

North Tyneside
Community Hubs and
Libraries

Events

SPRING – SUMMER 2025



North
Tyneside
Council



northtynelibraries



North Tyneside Libraries

www.northtyneside.gov.uk

Our Community Hubs and Libraries have a packed programme of events and activities for all ages and interests!

Booking essential for all events, except Summer parties. View our full list of events and book tickets at:
www.bookwhen.com/ntclibraries

To receive regular updates about future library events, email 'sign up' to library.events@northtyneside.gov.uk

John Willie Sams Centre, Dudley
Community Hub and Library –
0191 643 2030
North Shields Community Hub and
Library – 0191 643 5270
Oxford Centre, Longbenton
Community Hub and Library –
0191 643 2750
Wallsend Community Hub and
Library – 0191 643 2075
White Swan Centre, Killingworth
Community Hub and Library –
0191 643 2040
Whitley Bay Community Hub and
Library – 0191 643 5390



APRIL

Mari Hannah in conversation with Vic Watson

Thursday 3 April, 7pm

Whitley Bay Community Hub and Library

Multi-award winning, bestselling author/screenwriter Mari Hannah is the creator of the Kate Daniels thrillers, the Ryan and O'Neil series, and the Stone and Oliver series. Mari and Vic will be discussing Mari's latest gripping thriller, 'Her Sister's Killer'. £3 per person.

Winston Tails with Barry Stone

Thursday 10 April, 2pm

Whitley Bay Community Hub and Library

Join us to celebrate National Pet Month with author and dog lover Barry Stone. Barry will be entertaining us with stories from his series of books 'Winston Tails'.

Easter egg hunt, meet the chicks and crafts

Monday 14 April, 2pm

John Willie Sams Centre

Hop on over for an egg-citing Easter egg hunt! Join us for some egg hunting fun, get creative with Easter crafts, and meet our adorable Easter chicks.

Suitable for ages 4+. £2 per child.

Classical ballet workshop

Monday 14 April,

1.30pm

Oxford Centre

Fancy trying ballet in a less formal setting? Led by one of the dancers from the Black British Ballet project, this fun and accessible ballet workshop introduces you to the basic ballet movements and will be followed by a short Q&A with the session leader. Suitable for ages 7+.



Stop motion

Tuesday 15 April, 2.30-4pm

Forest Hall Library

Use LEGO bricks and mini figures to create a stop-motion mini movie, frame by frame. Suitable for ages 8-14.

History Wardrobe – Unravelled –

The story of Four Red Sweaters

Tuesday 15 April, 7pm

Whitley Bay Community Hub and Library

Powerful true stories of love, survival and resilience in the Holocaust, from a Kindertransport refugee to a daring armed revolt; all centring on knitting skills and humble woollens. From the bestselling author of *The Dressmakers of Auschwitz*. Suitable for ages 12+. £5 per person.



Crafting with Kindness – Bird seed feeders

Tuesday 22 April, 2pm

**Wallsend Community Hub and
Library**

Join VODA's North Tyneside Volunteer Centre and take part in an act of kindness supporting the Songbird Survival charity. There are more than 100 types of songbirds in the UK. Their numbers are going down as the world around them changes, but there are things we can all do to help. Find out more about how we can protect songbirds at this family volunteering activity. Make and take home a bird seed feeder made from recycled materials, your Ruby Robin Award certificate, and a mini crafting kit. Suitable for ages 6+ accompanied by a parent/guardian.



Black British Ballet dance workshop

Tuesday 29 April, 6pm

White Swan Centre

A dance session that mixes ballet with contemporary, African and Caribbean dance. Aimed at everyone from beginners to more experienced dancers, this fun and engaging workshop will be led by a professional dancer from the Black British Ballet project. Suitable for ages 18+.



MAY

Mandarin taster four-week programme

2, 9, 16, and 23 May, 10am

Wallsend Community Hub and Library

Mandarin taster workshops, offered by the Confucius Institute at Newcastle University. The course will take an easy and relaxing start, covering basic information about the language and topics like greetings and self-introduction. Suitable for ages 16+.

