

East Midlands Branch Newsletter

From the Editor

Welcome to the September issue of your branch newsletter. This issue we look at some of the conferences and training our members have attended over the summer among other things.

The details of the latest branch event are also inside and I'd urge you to book your place early as it's one not to be missed!

Cheryl Brooker

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Umbrella 2009

The Umbrella conference this year was held at Hertfordshire University over two days in July. It was themed under the banner "Making Connections." The conference really was an excellent opportunity to make connections with a wide range of library and information professionals from all sectors and from all over the UK and beyond in attendance.

Charles M Brown the director of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Public Libraries in North Carolina opened the conference and gave an inspiring speech on the way in which he led Charlotte to be the top US public library service and clearly highlighted the importance of embracing change if there is any hope of becoming a successful forward thinking service. His quote "change should be as common as breakfast cereal" was certainly something that stuck with me personally after the conference had ended.

Sessions were spread between nine themed areas and delegates were spoiled for choice when deciding which to attend.

The first breakout session of the day was a joint session examining the work Susan

Tailby of Eastleigh College and Kirklees public library services were doing with ESOL and basic skills groups and the impact the 6 book challenge was having on their library users.

Later in the morning Paul Sturges provided a lively debate on the child's right to information in his thought provoking session "Why is poo brown?" despite its humorous title this session looked seriously at the human rights protecting the child's right to information and privacy and questioned what our role as librarian plays in this.

Other sessions attended included 'Learning from retail – the psychology of library design' presented by Rachel van Riel which was a very practical look at how all libraries can improve their merchandising and "The Living Library" which looked at Kent Libraries experiences of the living library project and showed the value of the project for both borrowers and the "living books."

Feedback from other participants was very positive

with a wealth of workshops suitable for all sectors.

The conference was closed by Andrew Motion, former Poet Laureate and now Chair of the MLA who after his closing plenary session went on to present the CILIP Libraries Change Lives Award which was won by Leeds library and information service for its project supporting the families of children with autism. This project along with the other nominated projects highlight the valuable impact that libraries can have on the communities they serve.

I would recommend this conference for anyone working in libraries regardless of sector as there was so much on offer for all library and information professionals. With a "first-timers" lunch and many fun social events it really had a welcoming atmosphere and was a valuable networking and learning experience - I hope to see some of you there in 2011!

Cheryl Brooker

Customer Service Librarian,
Melton Library

Cheryl.brooker@leics.gov.uk

Development Opportunities

We often moan about CILIP and its relevance to us as individuals. It is frequently said that the best way to get change is to be involved from the inside and affect the way an organisation works. This could be your chance to be such an agent for change.

East Midlands Branch Committee has vacancies for 2 Officers – one currently as Honorary Secretary and one from the end of September as Honorary Treasurer. These are interesting, enjoyable and rewarding opportunities to gain confidence as you develop new skills.

Would you like to enhance your communication and organisational skills; make new contacts across the East Midlands; find out what's happening nationally and help shape the agenda for CILIP in the region and nationally.

Neither role is an onerous commitment, you really just need to be able to access email regularly and to keep in contact with fellow Hon Officers and regional Branch colleagues.

As Secretary you'll be able to make sure that East Midlands' members know of forthcoming branch news, events and activities by producing a short

bulletin which is sent direct to members each month by CILIP.

You'll get a chance to use your organisational skills too in helping to arrange the Branch's Annual General Meeting, seeking nominations for new committee members and Officers and maintaining the records of Branch meetings.

As Treasurer you will be responsible for the spending of capitation received from CILIP nationally, for helping to map the future programme and ensuring that it can be afforded.

You will produce the annual accounts and complete returns as required by CILIP.

In both roles there's lots of support and guidance from East Midlands Branch colleagues and from CILIP's Membership Support Unit so you won't be on your own. Both previous officers in these roles will be able to talk you through the role.

So why not give it a go – we would love to hear from you. Contact me, Joan Bray, Chair of East Midlands Branch Committee if you are interested.

Joan Bray
joan.bray@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Branch Event: Visit Nottingham

See two very different libraries in one day

East Midlands Branch of CILIP has arranged 2 visits on 1st October 2009 in Nottingham to give people an opportunity to see a newly refurbished building and a private subscription library.

Bromley House is a Grade 2* listed building and houses the Nottingham Subscription Library which started in 1816. It has approximately 35,000 items in the collection.

Web site:
home.btconnect.com/BromleyHouseLib

The Meadows Library has just reopened after a £900,000 refit as part of the Big Lottery Fund Community Libraries programme. It has an ambitious community engagement plan. Members of the project team will be there to show off the building and describe the engagement plan.

Participants will visit Bromley House from 10.00; have lunch in Nottingham and arrive at the Meadows for 2.30. You will be able to do both or either visit.

There will be no charge for

the event; EMBOC is providing refreshments at each venue. There are plenty of eateries in Nottingham where you can get yourself some lunch as this will not be provided.

