

IMPORTANT NEWS!

CENTRAL LIBRARY CHANGES

Preparations to open the Library of Birmingham on Tuesday 3 September 2013 are entering the final stages. We have worked very hard to maintain services in Central Library for as long as possible. It is essential that we now wind down services, so that we are ready to open the Library of Birmingham on time. This means that:

- The Archive Search Room is now closed, with no further access to the archive collections until the new library opens in September. Some material from the collections is available in digital format on the Birmingham City Council website, the new Library of Birmingham website and the Connecting Histories, Digital Handsworth and Digital Ladywood websites

- From 4 January 2013 Central Library will be closed from Floor 3 upwards. Business & Learning services on the first floor will also close from this date. A much reduced library service will be available on the ground and first floors, with a basic lending library offer including children's books and space to study. The Internet Centre will remain open until 29 June
- The current Central Library will close to the public forever at 5pm on 29 June 2013 (with the exception of reception, Tourist Information and The REP's Box Office which will stay open until September)
- The new Library of Birmingham opens on Tuesday 3 September 2013!



Community Libraries open for business as usual

Birmingham has 39 Community Libraries and until September 2013, those closest to the City Centre – Spring Hill, Ward End, Erdington and Handsworth – will be open longer. To keep up-to-date with these changes go to libraryofbirmingham.com

And don't forget, you can also visit the new Library online at libraryofbirmingham.com

Brian Gambles, Project Director for the Library of Birmingham, says: "The team at Birmingham Central Library has been working hard to prepare the Library's collections for the move to the new building. Over the coming months even more effort will be required to pack and move millions of items and to ensure that the Library of Birmingham is ready to open on time next September.

"We are pleased to have been able to keep services open at Central Library as long as we have. We recognise this next phase of closure will cause library users some disruption, but assure you that these changes are essential: moving Europe's largest library is no mean feat, and we know that library users will be impressed and proud when our spectacular new Library opens on schedule in 2013."

Please bear with us during the final stages of preparation. Your new Library of Birmingham will be well worth the wait!



Read the Library of Birmingham blog: libraryblog.birmingham.gov.uk

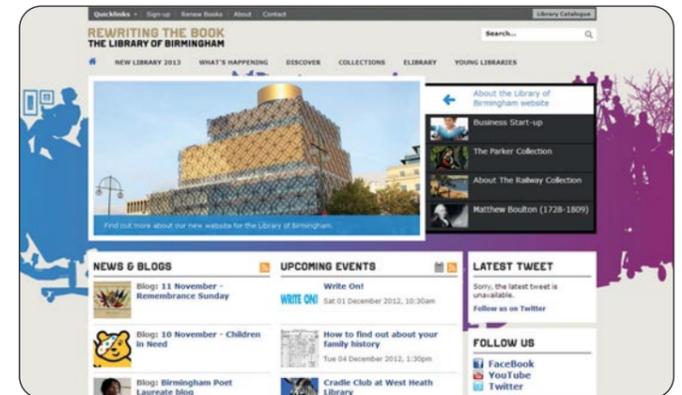
THEWORD

NEW LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM WEBSITE GOING LIVE!

The first pages of the Library of Birmingham's new website are set to go live in early 2013, giving a taste of things to come.

Over the coming months, we will continue to add new digitised resources from the Library's internationally important archives and heritage collections, many available online for the first time, giving visitors access to these wonderful treasures. You will be able to explore gems from the internationally-important Boulton & Watt archive; the Warwickshire Photographic Survey, with its photographs of Birmingham and its suburbs going back to the 1890s; the Anstey College Archive, founded in 1897 and only the second women's physical training college in the country; content from the Silent Movie Scores and Song Sheets, mainly late 18th and early 19th century; the Wingate Bett Collection with over a million railway, bus, airline and ski lift tickets; the Great Western Railway Collection and the marvellous Benjamin Stone Photographic Collection from the earliest days of photography.

Also featured on the new website will be special content for young people, showing what life was like for children in the 19th century, news and blogs about the hundreds of events that take place in libraries throughout the city, recommended books and useful business and work resources to help people with CVs and skills.



Screengrab from the new Library of Birmingham website

Through its quick links, there's also access to the entire Library Catalogue – brought to you via a new state-of-the-art IT system – and you will also be able to sign up for library membership and renew books online.

libraryofbirmingham.com

DAVID CAMERON HAILS LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM



David Cameron meets Keith Bradshaw, Chairman of the Library of Birmingham Trust, at the Library of Birmingham. Photo credit Andrew Parsons

"Not only is what you are doing in Birmingham extraordinary, but the way you are doing it is truly innovative."

So said Prime Minister David Cameron when he visited the Library of Birmingham during last year's Conservative party conference. He met the Chairman of the Library of Birmingham Trust, Keith Bradshaw, Trustees, volunteers and supporters. They were also joined by

Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport and Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council, Councillor Ian Ward.

The Prime Minister heard about the Trust's work to get local communities and businesses involved in the new library in order to enhance its offer to the public, and to ensure that greater financial resources are available for library facilities and services in Birmingham.

The Word talks to Shaun Baxter, one of the Faces of the Library of Birmingham

You're a Face for the Library of Birmingham. What excites you about the new Library?

The new Library excites me because of the new facilities it will offer, from the open air amphitheatre to the new business incubation pods. The design of the new Library is wonderful - very modern.

Why is it important for Birmingham and its citizens?