North Shields 800 Local History Day 2025

Saturday 10 May,

10am–3pm

**North Shields Community Hub
and Library**

This is a very special year for us as we have so much to celebrate! We launched our first Local History Day 10 years ago and this year, we're celebrating 50 years since the official opening of North Shields Library. It is North Shields' 800th anniversary and we'll be rolling out a programme of talks and events throughout the year. On Local History Day 2025, we'll be joined by authors, historians, speakers, local history groups, and community organisations.



Relaxation and mindfulness session – Mental Health Awareness Week

Friday 16 May, 11.30am

John Willie Sams Centre

Susan Johnson is a qualified Yoga Teacher who teaches Relaxation and Meditation. If you have problems sleeping and experience restless nights or need to calm down, Susan can show you how to relax with simple breathing techniques. The talk and demonstration will take you on a journey to relaxation that you can use at home.



Alison Stanley

Monday 19 May, 2pm

White Swan Centre

Playwright, actor, theatre maker, Director of Participation at Laurels Fringe Theatre, Alison Stanley will be discussing two of her projects: Hard and Life of Riley.



‘The Orphan with No Name’ local author talk by Shirley Dickson

Friday 23 May, 2pm

Whitley Bay Community Hub and Library

Come along and meet Shirley Dickson who will give a talk about her journey to become a ‘USA Today and Wall Street Journal Best Seller’, and how she creates characters and develops her stories. The talk will be followed by a book signing of Shirley’s latest novel, ‘The Orphan with No Name’; a WW2 historical following the emotional story of Rosie, a 10-year-old who has lost her memory, and her quest to find family.

Sweep nets/bug bots and bug hotel crafting

Tuesday 27 May, 10.30am–12pm

Howdon Library

Get hands-on with nature. Create your own bug hotels before heading outdoors with bug pots and sweep nets to discover fascinating invertebrates up close. A fun and educational adventure for little explorers! Please bring appropriate outdoor clothing/footwear. Suitable for ages 5+.



Coding for kids

Wednesday 28 May, 10–11.30am

Wallsend Community Hub and Library

Dive into a world of tech and creativity with an exciting morning of coding with Ozobots, Spheros, Makey Makey, and Micro:bits. Bring your ideas to life in this interactive session, perfect for budding inventors. Suitable for ages 6+.



Please don't be scared of writing

**Thursday 29 May,
10.30am**

Whitley Bay Community Hub and Library

A fun writing workshop for children, led by writer and performer Rob Walton. Rob will read a very short story (or two) from his new book and encourage the children to have a go at writing a tiny tale of their own – with lots of support! Suitable for ages 7+.

**An afternoon with authors
Danielle Ramsey,
Helen Aitchison and Robert
Rutherford**

Saturday 31 May, 2pm

**Whitley Bay Community Hub and
Library**

We are delighted to be hosting storytellers, Danielle Ramsey, Helen Aitchison and Robert Rutherford who will be discussing their latest books. £3 per person.

JUNE

**Elaine Cusack:
Forty years and counting**

Thursday 5 June, 7pm

**Whitley Bay Community Hub
and Library**

Elaine Cusack wrote her first poem in April 1985 and has been scribbling, performing and publishing her work since then. Currently studying for an MA in Writing Poetry at Newcastle University, Elaine reckons she's producing her best work. Why not join us and judge for yourself? £3 per person.



**Murder mystery night –
Murder Of A Millionaire**

Tuesday 10 June, 7pm

**North Shields Community Hub
and Library**

Grab your friends, sharpen your wits, and get ready to crack the case at 'Murder of a Millionaire', brought to you by Infusion North East. This event is perfect for mystery lovers and anyone looking for a unique night out. Become a detective for the night and put your sleuthing skills to the test as you uncover clues, interrogate suspects, and solve the mystery! Suitable for ages 14+. £5 per person, includes a glass of wine (18+) or juice. Feel free to bring along your own tippie too.



