
To: Sport, Leisure and Culture Policy Board

On: 15 January 2015

Report by: Director of Education and Leisure Services

Heading: Book Week Scotland 2014

1. Summary

- 1.1. Book Week Scotland was instigated in 2012. It is a national event sponsored by Scottish Book Trust. It aims to bring Scots of all ages and from all walks of life together to celebrate the pleasures of books and reading. Particular emphasis is placed on promoting access to literature to those who would not normally be engaged.
 - 1.2. This report highlights activities which took place within Renfrewshire Libraries during Scottish Book Week, 24 to 30 November 2014.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Sport, Leisure and Culture Policy Board note the contents of the report.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Book Week Scotland took place between 24 and 30 November 2014. People of all ages came together in libraries, schools, community venues and workplaces across Scotland to share and enjoy books and reading. They were joined in this celebration by Scotland's authors, poets, playwrights, storytellers and illustrators to bring a packed programme of free projects and events to life. Scottish Book Trust contributed funding of up to £750 to be spent in each local authority.

- 3.2. Renfrewshire Libraries hosted an adult author event which was part of a “mini tour” in collaboration with five other local authorities. BAFTA and EMMY Award winning wildlife cameraman Doug Allan shared his favourite photographs from his book “Freeze Frame” and discussed his experiences as lead cameraman on series such as “The Blue Planet” and “Operation Iceberg”. All tickets were allocated for this successful event.
- 3.3. A further £250 per authority was offered to enable libraries to work in partnership delivery with a local community organisation. Renfrewshire Libraries invited the ‘Threadmill Museum’ to work with them in organising “Remember the Mills?” an event which invited the local community to come along and share their memories of the Paisley thread mills. This event takes its inspiration from Evelyn Hood’s “Mill memories” a collection of oral history of former mill workers from 2003.
- 3.4. Two children’s author events were organised. Alex McCall visited Johnstone Library for an interactive talk about his debut book “Attack of the Giant Robot Chickens” which is shortlisted for the 8-11 category of the Scottish Children’s Book Awards. This was a fun session with the children asking lots of questions and helping Alex create a new story. The library’s very own book group are currently reading Alex’s book and it was really exciting for them to meet the author in person. Children’s author and screen writer Barry Hutchison visited Ferguslie Park Library to speak to older children and teenagers including members of the library’s ‘Project Z’ group who have produced their own graphic novels. Barry is the author of the popular “Invisible Fiends” series and “The Book of Doom”. He created a collaborative story with the group in a very inspiring and enjoyable session.
- 3.5. Free materials for author visits were available for library customers, courtesy of Scottish Book Trust. Adult materials included “Scotland’s Stories of Home” a free book for all to share, celebrating the things that form the foundations of our homes, our families, our friends and our memories. Included were stories and poems from the Scottish public with pieces from some of Scotland’s best loved personalities. Scottish authors as well as members of the public were encouraged to write a love letter to their local library. Author Shari Low chose Renfrew library.
- 3.6. During Book Week 2014, 1,882 Bookbug Primary 1 family packs were gifted to every Primary 1 pupil in Renfrewshire. The Bookbug pack gifting programme from Scottish Book Trust involves packs given to every child at 4 stages: between 0-12 months, 1-2 years, age 3, and finally the Primary 1 pack at age 5. The packs encourage families to share books with their children at home. Children received their Primary 1 packs at special gifting events in libraries and in schools. The packs contain 3 picture books by Scottish authors “Princess Penelope and the Runaway Kitten” by Alison Murray, “Robot Rumpus” by Sean Taylor and Ross Collins, and “Lost for Words” by Natalie Russell. These books are shortlisted in the Early Years category of the Scottish Children’s Book Awards and children will vote for their favourite book in schools and libraries. The winner will be announced in February 2015. The packs also contain an activity book and a book about road safety “Ziggy and Maggie Start School”. Children also took part in treasure hunts in libraries to find the book characters and received a Book Week Scotland sticker.

- 3.7. Library staff also visited schools to provide storytimes and encourage children to join the library and receive their brand new 'Skoobs' (Renfrewshire Libraries cartoon characters) passport and library card as well as promotional gifts.
- 3.8. Bookbug sessions were held in every library in Renfrewshire to celebrate Book Week – a total of 15 sessions. These interactive sessions promoting stories, song, rhyme and movement are led by library staff and volunteers and are for children ages 0-4 and their parents and carers.
- 3.9. Activities developed by School Librarians during Book Week Scotland included lunchtime screenings of "Authors Live" videos and promotion of the Scottish Children's Book Awards.
- 3.10. Book Week Scotland was a successful initiative in Renfrewshire for all ages. Overall attendance at author events increased by 12% compared to 2013 figures. Around 20% of those attending adult author events were not library members, 30% of all adult attendees had never attended a book event before.

Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

None.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

None.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Children and Young People

- Young people encouraged to access reading resources and to participate in literary events.

Empowering our Communities

- Facilitating and supporting access and participation in reading for adults. Increasing confidence through engagement in a creative learning experience.

4. Legal Implications

None.

5. Property/Assets Implications

None.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. Health and Safety Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

None.

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers

none

Education and Leisure Services

JMcF/JL/JMcK/LG

1 December 2014

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