

THE WORD

ARE YOU THE NEXT STAR?

THE LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM IS BEING DESIGNED WITH PEOPLE IN MIND, AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE LOOKING FOR GREAT CHARACTERS TO TELL THE STORY OF THIS MOMENTOUS PROJECT. WE'RE ON THE HUNT FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE GENUINELY PASSIONATE ABOUT THEIR INTERESTS AND USE THEIR LIBRARY TO HELP THEM GET THE MOST OUT OF THE THINGS THAT MEAN SO MUCH TO THEM.

Have you used the library to unlock the secrets of your family tree? Perhaps your ears have been opened to new sounds and genres in the music library? Maybe you've learnt a new skill through your library? Have you borrowed a book that inspired you? From science to photography, local history to health and fitness, whatever your story, we'd love to hear it.

We've already found our first 'faces' and you can discover who they are and hear their stories at rewritingthebook.com. If, like them, you are passionate about libraries and are excited about the Library of Birmingham, tell us why and you too could be selected. We'll also need your contact details and a recent photograph. To apply, simply visit rewritingthebook.com, find us on Facebook or write to us at 'Face of Library of Birmingham', Central Library, Chamberlain Square, B3 3HQ.

For inspiration, why not visit the site of the library in Centenary Square and take a look at the hoardings displaying



Introducing the Faces: Back Row: Mary Ashman, Frank Sidney Smith, Birmingham City Council Leader Mike Whitby, Dalvinder Cheema. Front Row: Matt Windle, Nathaniel Chan, Samuel Chan

images of the first 'faces'? You can even pose for your entry photo in front of our unique recreation of the real life photography studio.

Brian Gambles, Assistant Director Culture says, 'We want to hear from people who are passionate about libraries and are willing to be a representative for the Library of Birmingham in the run up to 2013 and beyond. We're looking for people from all walks of life, young and old. The 'faces' of the new library will have their picture featured in promotional materials, newspapers and magazines and will be involved in promotional initiatives on TV,

radio and online. This is a chance to be part of one of the most exciting cultural projects in the world, and one of the most important projects in Birmingham's history.'

All entries will be viewed by a Library of Birmingham panel, and you could be selected as one of our next wave of library stars. (Please note that the decision of the panel is final.)



Wal Warmington, chosen as one of the 'faces' to be ambassadors for the new library

LIBRARY BOOST TO BIRMINGHAM'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

“WE ARE DELIGHTED WITH ALL CARILLION ARE DOING TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM, SHOWN NOT JUST IN THE APPRENTICESHIPS AND LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES WHICH ARE BEING WIDELY APPLAUDED, BUT NOW MORE FORMALLY RECOGNISED THROUGH THE CONSIDERATE CONSTRUCTOR SCHEME.”

MIKE WHITBY, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL



View of site, Spring 2010

The team at Carillion have been working hard since construction began, on schedule, in January and, as the picture above shows, the outline of the library's stunning amphitheatre feature can already be seen.

The building will rise quite quickly during the second half of 2010, with the main frame completed by summer 2011. You can see the construction team in action from the viewing point on the corner of the site closest to Paradise Circus and a photo montage of progress will be available online (www.birmingham.gov.uk/libraryofbirmingham). The project is on target for completion in 2013.

Carillion are making every effort to engage local people in the project and be 'good neighbours' to people living and working close to the construction site. Their achievements have been recognised by the first official audit of Carillion's performance under the industry's national Considerate Constructor scheme, with the assessors concluding that the Library of Birmingham is an 'excellently managed site' and awarding top scores.

In June, Carillion and the Council's Employment Access Team opened their on-site training suite, as part of the drive to maximise the community benefits of this major construction project through training and

employment opportunities. With the help of the Council's Employment Access Team and targeting recruitment in some of the city's most deprived areas, Carillion have already taken on 11 apprentices in various disciplines and Carillion's sub-contractors have also committed to taking on a further 22 apprentices so far. The aspiration is that a further 42 apprentices will be recruited during the construction period, bringing the total for the project to 75, with the aim of supporting apprentices into full time employment wherever possible.