**Human Libraries
Community Day**

Monday 16 June, 10.30am–12.30pm

Wallsend Community Hub and Library

A human library is a library of people, a space where individuals who might never speak to each other can find common ground for thought-provoking conversations. Drop in and listen to personal stories, ask questions and connect with your community. Alongside the discussion, try some delicious food samples and discover new flavours. Suitable for ages 12+.

Owl pellets and nature walk

Tuesday 17 June, 10am – 12pm
North Shields Community Hub and Library

Unravel the mysteries of owl diets by dissecting pellets, then take a guided walk to the harbour, exploring the hidden wildlife thriving in urban spaces. A unique experience for nature enthusiasts! Please bring appropriate outdoor clothing/footwear. Suitable for adults.



Nature journaling workshop

Thursday 26 June, 10am–2pm
North Shields Community Hub and Library

Artist Steve Pardue will lead a workshop on how to mindfully observe and record the natural world in a journal. Steve will show that you don't need to travel far to experience nature, focusing on the nature right on the doorstep of North Shields Library! Drawing and journaling is great for mental health and mindfulness – and you don't need to be an expert, anyone can draw. All materials will be provided. Suitable for adults. £3 per person.

Chinese Cultural workshops

Monday 2 June – Monday 7 July, 10am

Oxford Centre

- 2 June: Chinese Woven Bracelet
- 9 June: Chinese Painting
- 16 June: Calligraphy
- 23 June: Paper Cutting Art
- 30 June: Classical Chinese Poetry
- 7 July: Tai Chi

All events suitable for ages 16+.



JULY

Rails around Tynemouth and North Shields

Wednesday 2 July, 2pm
Monkseaton Library

This talk explores the development of the railways in the Tynemouth and North Shields area, from the first horse-drawn waggonways through to the Metro station of today. Particular attention is paid to the history of the five stations in and around the village since the opening of the very first terminus in 1847 and what is still visible today. The talk is supported by maps, plans and photographs – many of which have never been shown before! Suitable for ages 12+.

Harry Gallagher and Miggins Fiddle

Friday 11 July, 7pm

North Shields Community Hub and Library

Celebrating 800 years of North Shields. Join us for an evening of wonderful poetry and delightful music with poet Harry Gallagher and musicians Miggins Fiddle. £3 per person.

An evening with writers Nicky Doherty, Julie Blackie and William Prince

Tuesday 29 July, 7pm

Wallsend Community Hub and Library

Nicky and Julie, who write together as Nicky Black, will be talking alongside William about their writing processes and will share their latest books with us. £3 per person.

Summer parties

Saturday 12 July – Oxford Centre –

10.30am–12.30pm

Thursday 24 July – John Willie Sams Centre

– 11am–2pm

Saturday 2 August – White Swan Centre –

10.30am–12.30pm

Summer parties promise fun for the whole family. Get ready for dancing, magic shows, balloon modelling and face painting. And at John Willie Sams Centre, thrilling rides will have you spinning!



Summer Reading Challenge – Story Garden: Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors

Starts 12 July

The 2025 Summer Reading Challenge celebrates adventure, fantasy and storytelling through nature and the great outdoors. We'll be inspiring children to tap into a world of imagination through reading. Story Garden will be brought to life through wonderful artwork from award-winning illustrator, Dapo Adeola. Taking place across our libraries. Suitable for ages 3+.

THE READING AGENCY Summer Reading Challenge

Story Garden
Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors



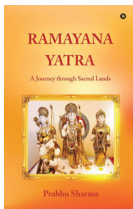
AUGUST

Glenda Young

**Saturday 2 August, 11am
Wallsend Community Hub
and Library**



We are delighted to welcome Glenda Young for her first talk in North Tyneside Libraries. Glenda will be talking about her Historical Sagas, Cosy Crimes... and Coronation Street! £3 per person.



