provided vital intelligence and assisted the Allies with military operations on land, sea and in the air. Bletchley Park was

at the forefront of the information age with the industrialisation of intelligence gathering.

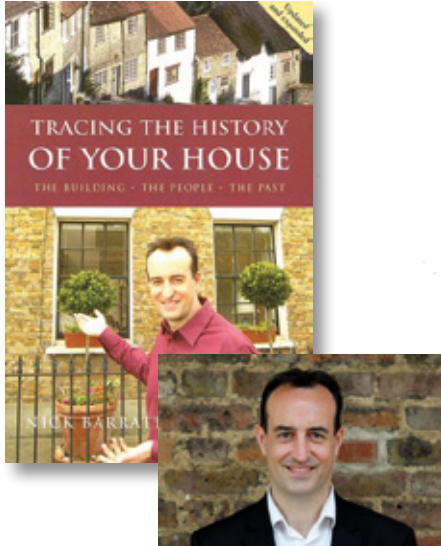
Central Library – 4pm



© Bletchley Park from Shutterstock

Book tickets at www.bexleylibraries.eventbrite.com

HIDDEN HOUSE HISTORIES



Author, broadcaster and historian Nick Barratt makes a welcome return to Bexley, where he will be talking about the techniques involved in tracing the history of your house.

Nick's bestselling book *Tracing the History of Your House: The Building, the People, the Past* is "a superb guide to researching the history of a house, old or new, and is for anyone who is interested in historical properties, from their own house to stately homes".

Danson House – 2.30pm



BUZZY BEE STORY AND CRAFT

Come along and listen to stories and make your very own cute bee stack to take home.

Ages 6+

Blackfen Community Library – 2pm

Tickets are free but please book at Blackfen Community Library



AUTHOR PANEL TALK – HOW TO GET PUBLISHED



With Elaine Everest

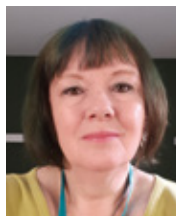
Join bestselling author Elaine Everest and five other successful authors for an informal panel discussion on the trials and tribulations of novel writing, the world of publishing and developing a writing career.

Elaine Everest

Elaine is the Sunday Times bestselling novelist of WW2 sagas such as *The Woolworths Girls* series, and *The Butlins Girls*, set in and around Erith. She was born and brought up in Erith. When she isn't writing, Elaine runs The Write Place creative writing school at The Howard Venue in Hextable, Kent and has a long list of successfully published students; some are appearing here alongside Elaine.

Francesca Capaldi Burgess

Francesca writes historical and contemporary novels, along with short stories and serials for magazines. She's particularly inspired by the seaside and family history.



Natalie Kleinman

Natalie is an author of Regency romantic fiction currently contracted to Sapere for four books in that genre. In addition, she is a successful short story writer.



Elaine Roberts

Elaine is a historical novelist and has written *The Foyles Bookshop Girls* trilogy. She loves writing World War One family sagas about friendship, family and love.





Wednesday 19 February

Sarah Stephenson

Sarah is an author of entertaining dog diaries and is now breaking into crime writing based on her own experiences as a chef working for the wealthy. She has recently been taken on by literary agent Susan Yearwood.



Nick Stuart

Born in North Kent, Nick writes crime novels and short stories. His writing is shaped by travel, life experience and a natural sense of humour.



Central Library – 6.30pm



BURNT OAK BUZZ

Burnt Oak Buzz and the Media Crew from Burnt Oak Junior School in Sidcup are supporting Bexley's Book Buzz 2020!



Watch out for children from Burnt Oak Junior School at various Book Buzz events – they will be reviewing events, conducting interviews with authors and writing articles about the festival. They will be holding their very own event on Tuesday 18th February where the Burnt Oak Media Crew will bring green screen technology to other children in Bexley – giving them a platform to be who and where they would like to be!



Thursday 20 February

FISH WAND CRAFT

Join us in the library to make your own magic marine wand which can dip and dive through the air instead of the waves.

Ages 3+

Welling Library - 10.30am



WAKE UP AND DANCE

Get active and have fun with Loopy Lou's Dance Factory. Learn dance and movement techniques with fun props such as pompoms, scarves and parachutes to improve co-ordination and build confidence.

Ages 4-6

Crayford Library - 10.30am to 11.30am

Erith Library - 1pm to 2pm

Thamesmead library - 3pm to 4pm



FOLK AND FAIRYTALES

Come to the library for some magical fairy tales told by storyteller Nell Phoenix. Be whisked away to a faraway land with the wonders of traditional tales.

