

Church Street Library

Bulletin

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Digging Deep To Transform Church Street Library Project Update
January 2009

Temporary Library Open



The move to the temporary library has been an exciting time for us. Our shop front location has brought in a large number of new visitors, and we get compliments on the clean, modern look -- who would have guessed that the library was a butcher's in its former life! Both patrons and staff think that it's great to be part of the vibrant market atmosphere.

Lina Van Velzen Site Manager Church Street Library

IT Restored

Following a number of IT problems internet access is now fully restored at the library. PCs can be booked for an hour free of charge.

The temporary library at 97-99 Church Street is now fully operational and is proving to be very popular with both staff and library users.

Since November 2008 the new library has issued over 14,500 items and served more than 24,500 customers.

Work will shortly be starting on transforming the old site into a large modern welcoming library following the award of funding from the Big Lottery and capital investment from the City Council.

Learning Centre Expression of Interest

As part of the transformation of Church Street Library, a modern learning centre will be added to the site. The learning centre will be based in its own enclosed space and will have at least 15 flexible workstations, facilities for a tutor, and be fully equipped with up-to-the-minute educational technology.

A contractor is now being sought to help develop a programme of learning and training based on the needs of local people. This will include ESOL training and IT programmes that can offer qualifications. A strong emphasis of the programme will also be based around increasing employability and reducing worklessness.



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LIBRARIES

Building Update

Coniston Ltd have been appointed as the building contractor for the redevelopment of the library. Coniston will be starting on site in early February 2009 and expect work to be completed by December 2009.

During the building work some noise and disruption will be experienced but all contractors will follow the council's considerate builder's scheme.

In accordance with planning regulations building work on site will only take place during the following hours; 08.00- 18.00 Monday to Friday and 08.00 – 13.00 on Saturdays.

Prior to the commencement of building work we will be holding an open meeting to allow residents the opportunity to view plans for the library and to ask any questions. Representatives from Coniston Ltd will be present to provide details of the building programme. This meeting will take place on: Wednesday 4th February 2009 18.00 – 19.30 at Derry House Meeting Room, Penfold Street.

Project Development Coordinator

Westminster Libraries have appointed a Project Development Coordinator to lead the transformation of Church Street Library. Laura Hannan took up this role in early January 2009.

Laura has worked as a Project Manager with Westminster Libraries for over 5 years and was responsible for gaining funding from the Big Lottery for the redevelopment of the library. Laura will be based at the Neighbourhood Office in Church Street, contact details are shown below.

Laura will work with Atkins (the council's surveyors), library staff, the Neighbourhood Management team, local residents and stakeholder groups to insure the new library delivers services that meet the needs of the local Church Street Community.

For further details on the transformation of Church Street Library please contact
Laura Hannan, 020 7641 3270
lhannan@westminster.gov.uk

EVENTS

Horrid Henry Event

Join the fun (and mischief) with a Horrid Henry event on **Wednesday 28th January**. There'll be quizzes, games and after-school fun with a Horrid Henry theme, from **4-5pm**. All children are welcome, though the event will be best suited for those aged 5 to 12 years.

Hansel & Gretel

On **Thursday 29th January at 10.30am** the library will be hosting an interactive performance by English National Opera. The performance will include a storyteller, soprano singer and a cello player. All children age 0- 5 welcome.

Just for Dads

**Last Saturday of every month
11-12 noon**

Stories and activities for Dads or male carers and their children age 5 or younger. All parents welcome

Regular Events

Monthly Readers' Group **last Friday of every month 10.30am - 12 noon**

Bengali Women's reading and writing group - **10am - 12 noon Fridays**

Knitting group **Saturdays 10.30am - 12 noon**

Homework Club **Thursdays 4-5pm** (term time)

Under 5 sessions **Thursdays 10.30 am – 12 noon**