Birmingham is the second city in the UK and we have some great architecture from the Bullring, Cube and the Radisson Blu Hotel. I think the Library will add to these. It will be the hub for people to meet and greet each other but also explore and celebrate Birmingham's rich history.

What do you think the Library will mean for the young people of Birmingham?

Young people will be able to use the Library in any number of ways - to study, socialise and relax after a long day at school, college or university. There will also be lots of opportunities for young people to showcase their talents too.

What do you think people will like most about the new Library?

I think people will like how different and modern it is from the current library but at the same time appreciate that it's kept its heritage.

Can you remember the first book you read?

The first book I read properly was when I was at reception or junior school so I can't remember its name. But when I was at primary school I read many books.

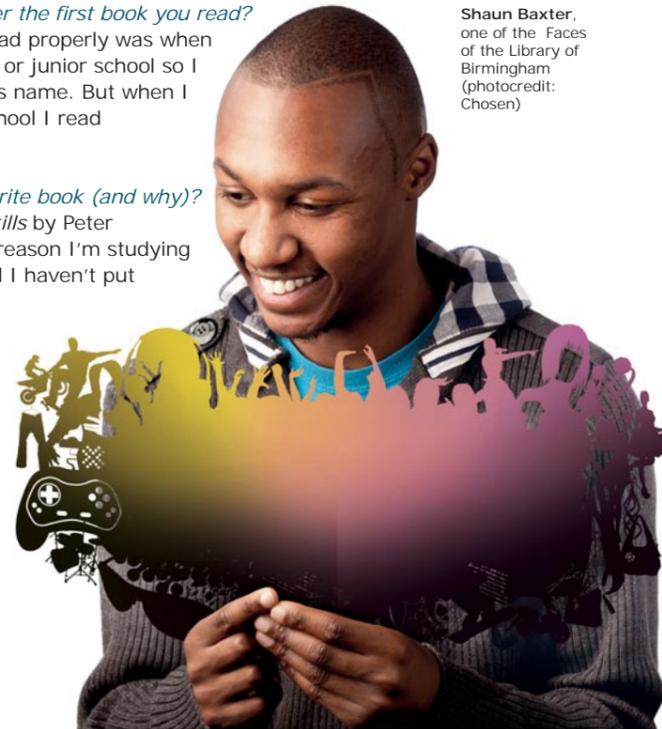
What's your favourite book (and why)?

Essential Radio Skills by Peter Stewart - it's the reason I'm studying a radio course and I haven't put it down since.

Who's your favourite writer (and why)?

My favourite writer is Roald Dahl. He had a great influence on my childhood and he is also a wonderful writer.

Shaun Baxter, one of the Faces of the Library of Birmingham (photocredit: Chosen)



THE REP PREPARES TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF THEATRE

In February 2013 Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company will celebrate its 100th birthday. To mark the occasion REP100, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, will bring to life the Birmingham Repertory Theatre archives and those of its founder, Sir Barry Jackson, which are currently held in Central Library.

REP100 will tell the story of the writers, directors, designers, actors, photographers, wardrobe, set-builders, stage crew, administrators and critics who have made The REP what it is today. At the centre of this momentous project will be a new online digital archive (www.rep100.org) which will open up these two fascinating archives for the first time, making them accessible to anyone. It will also include reminiscences from the many people who have worked or visited the theatre over the years. Throughout February and March there will be a programme of talks, exhibitions, tours and activity days which celebrate the company's heritage.

A team of people from The REP are currently working at Central Library cataloguing and digitising the many photographs, programmes, publicity posters, letters and costume drawings ahead of the move.

To find out more visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk



A FIRST GLIMPSE INSIDE THE SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL ROOM



Sitting on top of the new Library of Birmingham is the Shakespeare Memorial Room. The original Victorian room, designed by John Henry Chamberlain in 1882 has been moved in its entirety to the roof of the Library. The Victorian Cornice Company has restored the elaborate ceiling of the Memorial Room with its elegant visual references to the Elizabethan age.

The work will be finally finished in January. Later this year, the Library's entire Shakespeare collection, comprising 43,000 books along with copies of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Folio editions and many rare, early and valuable editions of individual plays all published before 1709, will be moved to their new, specially-designed and environmentally-secure home in the Library's "Golden Box". Facsimiles of some of these very precious documents will be permanently on display in specially-built cabinets in the beautifully restored Memorial Room.



Awards galore for the Library of Birmingham team

CITB-Construction Skills Deputy Chairman, Judy Lowe, presents Individual contribution award to Carillion's Sinead Mackenzie (left)

The work of Library of Birmingham's project team, including construction partner, Carillion, and Morrisroe and Walsh, has been recognised by industry in the last few months.

In October, the team received two awards at the annual National Skills Academy for Construction Awards. The first award recognised the Library's successful approach to developing and embedding leadership skills. The second went to Carillion's Sinead Mackenzie, pictured here, who was awarded the NSAFc Award for Individual contribution. The

judges felt that she always pushed the boundaries of the employment and skills agenda to achieve outstanding results, constantly exceeding targets particularly with apprentices.

Also in October the Morrisroe and Walsh team received an award from the Concrete Society for their work on the Library. They developed an alternative concrete frame solution that extensively used the design advantages of post-tensioned concrete and would not have been viable with normally reinforced concrete.

Finally, Carillion's Operations Director, Simon Dingle, picked up a very special Game Changer Award from Business in the Community in December. The Awards, a one-off to celebrate BITC's thirtieth anniversary, were for individuals whose work has raised standards and made a lasting impact on both the businesses where they have been so successful and on the work, knowledge and capacity of Business in the Community.