Ages 4-8

Sidcup Library - 11am

Central Library - 1pm

Welling Library - 3pm



BUTTERFLY WAND CRAFT

Come and join us for a fun-packed activity creating magical butterfly wands to take home and keep.

Ages 3+

Sidcup Library - 4pm



SECRETS LIE BETWEEN MY PAGES



**With Artist in Residence
Dunya Kalentery**

Did you ever read under the covers, fold back the front page, pretend you weren't reading what you were reading, or steal books from other people's shelves? Come and share pages from books that you read illicitly when you were young(er). What did they tell you about the world around you, how did they shape your internal world, do you understand them differently now, and why?

Lakeside Centre, Thamesmead
7-9pm

Please book tickets at
bowarts.org/lakeside-centre

Please bring a copy of the book or pages of the book that you would like to talk about. Refreshments will be provided.

This event is part of the Creative Knowledge Project, a year long residency at Bow Arts' Lakeside Centre with artist Dunya Kalantery, working together with people from Thamesmead to imagine what a library can be in the 21st century. Supported by Arts Council England and in partnership with Bexley Libraries and Peabody.



WHO DO YOU THINK YOUR GREAT GRANDPARENTS WERE?

Jes Cooban

See page 16 for details

Local Studies and Archive Centre
11am to 1pm

Places must be booked in advance. Please either visit the Centre, call 020 3045 3369 or email archives@bexley.gov.uk

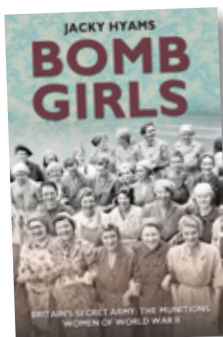
AN AFTERNOON WITH JACKY HYAMS

Join us as we welcome back Brighton based journalist and best-selling non-fiction author, Jacky Hyams. Jacky will be talking about her new books *Bomb Girls* and *The Day War Broke Out*.

Bomb Girls tells the remarkable story of the members of the 'secret army', the unsung women who made a significant contribution to Britain's war effort through working in the munitions factories across the country during World War II.

The Day the War Broke Out is a fresh insight into the hearts and minds of a nation on that fateful day in September 1939. With exclusive

personal interviews, untold stories, wartime diaries and newspaper reports, it reveals the innermost fears and hopes of a society on the brink of war.



Central Library - 2.30pm



PLAYWRIGHT ROY WILLIAMS

Join award winning playwright and Rose Bruford College alumni, Roy Williams, for a talk about his work.

Roy is a BAFTA and Evening Standard award-winning playwright who grew up in Notting Hill. Having been involved as a youngster in a theatre group, Roy later undertook a degree in theatre writing at Rose Bruford College. His plays

explore the politics of the everyday: racism, poverty, teen pregnancy, stupid violence – from *Sing Yer Heart Out for the Lads* (2002) to *Fallout* (2003), and the boxing drama *Sucker Punch* (2010). His recent work includes *The Firm*, and *Soul*, that plots the last days of the Motown singer Marvin Gaye.

Rose Bruford College – 7pm

For tickets please go to
www.bruford.ac.uk/news-events/



ELLY GRIFFITHS

Join bestselling crime author Elly Griffiths as she talks about her latest Dr Ruth Galloway novel *The Lantern Men*.

Elly wrote four novels under her own name (Domenica de Rosa) before turning to crime with *The Crossing Places*, the first novel featuring forensic archaeologist Dr Ruth Galloway, which won the Mary Higgins Clark award. *The Stone Circle* (Ruth #11) was published in February 2019 and was a Sunday Times Top Ten Bestseller. Elly also writes the *Brighton Mysteries*, set in the theatrical world of the 1950s.

Her first standalone mystery, *The Stranger Diaries*, was a Richard and Judy book club selection and was the Times Crime Novel of the Year 2018.



© Sara Reeve

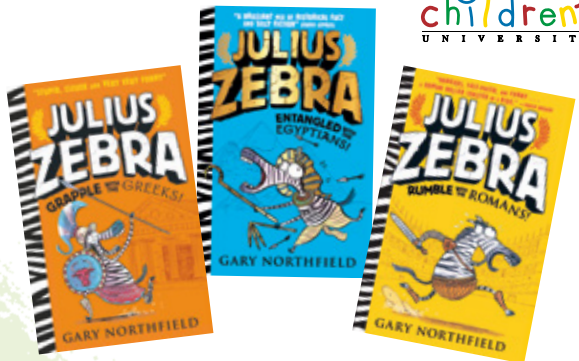


Danson House – 2.30pm



DRAW ALONG WITH GARY NORTHFIELD

Join author/illustrator Gary Northfield as he talks about his hilarious *Julius Zebra* books and shows us how we can all create simple, fun cartoon characters.