Besides training, the construction phase of the new library plans to create 250 new construction jobs for local people, with the first recruits already on site.

LIVING WALL IS WORLD FIRST

The east-facing side of the hoardings features a dramatic green 'living wall' made of a variety of plants growing in a revolutionary new light-weight system known as 'LivePanel'.

Developed in the Netherlands by Mobilane and installed by Midlands-based firm Hedera Screens, the system involves blocks of a special growing medium made from a recycled material (a by-product of home insulation production) mounted in an aluminium frame. Low maintenance, the display is fed and watered by a computer-controlled irrigation system. It will mature between now and when the construction site hoardings come down at the end of 2012, when the

whole system can then be reused at another site. Following trials of the system over the last few years, the Library of Birmingham construction site is the first place in the world to have a LivePanel display.

Cllr Mike Whitby said, "The Library of Birmingham is set to become one of the most exciting cultural projects in the world, and with that comes a huge responsibility to not only provide world class facilities, but also to meet our green responsibilities. The environment has never been far from our thoughts at all stages of the design process, and we felt it was appropriate that we do our bit, even during construction, to make the project fully environmentally sustainable."



Hedera Screens' Alistair Walsh planting the Living Wall

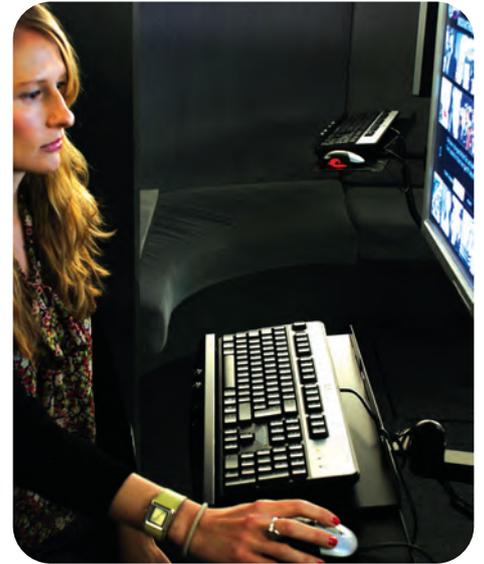
LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM TO PARTNER WITH BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE

Whether you're a movie buff, undertaking some important research or simply looking to relive the old classics, there's certain to be something to please everyone when the BFI Mediatheque takes residence in the Library of Birmingham.

Featuring thousands of items from the British Film Institute's archives, the new facility will give you the opportunity to enjoy films, television programmes and documentaries, many of which simply aren't available anywhere else, all available for you to enjoy in your own

private viewing booth. And, best of all, it's absolutely free!

The Mediatheque is just one example of the Library of Birmingham's commitment to interactivity, and the announcement was welcomed by Brian Gambles, Assistant Director for Culture at Birmingham City Council, who said: "The Library of Birmingham aims to embrace digital technology, and this resource is certain to become an exciting and invaluable attraction for our visitors. The BFI Mediatheque provides library users with access to one of the world's largest film archives, and we look forward to enhancing it with a new collection chronicling Birmingham's proud history and culture."



The BFI Mediatheque offers a wealth of choice from film and TV archives



Adrian Lukis (Arthur Conan-Doyle) and Chris Nayak (George Edalji) in Central Library

ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE

Actors from Birmingham Repertory Theatre experienced a taste of things to come when they used Birmingham Central Library's Archives and Heritage facilities to prepare for the theatre's production of Arthur & George.

The play focused on the true story of Midlands solicitor George Edalji, who was acquitted of horse slashing crimes in 1907 thanks to the intervention of

Sherlock Holmes author Arthur Conan-Doyle.

Actors studied original letters and documents from the case from the Birmingham archive collections, which will be moved, along with the Library's other treasures, into purpose-designed new facilities at the Library of Birmingham. These will include state-of-the-art facilities for the storage and care of the archives, together with an attractive and comfortable environment for public access to the collections.

REP MEMORIES CAMPAIGN

The REP is asking performers and members of the public to share their memories as part of an exhibition celebrating the past, present and future of the theatre.