Ramayana Yatra with Prabhu Sharma

**Thursday 7 August,
10.30am
North Shields Community
Hub and Library**

Join us on a journey through sacred lands; listen to author Prabhu Sharma talking about travel with passion and knowledge.



North Tyneside Writers' Circle

**Thursday 21 August, 7pm
North Shields Community Hub
and Library**

Join us for an evening celebrating, in poetry and prose, North Shields' 800th anniversary with the North Tyneside Writers' Circle. £3 per person.

SEPTEMBER

Teddy Bear Day

**Tuesday 9 September, 10.30am - 12pm
Howdon library**

Join us for a beary special celebration on Teddy Bear Day. Bring your favourite teddy and snacks for a magical Teddy Bears' Picnic, filled with delightful storytelling and an exciting teddy bear hunt. A day of fun with your cuddly friend awaits! Suitable for ages 18 months+.

History Wardrobe - Halfway to Hollywood

**Tuesday 30 September, 7pm
Wallsend Community Hub and
Library**

Explore sensational styles from the golden age of cinema! How ordinary women recreated the glamour of the silver screen, plus the stars who inspired them. Suitable for ages 12+. £8.50 per person.



North Shields 800 events

Hunting for Mines with Alan Fidler

Monday 28 April, 2.30pm

North Shields Community Hub and Library

Alan Fidler, who led the award-winning Northumbria World War One Commemoration Project, will talk about how the country responded to the new threat to shipping posed by submarine mines, including stories of local men and local vessels.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission talk by Michael Dale

Saturday 10 May, 11am

North Shields Community Hub and Library

This talk looks at the history of the commission, who is commemorated, and tells the stories of some of the men and women who are buried locally.

Maritime Shields with John Sturmey

Saturday 10 May, 1pm

North Shields Community Hub and Library

Former tugboat worker

John Sturmey's art harks back to when Tyneside-made tugs were the workhorses of ports across the country.

Wellbeing Heritage Walk – North Shields and Northumberland Park

Tuesday 20 May, 10.30am

(for up to two hours)

North Shields Community Hub and Library

Meet at North Shields Community Hub and Library. We will head along to Northumberland Park for a stroll around the park and listen to historical information along the way.



Wellbeing Heritage Walk around Tynemouth with guide Pat Stevens

**Wednesday 21 May, 11.30am
(for approximately 45 minutes)**

Meet outside Holy Saviours Church for a stroll around Tynemouth, Blue Plaque spotting with guide Pat Stephens.

The Pow Burn talk by Mike Coates

**Thursday 19 June, 2.30pm
North Shields Community Hub
and Library**

Join us to find out more about The Pow Burn, once an important tributary of the River Tyne; it's part in the origin of the town, Blyth and Tyne Railway, St. Leonard's Hospital and Northumberland Park.

The Rise and Fall of the Great British Pub

Monday 7 July, 3pm

North Shields Community Hub and Library

Inns, taverns and public houses have been a great British institution for hundreds of years. This presentation by Charlie Steel reflects on the 'good old days' and covers pub names, beer and ale, plus the temperance movement, landlords, licensing and pub companies. Suitable for ages 14+.

The Wooden Dollies of North Shields talk by Peter Dixon

Tuesday 9 September, 2.30pm

North Shields Community Hub and Library

The Wooden Dolly has become a symbol of North Shields, known throughout the world. Join us to find out more about the wooden statues known as dollies that have been a feature in North Shields since 1815.



Dog's Trust workshops

Free dog safety workshops aimed at children and families, led by teaching professionals.



- Tuesday 22 April, 10.30am, John Willie Sams Centre
- Tuesday 22 April, 2pm, Forest Hall Library
- Tuesday 29 July, 10.30am, White Swan Centre
- Tuesday 29 July, 2.30pm, Howdon Library
- Tuesday 12 August, 10.30am, North Shields Community Hub and Library
- Tuesday 12 August, 2.30pm, Wideopen Library



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