CULTURAL HUBS IS...
an arts in libraries project that allows us to enliven all
St.Helens Libraries with performances, plays, gigs, 
workshops, courses, exhibitions and great art events
funded by National Lottery funding distributed through
Arts Council England.

This is our 8th... yes 8th programme of events and we
think it’s going to be great! If you haven’t already, then
please sign up to our monthly ezine via
www.sthelens.gov.uk/arts and/or follow us on Twitter
@sthelensarts and @STHLibraries.

ARTS AWARD

Arts Award is a range of unique qualifications that support young people
under 25, to grow as artists and arts leaders, inspiring them to take part
in the wider arts world by taking challenges in any arts or media activity.
Trained Arts Award advisers based across St.Helens network of libraries,
guide and support young people in gaining arts experiences towards
their nationally recognised awards. Please contact
kathrynboothroyd@sthelens.gov.uk for more information and to sign up!

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page 03</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Artists/Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th - 20th May</td>
<td>Tadhg Devlin</td>
<td>Life Beyond Diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th &amp; 19th May</td>
<td>Jacqui Priestley</td>
<td>Buckle My Shoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th May</td>
<td>Lewis Bray</td>
<td>Cartoonopolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st June</td>
<td>Davey &amp; Kristin McGuire</td>
<td>Theatre Book - Macbeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th June</td>
<td>Collective Encounters</td>
<td>Wealth is Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th June</td>
<td>Gerard Logan</td>
<td>Wilde Without The Boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th July</td>
<td>Zest Theatre</td>
<td>First Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd July</td>
<td>Open Attic Company</td>
<td>Much Ado About Puffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th July</td>
<td>Lizzie Nunnery &amp; Vidar Norheim</td>
<td>Horny Handed Tons of Soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th July</td>
<td>Just Soph</td>
<td>Just So Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 14</td>
<td>Summer Reading Challenge 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Would you like to help inform which
arts in library events are programmed?

We are starting a Community Friend Group which will offer opportunities
for people of all ages - children, young people and adults - to shape,
access and participate in the current and future arts in libraries programme
across the borough.

The Cultural Hubs programme has been running for over 3 years and we’d
like library users to help us strengthen our commitment to programming
great arts events that are both engaging and inclusive, and that reach out
to those who can feel excluded.

The group is open to anyone who is interested in arts in libraries activities
and will be led by the Arts in Libraries Officers. Together we will discuss
ideas via email to share thoughts on the arts in libraries programme which
will help us to steer the programme and to grow our audiences further.

Friends will receive invitations to local arts in libraries events and cultural
trips outside the borough to see quality shows and to talk about them
with us. You will have the opportunity to get to know new people in your
community who share a love of libraries and the arts.

If you’d like to join the new Community Friend Group then please email
artsservice@sthelens.gov.uk or visit your local library to find out more.

TICKET PRICES & CONCESSIONS

We try to keep ticket prices low to ensure as many people as possible
can attend our wonderful programme of events and many are FREE.
From our point of view, a concession is anyone under the age of 21
or over 60, a student, somebody with a disability or anyone who is out
of work for whatever reason.
During Alzheimer’s Society Dementia Awareness Week you can visit any St.Helens library to see a unique temporary ‘newspaper’ art exhibition, and pick up a special ‘newspaper’ of your own to keep! Life Beyond Diagnosis was initiated by Open Eye Gallery as part of the Culture Shifts programme and is a collaborative project between photographer Tadhg Devlin and the Merseyside based Service User Reference Forum (SURF) Dementia Network Group. A number of the group worked closely with Tadhg to co-author a series of photo stories which break the stigma associated with dementia and reflect their lives as individuals, not as a condition, showing stories rich in humanity and insight.

Tadhg Devlin

**LIFE BEYOND DIAGNOSIS**
Monday 15th May - Saturday 20th May,
All St.Helens Libraries

During Alzheimer's Society Dementia Awareness Week you can visit any St.Helens library to see a unique temporary ‘newspaper’ art exhibition, and pick up a special ‘newspaper’ of your own to keep! Life Beyond Diagnosis was initiated by Open Eye Gallery as part of the Culture Shifts programme and is a collaborative project between photographer Tadhg Devlin and the Merseyside based Service User Reference Forum (SURF) Dementia Network Group. A number of the group worked closely with Tadhg to co-author a series of photo stories which break the stigma associated with dementia and reflect their lives as individuals, not as a condition, showing stories rich in humanity and insight.