LONDON SOUTH EAST
children's
UNIVERSITY

Ages 6-12

Erith Library – 2.30pm



ROBOTICS

Come along to our fun robotics workshops and try your hand at building a robot! Once you've built your robot, programme it to move then challenge your team to test its speed and strength using remote control.

Ages 8+

Crayford Library - 10am to 12pm



THE WIGGLY WILD SHOW

Are you fascinated by creepy crawlies? Join the Wiggly Wild Show team to explore the world of mini-beasts, bugs and reptiles!

Hold the friendliest reptiles and largest bugs you'll ever meet, find out why some adults put snail slime on their face and why every ant outside is important.

Ages 4+

Central Library

10am to 11am

11.30am to 12.30pm

1.30pm to 2.30pm

3pm to 4pm



THE GOOSE WHO FLEW

Kindly sponsored by
Sidcup Partners Ltd



With Half Moon Theatre

“If I was a goose who flew, what would I do? Where would I go? I know, do you?”

Goose loves the summer, playing with his family and friends, but soon it will be time for him to fly south

for the winter. As his journey begins, things are not as they should be. Down below, a border has appeared and there are barbed wire fences and flashing lights.

Using charming storytelling, simple puppetry and an assortment of quirky characters, The Goose Who Flew is a heartfelt story about the importance of compassion, community and understanding, that offers an age appropriate exploration of the issues facing people who seek safety in a new land.



Ages 3-7

Sidcup Library – 11am and 2pm

SCRATCH ART DOODLING

Join us in the library and get creative making your very own rainbow pictures using scratch art.

Ages 4+
Upper Belvedere Community
Library – 11am

Tickets are free but please book
at Upper Belvedere Community
Library



LUNA'S MAGIC FLUTE

Join Luna and her magic flute as they set out on an unforgettable adventure in the big wide world. Listen to beautiful flute music interspersed with storytelling which guides

you through an educational and imaginative story, as Luna makes new friends and triumphs over the evil dragon who steals her magic flute.



Ages 3-6

Welling Library - 11am

Central Library - 2.30pm

ASTRODOME

Visit the amazing *Astrodome* for an experience that is out of this world!

Learn about night and day, the seasons and how to find the North Star, then view the beautiful constellations of stars. You'll see NASA footage of the first moon landing and, as though you are in a space rocket, travel past each planet learning as you go, before returning to earth. A fun and informative show and each child will receive a certificate.



Ages 6 -12 with
accompanying adult

Crayford Community Centre

10.30am

11.30am

1.30pm

2.30pm

Saturday 22 February

FILM SHOWING – SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS

Come to the library to enjoy a screening of the 2016 adaptation of Arthur Ransome's literary classic *Swallows and Amazons*.

Join John, Susan, Tatty and Roger on their adventures aboard their boat Swallow as they explore an island, compete with the Blakett sisters on their boat Amazon and solve a mystery along the way.

Film rating PG



Central Library – 10.30am

Tickets £3 each,
book in advance at

www.bexleylibraries.eventbrite.com

COLOUR-IN BIRD GLIDER

Join us for a craft session to create and colour your own bird glider to take home and fly.

Ages 3+

Central Library – 10.30am



PIRATE SHIP CRAFT

Join us in the library to create and colour your very own 3D pirate ships to take home with you.

Ages 4+

Erith Library – 10.30am



WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?



Family workshop

Come and join a morning of family friendly activities thinking about the magical line between fact and fiction, and how our favourite characters, stories and books shape the world we see around us. Please bring your favourite stories, comics, books and characters with you to show and share.

This event is part of the Creative Knowledge Project, a year long



residency at Bow Arts' Lakeside Centre with artist Dunya Kalantery, working together with people from Thamesmead to imagine what a library can be in the 21st century.

Supported by Arts Council England and in partnership with Bexley Libraries and Peabody.

Suitable for all ages

The Lakeside Centre
11.30am to 2.30pm

Please drop in,
no booking required.

LET'S CREATE... 'MINI BOOKS'

Come and create mini-books out of card and paper using folding, simple origami and pop-up techniques. Fill your mini-book creations with your own stories, artwork and ideas.

A family art workshop for children to create alongside their accompanying adults.