Bromley House is on Angel Row in the middle of Nottingham about 15 minutes walk from the train station and 10 minutes walk from the bus station. Parking is available in the Broadmarsh shopping centre.

Meadows Library is on about 1 ½ miles from the centre of Nottingham and there is an 11 bus route from the City Centre. It is

in walking distance from both the train and bus station. There is limited on street parking.

If you wish to come on both or either of these visits, you will find a form on the CILIP website under East Midlands Branch. It should be returned to Caroline Fraser by 25th September – Caroline's contact details are on the form.

Any queries by email to Joan Bray
joan.bray@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Teaching skills for library staff

At one time or another most of us have given talks or been asked to run training sessions. How can we develop our skills to enhance the experience for our learners? I went on the above course run by LIEM (Libraries in the East Midlands) in March and found it a valuable experience.

The aim of the course was "To enable participants to understand theories of teaching & learning and to map these on to their experience of teaching. To provide them with strategies to plan, deliver and evaluate their teaching experiences."

The day was held at the LCB Depot in Leicester, a new venue for most of us and near to the railway station and bus routes. This conversion of a bus depot into Leicester Creative Business Depot includes business units, conference rooms, display space and a cafe.

The course was run by Chris Powis (Northampton University) and Jo Webb (De Montfort University) who ran the sessions as a model of good practice in teaching. Although PowerPoint was used it wasn't overused. There was plenty of time for interaction with the other participants, small group work and activities. We were able to relate our own work to the methods being suggested by the trainers.

For me one of the most

important things I learnt was to think more about the people being "taught" and the optimum conditions of learning. We also need to have the confidence to be flexible and able to change the session according to the circumstances on the day *"In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable."* (General Dwight Eisenhower). The session on Assessment was of special interest as we continually have to justify the work we do.

As a solo librarian working with adults I found the day very useful and cost-effective. I went away with new ideas for teaching sessions and motivated to take on board the skills I had learnt.

Date(s) for 2010 will be announced in due course. See <http://liem.org.uk> for details.

Mary Bryceland, Librarian
Leicester City Multicultural & RE Centre
mary.bryceland@leicester.gov.uk

National Library for Health becomes NHS evidence

The National Library for Health (NLH) has been incorporated into a new information service targeted at NHS staff called NHS Evidence. Originally set up in 1998, the NLH had expanded over the years to encompass a range of specialist libraries focused on different clinical conditions, a wealth of electronic knowledge resources and significant information for library staff working in the health sector.

One of the recommendations of the recent review of the NHS led by Lord Darzi was that a new service, NHS Evidence, should be launched, with a focus on providing high quality clinical evidence to aid decision making for health and social care staff. The new service would be organised and run by the

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), previously better known for its testing and approval of new drugs and healthcare interventions.

NHS Evidence duly launched on 30th April this

year. It incorporates much of the content of the former NLH but has a new front-end with a simplified search mechanism for basic information searches. Content and functionality are scheduled to grow significantly over the next few months.

NHS Evidence is also launching an information accreditation scheme, which will accredit the providers of high quality information for healthcare staff. This will complement an accreditation scheme targeted at patient information which is being set up by the Department of health.

To have a look at the new NHS Evidence service go to:
www.evidence.nhs.uk

Richard Marriott
Education Infrastructure
Advisor
East Midlands Healthcare
Workforce Deanery

Other Events in the East Midlands

East Midlands Youth Library Group

Wednesday 14th October 2009 from 9.30 - 12.30 at Corby Business Academy.

After an introduction by Tricia Adams, Director of the School Library Association and past Chair of the National CKG Judges, there will be discussion about the Medals and Students in a

'shadowing' group from the Corby Business Academy will relate their experiences.

Cost: £6 per visitor (includes VAT)

RSVP / more information from:
Jean.Burbridge@leicester.gov.uk

at Corby Business Academy, Corby

CDG EM Welcome meeting

and social

Friday 16th October 15.30 - 17.25

At Coalville Library, High Street, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3EA

Please email Paul Tovel (paul.tovell@nottscc.gov.uk) if you are interested in attending. All CDG EM members welcome

Do you know about...Religious Education

Centres?

RE Centres are usually run by local authorities or church organisations to support the teaching of RE in their schools.

While all local authorities must have an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education not all of them have the support of a specialist RE Centre. In Leicester we are fortunate to have a dedicated RE Centre holding some 5,000 resources to support RE in schools. The most regular users are primary teachers who very often don't have training in RE. However, a growing number of teachers of RE at secondary level are humanities teachers who have been asked to take on the role without specialist knowledge of the subject. The centre also deals with enquiries from staff across the Children and Young People's Service who may, for example, want to find out about the faith of a child being fostered, or from staff in children's homes wanting to help the children and young people in their care to

celebrate festivals. Lecturers running childcare courses at Leicester College also borrow resources to support the teaching of diversity. The coupling of the RE Centre with a Multicultural Centre is a great advantage when looking at issues of cultural diversity and community cohesion.