Josie Lawrence, who made her debut at The REP in *The Alchemist* back in 1996, talked warmly about the theatre: "As it's my local professional theatre, I'm really proud to be associated with The REP. I came to see many shows before performing on stage here and I've lots of wonderful memories. And I love working here because everybody backstage talks like me so it's always a pleasure to come back!"



Josie will return in October, taking the lead role in The REP's production of *The Cherry Orchard*, which is directed by The REP's Artistic Director Rachel Kavanaugh as part of the Autumn/Winter season.

The REP Memories Campaign will support the theatre's public appeal for funds to cover repairs to its building in Centenary Square. The exhibition will be on display at The REP from September this year until the end of the season.

Actress Josie Lawrence celebrates her memories of The REP

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

More than 1,200 people dropped into the Library of Birmingham information centre in Central Library during March and April to find out more about the interior design proposals and share their views.

Visitors were able to see the palette of possible choices of interior finishes recommended by the architects, Mecanoo, and talk to Library & Archive Services staff over a cup of coffee.

Phil Burns, Community Engagement Manager, said, 'We were delighted that so many people got involved and we were particularly pleased over the school Easter break to be able to talk with more children and their parents, which is really important to help us make the new library child and family-friendly throughout. This was an

opportunity to involve members of the public in our thinking of how different materials could be used in the new building to meet the changing needs of the diverse communities we serve.'

The Spring round of community engagement was part of an ongoing programme to involve the public in the planning for both the new building and the services that will be delivered in the new library.

Phil says, 'During the school summer holidays, we hope to talk with as many children and young people as possible about how they will want to use the dedicated children and youth spaces in the new library.'

Look out for more information on www.birmingham.gov.uk/libraryofbirmingham.



Engaging: Phil Burns with a model of the library

The Library of Birmingham information centre is open every day during library hours in the foyer of Central Library. You are welcome to come along to view the exhibition, models and information films and find out more about the new library.

WHAT'S ON WALKING AS ONE

6pm on July 24th sees your chance to become part of history by being among hundreds of people to be pictured walking through Centenary Square for a special photographic exhibition.

International photographer Adam Magyar will be on hand to take unique 'scanned' photographs using the same technology used to determine photo finishes in athletics events, all to celebrate Cultural Olympiad Weekend, with the best of the pictures set to appear on the Library of Birmingham hoardings later in the summer.

Places are limited to just 300, so make sure you register now at www.walkingasone.net!

ARTS FEST – SEPTEMBER

ArtsFest will be returning from 10-12 September 2010 bigger and better than ever before! The Library of Birmingham team will be there giving you the chance to find out more about the project's progress!

FREE EVENTS AT CENTRAL LIBRARY ARCHAEOLOGY REVEALED

In 2009, an archaeological excavation of the Library of Birmingham site revealed fascinating details about the site's industrial past. Birmingham Archaeology, who carried out the work, are hosting two free presentations about what they found at the Library Theatre on 7 July, 12.30-1.30pm or 24 July 1-2.30pm. Tickets are free and can be booked from birminghamboxoffice.com, on 0121 303 2323 or at Central Library Reception.

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH TOP AUTHORS AT LIBRARY THEATRE:

July
14th July – Lindsey Davis
20th July – Adele Parks
21st July – Akala (suitable for young people 16+)

September
29th September – Mark Billingham with Andrew Taylor & Martyn Waites

October
15th October – Bonnie Greer

ALSO COMING IN OCTOBER...

Festival Fringe, a series of free events in library locations throughout Birmingham Book Festival (5-21 October). Birmingham's new Poet Laureate will be announced on National Poetry Day, 7 October – and will give their first performance as Laureate that evening in the Library Theatre.

All events are free but you will need to book. Tickets are normally available 4-6 weeks in advance - call 0121 303 2323 or visit www.birminghamboxoffice.com or Central Library reception.

GET IN TOUCH

To receive future issues of The Word by email, or to receive it in a different format, please contact us on 0121 303 2454 or e-mail us at library.of.birmingham@birmingham.gov.uk

For more details on the Library of Birmingham project, including artist's impressions, videos, facts and figures visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/libraryofbirmingham