Ages 3+

The Exchange, Erith
1pm to 3pm

Please drop in, no booking required.
Suggested donation of £2.

the
exchange



Saturday 22 February

CROSSNESS PRESENTS THE GREAT STINK OF LONDON



With Stephen Halliday

Join us at Crossness Engines for a fascinating afternoon including a visit to the Crossness exhibitions, a tour of the Engine House and a talk from Stephen Halliday, celebrated author of *The Great Stink of London: Sir Joseph Bazalgette and the Cleansing of the Victorian Metropolis*.

Stephen will be talking about his new book *An Underground Guide to Sewers*. Lose yourself in the vast sewer networks that lie beneath the world's great cities – past and present. Let Stephen Halliday guide you through detailed archival plans, maps and photographs to these subterranean labyrinths – previously accessible only to their builders, engineers and, perhaps, the odd rogue explorer.

Doors open at 1.30pm.

Light refreshments available. Off-site car parking available with a 700m walk to the venue. Parking available at the venue for Blue badge holders by prior arrangement, please contact Petra.cox@crossness.org.uk A shuttle bus will be operating to/from Abbey Wood Station, see Eventbrite listing for details.



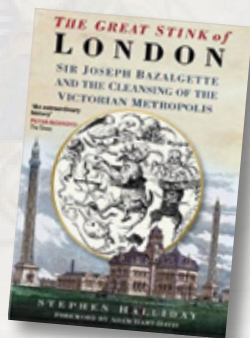
Crossness Engines Trust – 2.30pm

Tickets £5 and must be booked in advance at

www.bexleylibraries.eventbrite.com



Courtesy Thames & Hudson



MARK BILLINGHAM AND ALEX MARWOOD

In conversation

Join award winning and bestselling crime authors Mark Billingham and Alex Marwood in conversation for an insight into their writing and inspiration.



Credit Steve Best

Times bestseller. Mark will be talking about his new book *Their Little Secret*.

Alex Marwood is the author of *The Wicked Girls*, *The Killer Next Door* and *The Darkest Secret*. She has won numerous crime writing awards and all three of her novels have been optioned for the screen. Her latest book is called *The Poison Garden*.



Mark Billingham's book sales now top 5 million copies and he is published in over 25 countries. Each thriller in his series featuring London-based detective Tom Thorne has been a Sunday

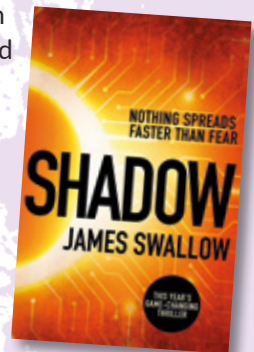
Crayford Community Centre
2.30pm



AN AFTERNOON WITH JAMES SWALLOW

James Swallow is a British author and scriptwriter of science fiction and fantasy. A BAFTA nominee and a New York Times and Sunday Times best-seller, he is the author of several novels and tie-in books, as well as short fiction, audio dramas and video games. His writing includes *The Sundowners* steampunk novels and fiction from the worlds of *Star Trek*, *Warhammer 40,000*, *Doctor Who*, *Stargate* and *2000AD*. James will be talking about his recent novel

Shadow, the latest in a series of fast-paced action thrillers.



Central Library - 2.30pm



BEE STACKING CRAFT

Come along and join in this fun craft session and make these cute bee stacks. You'll be buzzing along home with them!

Ages 6+

Erith Library – 2.30pm



COMEDY KNIGHTS

Comedy Knights and Bexley Libraries present an evening of fun and silly stand-up comedy.

Comedy Knights have been booking live comedy in unusual venues for over 13 years but are very excited to bring the top acts from the UK and international circuit to a library after hours. It promises to be a hilarious night full of great jokes and memorable personalities. Get ready to be loud in the library.

Over 16s only

Central Library – 7.30pm

Tickets are £10 and can be booked at

www.bexleylibraries.eventbrite.com



Featuring:

MC Ben Can Der Velde
Considered one of the very best comperes on the comedy scene.

Joe Sutherland
Reminiscent of a young Julian Clary

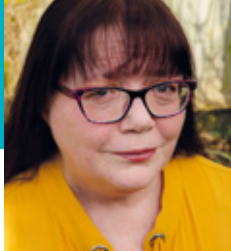
Cally Beaton
As seen on TV on BBC's QI

Tom Toal
Top circuit comedian from Bexleyheath

Line ups are subject to change.