“**As a medical doctor, my knowledge about dementia is... scientific, I would say. Visiting the exhibition space gave me a new perspective, more emotional**”
Visitor at TATE Exchange showcase, Liverpool

“Af ter taking part in Creative Alternatives I feel much more confident at using healthier and creative coping methods for stress and anxiety.”
Project participant from St.Helens

**Creative Alternatives**

Funded by St.Helens Council’s Public Health Service - Creative Alternatives is a free programme of arts based activities which aim to reduce the symptoms of mild to moderate stress, anxiety and depression.

Now in its third year in St.Helens Creative Alternatives continues to offer the opportunity to take part in a regular programme of weekly workshops led by trained artists where you can try out activities such as painting, woodwork, crafts and writing for wellbeing. Being involved with Creative Alternatives will also give you the chance to focus on yourself, meet new people, explore your feelings and help you relax and unwind.

There will be a series of taster workshops available throughout the coming months where you can find out what’s involved before joining up.

“After taking part in Creative Alternatives
I feel much more confident at using
healthier and creative coping methods
for stress and anxiety.”
Project participant from St.Helens

**Audience:** Adults (Over 18’s)
**Cost & booking info:** To book on to one of our forthcoming taster sessions or to find out more about Creative Alternatives in general please contact: Helen Holden, Project Coordinator on 07745590698 or email Helen@creativealternatives.org.uk

**Audience:** Everyone
**Cost & booking info:** Free. Drop-in to your local library during normal opening hours
Audience: Everyone  

Lewis Bray  
CARDBONOPOLIS  
Thursday 25th May, Chester Lane Library, 7.00pm

A story of two brothers, one family, goodies, baddies and autism.
Follow Jack Bray - a young man with severe autism - through the imaginary world he creates in his back garden. Based on his TRUE story, come with Jack's brother, Lewis and fight inner demons, famous cartoon characters and a whole heap of baddies to stop 'Mayor Sharp' from taking over Cartoonopolis and killing creativity once and for all...
After watching cartoons as a young boy, Jack found that they provided him with a gateway into communication and now, as a young adult he has created his own imaginary world: Cartoonopolis.
Told alongside this theatrical fantasy world is a real story about living with Jack and his autism... of how, with his Mum and Dad, we see the family's highs and lows and their ability to pull together through adversity.
Lewis Bray is an emerging actor and writer. This is his first play performed by himself to outstanding reviews as part of Liverpool Everyman Playhouse Ignition Project.

“"A funny, well-written, touching and clever look at autism, mostly, though, it’s about family and the power of sticking together no matter what happens”
Angela Pearsall, Liverpool confidential

Show Length: 2 hours

Audience: Teens 14+ and Adults  
Cost & booking info: £6, £5 (St. Helens Library Card Holders), £3 (concs) Book online at www.culturalhubs.eventbrite.co.uk or call into any library in St. Helens to purchase your tickets.
Wealth is Health was written by Sarah Thornton and rehearsed and directed by Amanda Redvers-Rowe over a four-month period. The production used comedy, songs, music, tableauxs and naturalistic sketches to engage the audience in the debate around health and wealth inequalities.

“Wealth is Health was drawn from desk research into wealth and health inequalities in Britain in the 21st Century; conversations between Collective Encounters facilitators and older people both living in the community and in care homes.”

Arts Council England

Show Length: 40 minutes

Davy and Kristin McGuire

THEATRE BOOK - MACBETH

Thursday 1st June 2017, Haydock Library, 10.30am, 11.00am. 12.00pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.00pm, 3.30pm, 4.00pm

Theatre Book - Macbeth is an augmented reality pop-up book that brings ‘the Scottish play’ to life with miniature projection mapping. Created by Davy and Kristin McGuire the multimedia book features six pop-up pages designed like sets on a stage, with actors projected onto the paper scenery. The story is driven by the owner of the book who turns the pages and triggers video and sound to play out the scenes.

Davy and Kristin McGuire are British/German multidisciplinary artists, famous for their idiosyncratic experiments in digital projection and storytelling.

Length: 30 minutes

Audience: Teens 14+ and Adults - people with an interest in animation, theatre, fine art, digital art, paper craft, projection mapping, theatre, film, dance, and paper craft.