Resources cover the major faiths found in Leicester and range from board books to books for teachers' professional development. DVDs, posters, journals and a large range of artefacts are also available. The centre is currently run by a chartered librarian but some are run by teachers or library assistants.

The umbrella organisation for RE Centres is FREC (The Federation of RE Centres) which provides a network of support, together with training/networking meetings twice a year. The summer conference this year was held over two days and was based at the Anglican RE Centre at Gloucester Cathedral and the diocesan retreat house



at Cheltenham. This year the meeting looked at different ways of enhancing the teaching of RE. A teacher based at the cathedral showed how it is used as a resource and outlined typical school visits. At Cheltenham there were presentations by Shahne Vickery (Gloucestershire diocese) on setting up and using quiet or sensory gardens in schools, and Margaret Cooling on the use of story bags, art & images in RE.

In addition to Local Authority RE Centres many Anglican and Catholic Dioceses run resource centres for their faith schools, churches and staff. Although predominantly Christian, resources on other faiths may be available. Staff are generally happy to answer questions and some make resources available to "outsiders" via subscription.

The Federation of RE Centres
www.recentres.org.uk

RE Centres in the East Midlands

Leicester City Multicultural & RE Centre
www.leicester.gov.uk/RE
 Leicestershire RE Centre is now part of Library Services for Education
www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/libraries/library_services/le
 Nottingham RS Centre
www.rsresources.org.uk
 (Anglican) Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham
www.southwell.anglican.org/education-reosources.html
 (Anglican) Church House Library, Derby
www.derby.anglican.org/learning/churchhouse_library.php

Mary Bryceland, Librarian
 Leicester City Multicultural & RE Centre
mary.bryceland@leicester.gov.uk

Note from the Ed:

We'd like to run a regular feature on special libraries in the EM to highlight the variety of library & information professionals that work throughout the region, if you are interested in being featured please get in touch as we'd love to hear from you.



Libraries to make a difference

Libraries have always been centre of learning, education and cultures regardless their type, size and collection. It is important to interact with users and make them realise that libraries are more than just books and fines for over dues. There is also good marketing opportunities arise when the users get more involved in library activities and when they acquaint themselves with the library resources. As a special

library at the Islamic Foundation, we have been running lecture series on literature, art and music in Muslim countries (See EMBOC Newsletter, Christmas 2007 p.3) and publishing Library e-newsletter with students. Both have been very rewarding in terms of getting external members, promoting the library outside the organisation and also for reader development. The third project to reach out is underway and will be launched in November 2009 to make the whole collection accessible and available; which is called "Happy Collection Project".

The lunch hour lectures have been organised for three years and proven very successful as local residents and students have been coming regularly and asking for more events to be organised. The themes for the lectures have been diverse as we had workshops on Music and

women in Bosnia, Exploring local heritage, Muslim heritage and 1001 inventions, Calligraphy, Illumination art and very recently Interfaith. People in Markfield village are more familiar with the library and its collection now more than ever before.

In the last event, we discussed about interfaith and what it means to people personally. Mary Barber from St. Philip's Christian-Muslim women dialogue group in Leicester and Sughra Ahmad, Research Fellow at the Islamic Foundation were invited to talk about their experiences and how they see interfaith. The talks were very elucidating and illustrated the importance of interfaith in communities. Both speakers talked on a personal level and how they are involved in dialogue and what difference it makes to their life and others'. During question and answer

session, everybody wanted to comment or ask a question to learn more about local activities on interfaith and dialogue.

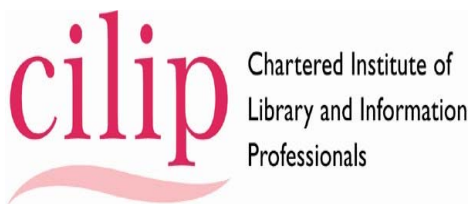
On hearing there are regular meetings and different interfaith groups in Leicester, one of the attendees suggested that we should have a group locally in Markfield and meet in the Library. The idea has been very spontaneous but showed that the library can be a centre of any kind of learning or education activities in communities. I am pleased that the local residents would like to use the special library in the village more in one way or another. This proves that the libraries do not consist of books only and can offer more to make a difference, and it was good to see this happening in my library.

Humeyra Ceylan Izhar
 Librarian
 The Islamic Foundation
 Library
 Markfield

Contact Us

We welcome contributions whether it's articles, events, book reviews or letters. If you have anything you would like to include in the next issue please forward to the editor by 13th November 2009. Feedback on the newsletter and suggestions for content also welcomed. Contact details for the editor are below

Email:
cheryl.brooker@leics.gov.uk



Find us online:
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/branches/byregion/eastmidlands/>
 Information about the branch and committee are available here as well as our monthly new bulletin and quarterly newsletter