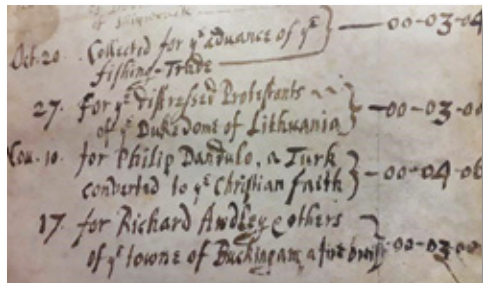


Monday 24 February



ARCHIVES ALIVE

With Elaine Everest

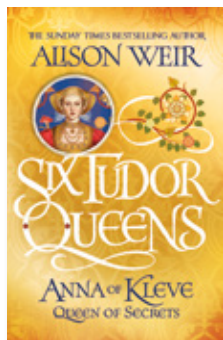


Bestselling Erith-born author Elaine Everest will lead a creative writing workshop using archives from Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre as inspiration. Come along to discover some long lost stories and create your own tales around them.

Local Studies and Archive Centre
2pm to 5pm

ANNA OF KLEVE: QUEEN OF SECRETS

With Alison Weir



Join historian and author, Alison Weir, as she talks about her latest book *Anna of Kleve: Queen of Secrets*. Anna of Kleve is the fourth of Henry

VIII's queens. Alison Weir reveals a charming, spirited woman loved by all who knew her – and even, ultimately, by the King who rejected her. But her story does not end there...

Alison is the top-selling female historian in the UK and has sold over 2.7 million books worldwide. Her books include *Elizabeth the Queen*, *Eleanor of Aquitaine*, *The Lady in the Tower* and *Elizabeth of York*. She has also written numerous historical novels.



Hall Place – 2.30pm





10 KEYS TO HAPPIER LIVING

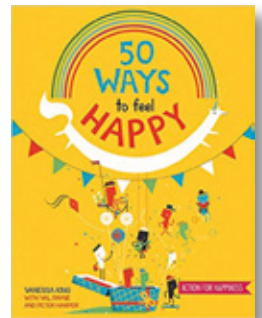
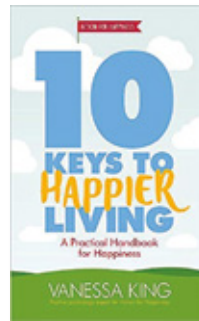
With Vanessa King

Vanessa is an author, speaker and consultant and an expert in pro-actively building psychological wellbeing and resilience.

In this engaging session Vanessa will share the evidence on why happiness matters for us as individuals and collectively, at home and at work. She'll help us explore the evidence-based *10 Keys to Happier Living* – the areas that science shows we can take action in to help us maintain and increase our happiness and wellbeing and boost our resilience. You'll come away with some quick and simple, practical ideas to experiment with in daily life.

Vanessa has written the book *10 Keys to Happier Living* as well as *50 Ways to Feel Happy* for children.

Civic Offices – 5.30pm



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

How bits of Bexley got their names

Join Bexley Local Studies Librarian Will Cooban in a light-hearted illustrated talk to discover how bits of Bexley got their names...

In an A-Z journey, you'll learn about Byxlea, Godwin Fot's River, Earhyo, Sette Copp, and much much more... Including which district was nearly named New Wooabbeleri...

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Central Library – 2.30pm

PIRATE SHIP CRAFT



Join us in the library to create and colour in your very own 3D pirate ship to take home with you.

Ages 4+

Sidcup Library – 4pm

ON THIS DAY IN....

With Elaine Lapham

Are you curious about what was happening in the London Borough of Bexley area on an important date in your life, maybe the day you were born or the day you were married? You may even be interested to know what the local headlines were on the birthdate of an elderly relative?

If so, come and view our vast collection of local newspapers at Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre. We have newspapers on microfilm going back over a hundred years ready for you to search for that special date.



The Kentish Times goes to print c.1930s

Local Studies and Archive Centre
10am, 11am, 2pm and 3pm.

Sessions are free but must be booked in advance. Please either visit the Centre, call 020 3045 3369 or email archives@bexley.gov.uk