Cost & booking info: Free. To guarantee your place please book online at www.culturalhubs.eventbrite.co.uk, call into any library in St.Helens or phone 01744 677446

Collective Encounters

WEALTH IS HEALTH

Friday 9th June, Parr Library, 2.00pm

Wealth is Health is a variety production performed by Collective Encounters Third Age Acting Company.

Wealth is Health was drawn from desk research into wealth and health inequalities in Britain in the 21st Century; conversations between Collective Encounters facilitators and older people both living in the community and in care homes.

Wealth is Health was written by Sarah Thornton and rehearsed and directed by Amanda Redvers-Rowe over a four-month period.

The production used comedy, songs, music, tableauxs and naturalistic sketches to engage the audience in the debate around health and wealth inequalities.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the immediacy of the work and found the production intensely moving - this was partly due to the palpable resonances that the material was clearly eliciting from the audience.”

Arts Council England

Show Length: 40 minutes

Audience: Everyone

Cost & booking info: Free. To guarantee your place please book online at www.culturalhubs.eventbrite.co.uk, call into any library in St.Helens or phone 01744 677446
“...The gods had given me almost everything...genius...high social position...brilliancy, intellectual daring. Whatever I touched I made beautiful...I summed up all systems in a phrase, and all existence in an epigram...”
- Oscar Wilde, De Profundis

Wilde Without The Boy

Wilde Without The Boy is a dramatisation of “De Profundis”, the letter Oscar Wilde wrote in 1897 to his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, from his cell in Reading Gaol. Two years previously, Wilde had been imprisoned for acts of gross indecency with other males. Painfully brilliant and passionate, “Wilde Without the Boy” is a glimpse into the bruised, loving soul of one of the greatest geniuses ever to have lived.

The Ballad Of Reading Gaol

The Ballad Of Reading Gaol is Oscar Wilde’s heart-rending poem reflecting on his two years’ hard labour, and a fellow inmate’s hanging; an unflinching indictment of the Victorian penal system, particularly the death penalty. Its regular rhythms also recall the repetitive harshness of prison life as experienced by Wilde and all other inmates.


“Watching him work is like being privy to a wonder of nature and remains with you as if you had just met Oscar Wilde himself... A true masterpiece of solo performance.”
- Imogen Rowe, The Edinburgh Guide

Show Length: 2 hours

Zest Theatre

FIRST PERSON

Saturday 15th July, Newton-le-Willows Library, 11.00am
Meet outside St.Helens Central Library, 3.00pm

2 players, 30 minutes. 1 Ultimate Prize.

Two players enter the labyrinth of a virtual world and compete for the ultimate prize: happiness. The First Person to complete the game and find happiness is the winner! It’s that easy. All they need to do is follow the voice of the unseen Narrator and they’ll be just fine. But in our harsh world of winners and losers, is the Narrator aiding their journey, or relishing in their demise?

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Lizzie Nunnery and Vidar Norheim

Horny Handed Tons of Soil

Thursday 27th July, Peter Street Library, 2.00pm, Rainhill Library, 7.00pm

HOW DO YOU CAPTURE A SENSE OF PLACE?
A PLACE AS IT CHANGES OVER TIME.

In 2016 Unity Theatre and Phrased & Confused commissioned Lizzie Nunnery to create a new spoken word piece to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the publication of The Mersey Sound by Roger McGough, Brian Patten and Adrian Henri. The resulting show, Horny Handed Tons of Soil, is part spoken word, part folk gig, part theatre performance.

Inspired by the eclectic work of Adrian Henri, ‘Horny Handed Tons of Soil’ explores the myth, the magic and the reality of a city over the past fifty years as it is transformed by destruction, construction, rebellion and grass roots creativity. A poet, a child and Death go wandering through a dream and memory asking ‘where does the city end?’ searching for past and future.

In this specially created library version Lizzie Nunnery and Vidar Norheim perform extracts from the show alongside work by Adrian Henri and from their own back catalogue.

“...a love story of Liverpool life from the wasted artists of Gambier Terrace to the Toxteth riots and beyond. A privilege to witness, this epic poem set to a laid back yet unnerving jazz backing was captivating from start to finish.”

