



Volunteering News

We hope you are all keeping well and safe during these unprecedented times. That is without a doubt the most important thing!

As you may know, all our traditional heritage and library volunteering has been suspended, however, it's been great hearing about the remote volunteering some of you have been involved in, as well as the different ways people have been keeping in touch. We thought it would be nice to share with you some positive and inspiring news stories.



#CV19Isolatedbutinspired

Get involved in the
creation of a
Leicestershire
digital time capsule

Are you making, mending,
creating, recording, caring,
remembering, designing?

- Share how you are making lockdown better
- Let's inspire each other during this crisis
- Let's preserve this for future generations

How?

Make a 2 minute film
(On your phone is easiest, landscape format is best)

Send it to

f /CommunityCurators @ComCurators
louise.sharpley@leics.gov.uk

We will

Share on social media and websites

Curate a final film

Keep submissions in our archives and collections

Find out more

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/share-stories-and-be-part-of-history-project



Participation
Leicestershire, Heritage & Libraries
Community
Curators

Trash to treasure!

Volunteer Mike Jones has made a fantastic new bench from the old fencing removed from the Outwoods. The bench will be painted and put at the Green Gym Allotment at Mountfields.



Make do and mend

Liz, a House Interpreter volunteer at the 1620s House and Gardens, is currently putting her textile skills to excellent use by making bags for NHS workers to put their scrubs and shoes in.

"I would have used this high-quality material for historical costumes, but this need right now is much greater."

Objects out of the attic

Max, aged 9, has been helping his Nana during lockdown by dropping off medical prescriptions and food shopping. She had a clear-out and found a badge and matchbox collection from his Mummy, each with a special memory attached.

"I would never had seen these and known the stories behind them had it not been for lockdown."

Creating for charity

Shielding from the virus due to disability, and unable to go on holiday to Cornwall with 18 family members, Rod has been creating gorgeous paintings. A Cornish Sketch a day!

National charity Mind has launched an emergency appeal to help people deal with the impact the pandemic is having on mental health. Rod is auctioning his art to support this. www.rod-shaw.com

Nature and nurture

Beba, aged 7, and Mima, aged 4, have been using their daily exercise time to help protect their local environment and pick up litter!



Loughborough's connection to LadyBird books

In 2019 'The Secret History of Ladybird Books' event took place at Charnwood Museum, in partnership with Leicestershire County Council and Loughborough University. The event was part of the national Being Human Festival 2019, the UK's only national celebration of the humanities!

The aim of the day was for local people to come together to share their unique connections and memories of the iconic manufacturer: Ladybird Books, which was founded in Loughborough.

On the day itself we had a fantastic turn out of people who have unique connections including collectors, ex-employees, writers and illustrators of the original books, even local people who featured in the promotional material as children!

Check out our film which captures some amazing local stories and showcases the diversity of our connections.

Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyIK8AN7L1I

A big thank you to all staff, volunteers and the local community for getting involved!



An inspiring virtual Shared Reading experience

By Terri Eynon, Shared Reading Group
Facilitator Volunteer

Ten members (including three facilitators) had their first virtual Shared Reading Group meeting on WhyPay - a teleconferencing service that uses an 03 number which costs the same as a standard call or is free as part of your bundled minutes. This was a brave move for many of our group. Although one member (my son, 28) would count as an internet baby, many are members of an earlier generation that is somewhat nervous of technology. This, as well as the cost, lay behind the - necessarily rapid - decision to pick a relatively old-fashioned method of communication which can be accessed by landline as well as phone.

A digital success

There were a few technical hiccups. Voices are of variable quality. One member's call dropped out, but she managed to ring in again successfully. We were lucky that we had already planned to read a short novel fairly soon. We were lucky that I was able to get hold of a book set just before lockdown. We were lucky that - presciently - I rescued the books from Coalville Library on the Thursday before the libraries closed. We were given great support by the Library staff who remain encouraging at a distance.

Time will tell if this method continues to work for our group, but so far it is very encouraging."

The pleasure in sharing literature

We read Kurt Vonnegut's 'The Man without no Kiddleys' and I couldn't resist following this up with one of the Shakespeare sonnets - 18 - which begins 'Music to hear, why hear'st thou music sadly? Sweets with sweets war not, joy delights in joy.' As is usual for this group, they doubted their capacity to make sense of the poem - but gamely got into reflecting on certain passages. The poet appears to be discouraging 'singleness'. He uses a musical analogy, suggesting that a chord of three notes, 'resembling sire and child and happy mother...all in one, one pleasing note to sing.' This brought to mind the pleasure the group felt happy together today and how pleasurable it was to share literature with one another.

If you need any information about our services or information relating to your volunteering you can contact nicola.seika@leics.gov.uk or phone 0116 305 0552.

If you are looking for community volunteering opportunities during this time please visit this partnership website www.llrprepared.org.uk/one-prepared/

Your community

Your opportunity

Keep in touch and stay safe