Tuesday 25 February

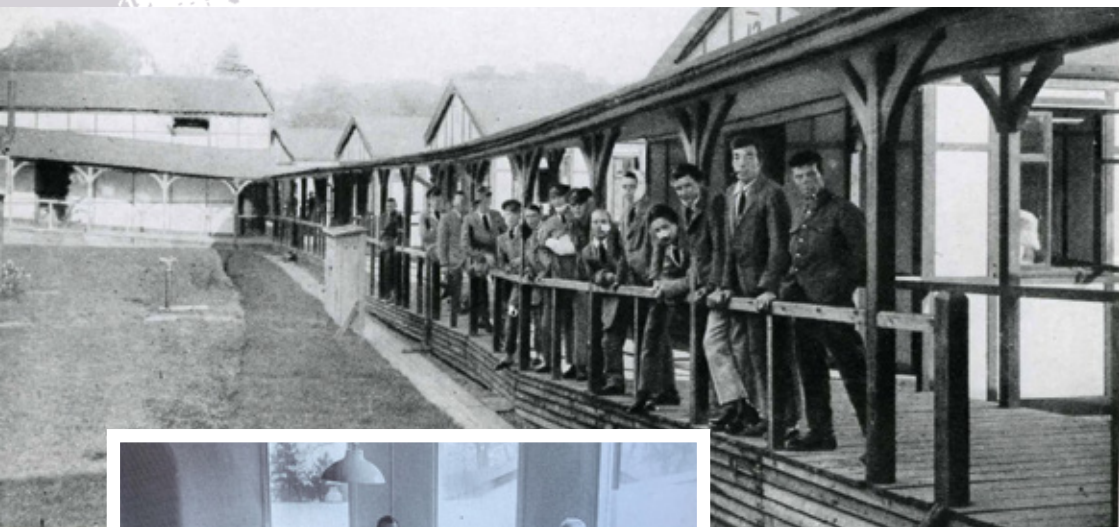
THE QUEENS HOSPITAL

Lamorbey and Sidcup Local History Society

Join local historians from the Lamorbey and Sidcup Local History Society for an illustrated talk on the story of the Queens Hospital in Sidcup and its pioneering work in facial reconstruction during World War One.

The talk will involve several speakers including James Brokenshire MP, Councillor June Slaughter, Andrew Walker (Vice Principal of Rose Bruford College) and members of the Society.

Sidcup Library – 7pm



LAMORBEY
AND SIDCUP
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

BOOK BUZZ BOOK QUIZ

Bookworms and beer lovers of Bexley unite! Join us in The Kings Arms in Bexleyheath for the Great Big Bexley Book Buzz Book Quiz to test those little grey cells!

Bexley Libraries have set a series of book and beer-themed questions for The Kings Arms to host a quiz.

Book your team a place at The Kings Arms or email info@thekingsarmsbexleyheath.co.uk

The Kings Arms
7.30pm



THE GREAT GATSBY (2013) - FILM

Join us in the library to watch the 2013 adaptation of F.Scott Fitzgerald's literary classic, *The Great Gatsby*.

Based on the timeless novel, *The Great Gatsby* mirrors the struggles of modern times in a dazzling visual journey from the mind of director Baz Luhrmann. **Film rating 12**

Central Library
11am

Tickets £3 each -
book in advance at
[www.bexleylibraries.
eventbrite.com](http://www.bexleylibraries.eventbrite.com)



WHO DO YOU THINK YOUR GREAT GRANDPARENTS WERE?

Jes Cooban

See page 16 for details.

Local Studies and Archive Centre
11am to 1pm

Places must be booked in advance. Please either visit the Centre, call 020 3045 3369 or email archives@bexley.gov.uk

Wednesday 26 February

ARTS TRAIN PRESENTS



mytimeactive
artstrain

Young musicians from the ArtsTrain Academy of Young Musicians will be hosting a very special musical showcase featuring performances by local emerging artists from across Bexley.

These individuals are passionate, committed and serious about their potential as successful musicians or artists. The group meet weekly at Rose Bruford College in Sidcup to write outstanding, original music. The diversity of the group is reflected in the maturity of their song writing. The songs they produce cross genres

to create new styles that are not only exciting to hear but relevant in today's world.

Come along to support live music and the next generation of artists. This is your chance to see them first!

Sidcup Library – 7.30pm



AN EVENING WITH DOROTHY KOOMSON



© Niall McDermid

Dorothy Koomson is an award-winning, global bestselling author whose novels include the Sunday Times bestsellers *The Friend, That Girl from Nowhere*, *The Ice Cream Girls*, *The Woman He Loved Before*, *The Chocolate Run* and *My Best Friend's Girl*. Dorothy's books are powerful, thought-provoking and compelling 'emotional thrillers' where moral

dilemmas are central and where the complex emotions of family and friendships are explored.

Tell Me Your Secret is Dorothy's fifteenth thriller exploring what it means to be a victim and a survivor in today's world, as well as how doing the right thing can have devastating consequences.



Central Library – 7.30pm



THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE AT ROSE BRUFORD COLLEGE

Come along to Rose Bruford College to hear from three of the College's staff about their recent books on various aspects of theatre and performance.