GET INTO THIS

Show Length: 1 Hour

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Open Attic Company

MUCH ADO ABOUT PUFFIN

Saturday 22nd July, Chester Lane Library, 1.30pm & 3.30pm

As part of this year’s Summer Reading Challenge with the theme of Animal Agents, St.Helens Libraries are hosting a number of events and performances.

Join Open Attic as they traverse stormy seas and reckless tides to bring you this funny tale about a man all alone, a friendly puffin, and a whole lot of fuss over nothing.

Using skilful puppetry, beautiful music, and good old fashioned storytelling, Much Ado About Puffin is about old habits, new friendships, and stepping out into the unknown!

On a small island... in the middle of the big sea... a man meets a bird...

“A swelling, rollercoaster of a piece, a love story of Liverpool life from the wasted artists of Gambier Terrace to the Toxteth riots and beyond. A privilege to witness, this epic poem set to a laid back yet unnerving jazz backing was captivating from start to finish.”

GET INTO THIS

Show Length: 45 minutes

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Audience: Ages 4+, but all ages welcome!
Cost & booking info: £3 or £8 for a family/group of 4. Book online at www.culturalhubs.eventbrite.co.uk or call into any library in St.Helens to purchase your tickets.

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Audience: 12+
Cost & booking info: £6, £5 (St.Helens Library Card Holders), £3 (concs)
Book online at www.culturalhubs.eventbrite.co.uk or call into any library in St.Helens to purchase your tickets.
RUDYARD KIPLING’S
THE JUST SO STORIES

Saturday 29th July, Newton-le-Willows Library, 11.30am
Thatto Heath Library, 2.30pm

Have you ever wondered how the Camel got his hump? Or how the Elephant got his trunk? Or what the Crocodile eats for lunch?

With live music, songs, puppetry and a host of curious characters, the classic tales by Rudyard Kipling are brought to life for all the family. This brand new adaptation is developed with children aged 4-7 in mind but all ages are welcome!

“How one woman managed to captivate the entire audience, adults included, for 45 minutes using very minimal props, an array of voices and a few musical instruments I will never know, but she did.”

Kids Theatre Up North

Show Length: 45 minutes

Audience: Ages 4-7, but all ages welcome!
Cost & booking info: £3 or £8 for a family/group of 4. Book online at www.culturalhubs.eventbrite.co.uk or call into any library in St.Helens to purchase your tickets

St.Helens Libraries are celebrating the 2017 Summer Reading Challenge - Animal Agents.
To get started all you have to do is sign up at your local library. For each book that you read, you will receive a collector card that makes up a set of six to complete your own folder. It’s FREE and fun to do!

The Animal Agents are here!
Join us for our fun Summer Reading Challenge launch parties listed below:

**Billinge Library**
Monday 24th July 2:00pm and Friday 28th July Read & Rhyme launch 10:15am

**Chester Lane Library**
Monday 24th July, 2.00pm

**Eccleston Library**
Wednesday 26th July, 2.00pm

**Garswood Library**
Thursday 27th July, 3.30pm

**Haydock Library**
Monday 24th July, 3.30pm

**Moss Bank Library**
Monday 24th July, 2.00pm and Thursday 27th July, Read & Rhyme launch 2.15pm

**Newton-Le-Willows Library**
Monday 24th July, 10.30am, Read & Rhyme Launch Party. Thursday 27th July, 2.00pm, Launch Party (5 - 11 year olds)

**Parr Library**
Monday 24th July 2017 at 2.30pm

**Peter Street Library**
Monday 24th July, 2.00pm

**Rainford Library**
Friday 21st July 3.30pm and Thursday 27th July 10.30am Read and Rhyme

**Rainhill Library**
Monday 24th July, 2.00pm

**Thatto Heath Library**
Monday 24th July, 4.00pm
Get online with your local library

24 hour Library
You can browse, reserve or renew your books, audio and multimedia items 24/7 from our online library catalogue. Simply visit www.sthelens.gov.uk/librarycatalogue

eBooks, Comics and Magazines
St.Helens Library Service has an extensive collection of free eBooks, comics and magazines, which are available to read online and download to computer, smartphone or tablet. Find out more at www.sthelens.gov.uk/ebooks

St.Helens Library App
St.Helens Library App is now available on your Mobile or Tablet - access all our services from our App including:
• Our catalogue, renew and request items
• Information about our Cultural Hubs Arts in Libraries programme and other events
• Information about our Adult & Community Learning courses
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