Jeremy Harrison will be talking about his recent work, *Actor Musicianship*. This explores a permanent feature of the musical theatre landscape that has received little attention in print. Jeremy's work provides a practical guide for students, educators, performers and practitioners. Jeremy was one of the country's leading actor-musicians before going on to run Rose Bruford College's ground-breaking Actor Musicianship programme for many years.

Thomas Wilson's work, *Juggling Trajectories* maps out the nature and work of a pioneering and innovative company, 'Gandini Juggling', that has



for over two decades been one of the world's most prolific and adventurous circus companies. A performance-maker and educator, Thomas has a long association with dance and circus disciplines.

David Zoob's book, *Brecht: A Practical Handbook* is a bold and exciting new approach to Bertolt Brecht, the celebrated German theatre practitioner, playwright and poet. The book makes Brecht's theories and ideas about theatre accessible to a new generation of actors, directors, students and theatre-makers and shows how these can be put into practice. David Zoob is Programme Director of the BA (Hons) Acting degree at Rose Bruford College. He has worked in theatre since the mid-1980s as a performer, deviser, director and teacher.



Rose Bruford College – 7pm

Tickets are free and can be booked at

www.bruford.ac.uk/news-events/

LET'S CREATE.... FROM A PICTURE BOOK

Using a picture book as inspiration, come and create with your preschool children at The Exchange. We will read a story together and then let our imaginations run wild while we play and create around the theme of the book.

A family art workshop for pre-school children and their accompanying adult.

the
exchange

The Exchange, Erith
10am to 12pm

Tickets can be booked at
theexchangeerith.com/oneoffevents.

Suggested donation of £2.

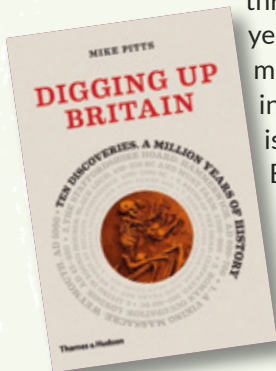


DIGGING UP BRITAIN

With Mike Pitts

Take a journey with archaeologist and award-winning journalist Mike Pitts, moving further and further back through a million years of history, to meet the earliest inhabitants of the islands we now call Britain.

As editor of leading archaeology magazine, *British Archaeology*, for over a decade, Mike has had unprecedented access to excavations around the country. He will be discussing some of the revelations being unearthed today that show a United Kingdom defined by migration – from Viking massacres to potential cannibals and Neanderthals.



Courtesy Thames & Hudson

Lesnes Abbey Lodge – 2.30pm

Thursday 27 February



AN UNDERGROUND TOUR OF LITERARY LONDON



By **Nick Dobson**

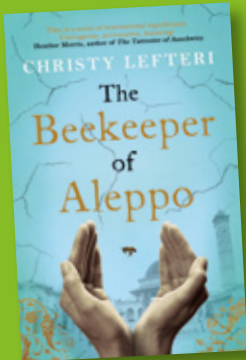
Join Nick Dobson for a fascinating and fully illustrated virtual tour of London by tube, stopping off to look

at some of London's most iconic spots of literary interest.

Central Library – 2.30pm

THE BEEKEEPER OF ALEPPO

With **Christy Lefteri**



Brought up in London, Christy Lefteri is the child of Cypriot refugees. She is a lecturer in creative writing at Brunel University. *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* was born out of her time working as a volunteer at a

UNICEF supported refugee centre in Athens, and draws on her own personal experiences getting to know

those escaping harrowing war torn regions.

Christy speaks about her experiences in the camps, being a daughter of refugees and the simple steps we can all take to encourage hope for those who need it most.

The Beekeeper of Aleppo was the BBC Radio 2 Bookclub choice in May 2019.

Kindly sponsored by the Bexleyheath BID



Central Library – 7.30pm



THE LITTLE BIG BAND

Bird College

Come and listen to the Little Big Band from Bird College perform some of their favourite numbers.

Kindly sponsored by Sidcup Partners Ltd



Sidcup Library – 7pm to 8pm (doors open at 6.30pm)

No booking required



Friday 28 February

CREATIVE WRITING AFTERNOON TRUE STORIES

Kindly sponsored by
Sidcup Partners Ltd

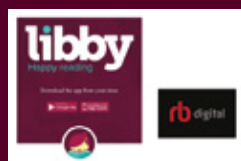


With Bernadette Russell

You are invited to a creative writing workshop with author and storyteller Bernadette Russell, our Writer in Residence for Book Buzz 2020. Join Bernadette for a relaxed afternoon of tea and cake, with lots of inspiring and simple writing prompts to get you started with a new piece of writing based on your personal stories, and your memories of Sidcup. You are welcome to join us whether you are an experienced writer or a complete beginner.



Sidcup Library – 2pm to 5pm



Free eBooks, eMagazines and eComics from Bexley Libraries

As a member of Bexley Libraries you can borrow free eBooks and eAudiobooks using the Libby App and free eMagazines and eComics using the RB Digital App. Just log in with your library card and get reading!

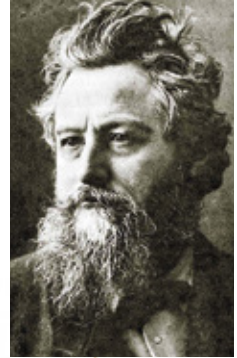
For more information go to www.bexley.gov.uk/libraries

TOPSY IN BEXLEY

With Will Cooban

William Morris – aka ‘Topsy’ on account of his curly hair, boyish enthusiasm and exuberant manner – loved life at his home, Red House, in Bexleyheath.

Join Bexley’s Local Studies Librarian, Will Cooban, for an illustrated talk on Topsy’s time in Bexley, covering his family, friends and neighbours, the local places he would have known in the early 1860s, and the legacy he left behind.



Red House – 2.30pm

BIRD COLLEGE YOUTH BAND

Join us in the library to listen to the Youth Band from Bird College perform some of their favourite numbers.

Central Library – 5pm to 6pm

No booking required, please drop in



dance
music
Bird College
theatre
performance



AARDVARK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



Pinocchio

Join us in the library to watch this mini play of the timeless children's classic, *Pinocchio*.

Mischievous, lazy, and full of tricks, the puppet Pinocchio causes trouble for his creator, Geppetto, almost as soon as he comes to life. Yet, more than anything, this naughty and playful creature wants to become a real boy.

Ages 3+

Central Library – 11am and 12pm



Alice in Wonderland

Join us in the library to watch this mini play based on the children's classic, *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carol.

Journey with Alice down the rabbit hole to a magical wonderland. Can Alice find her own way home?

Ages 3+

Central Library – 2pm and 3pm



Saturday 29 February

WHO DO YOU THINK YOUR GREAT GRANDPARENTS WERE?

Jes Cooban

See page 16 for details.

Local Studies and Archive Centre
11am to 1pm

Places must be booked in advance. Please either visit the Centre, call 020 3045 3369 or email archives@bexley.gov.uk

JUNGLE ANIMAL PUPPETS

Join us in the library to make and decorate these jungle animal puppets to take home with you.

Ages 3+
Welling Library - 11am



MARBLE MAZE

Don't know what games to play on a rainy day? Come to Crayford Library to create your very own Marble Maze! Can you get the marble to the end of the maze? This game is sure to provide hours of entertainment!

Ages 7+
Crayford Library - 10.30am



TALES FROM THE EXBURY EGG

With Stephen Turner

Join renowned artist Stephen Turner to hear stories about his remarkable Exbury Egg, which will feature in his forthcoming book *All from the Egg*. Stephen's Exbury Egg is currently installed at Bow Arts' Lakeside Centre. It was originally made in 2013 for the artist to live in for a year on the Beaulieu River on the Exbury Estate in Hampshire to explore our relationship with nature.

After sharing stories from living inside the Egg, Stephen will answer questions and discuss his experiences with the audience. Finally, Stephen will then take visitors to the Lakeside Centre to see inside the famous Egg itself.



Thamesmead Library then
Lakeside Centre – 2pm to 3.30pm

Tickets are free but must be
booked in advance at

bowarts.org/lakeside-centre



AN AFTERNOON WITH LOUISA YOUNG

Louisa Young was born in London and read history at Cambridge. As a journalist she wrote mostly for the Guardian, for Marie Claire and for the motorcycle press.

Louisa is the award-winning author of fourteen books, including *My Dear I Wanted to Tell You*, *The Heroes' Welcome* and *Devotion* – three novels set across the early 20th century, following the Locke and Purefoy families from the outbreak of WW1. The novels discuss the pioneering work in facial reconstruction that took place at the Queen's Hospital in Sidcup.



© Habie Schwarz



Central Library – 2.30pm



LEAP YEAR - FILM

Join us at Bostall Community Library to watch *Leap Year* starring Matthew Goode and Amy Adams on this 29 February.

Film rated PG

Bostall Community Library
5.30pm

Tickets £5 per person,
please book in Bostall
Community Library





BEXLEY LITERARY FESTIVAL

BOOK BUZZ

www.bexleybookbuzz.com