HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It has now been ten years since we embarked on our campaign to save our local library, and we have come a long way since then. It has been a difficult and challenging year for all of us. We have been working hard to reorganise the layout of the library and set up screens and other precautions for our volunteers so that it is secure for when it is safe to reopen our doors and welcome the public back in again. In the meantime, we are organising some online events and activities [see below]. Email prestoncommunitylibrary@gmail.com for a link to join in.

We hope that you have enjoyed seeing the art -works in our sunken garden, as well as our tree - the first festive lights and Christmas Tree in Preston Road for 10 years! We wish a happy and safe New Year to all our members and supporters.

FORTHCOMING ONLINE EVENTS

January 23 : 2.30pm - Our Children’s Laureate, Saman Shamsie, joins us from Karachi in a story-telling from her delightful illustrated books. For ages 4-7
February 6 : 2.30pm - We welcome the award-winning author Adam Baron with a launch of his new book This Wonderful Thing - a firm favourite with Waterstones. We may even learn something about 'Sourdough making for Kids'! For children aged 6-9.
February 13 : 2.30pm - Saman Shamsie kindly returns for the UK launch of her new book for older children, Where Rivers Meet - an exciting holiday adventure. Four young friends meet Blind Talking Dolphins, Evil Snakefish and are drawn through Magic Portals to take part in a nail-biting underwater battle and much more! Will anyone believe them? Can they save the Rivers from ecological disaster? For ages 6-9

January 28 : 2.30pm - A Jewish Childhood in Brent. A fascinating illustrated talk by former resident Louise Dryden: we will hear about her family history and her experiences growing up as a Jewish child in Brent. This is a talk that comes highly recommended!

February 18 : 2.30pm - Book Launch for Martha Leigh’s Invisible Ink. From her large family archive, Martha has unearthed almost incredible facts about her parents - extraordinary people living in extraordinary times. Her father Ralph, a poor Jew from the East End, became the world-expert on Jean-Jacques Rousseau; her mother, Edith, also Jewish from Central Europe, a gifted pianist. She escaped the Nazis: he nursed a secret he took to the grave. In uncovering their stories, the author takes a journey towards understanding herself.

For school-age children at home – check-out BBC Bitesize lessons via the red button on your TV www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvryp4j

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When Brent won the title of London Borough of Culture 2020, each of the Libraries was asked to come up with an idea for an artwork to reflect the diversity of culture in the Borough. Supported by the overwhelming results of a survey of members and residents, Preston Community Library gave the go-ahead for a sculpture of a gender-neutral figure, engrossed in a book, crossing the Green near the library. The artist chosen was Carl Gabriel, an internationally recognised artist working primarily in wire-formed sculptures. His interpretation of the commission was installed in the sunken garden of the library on September 15, 2020. It will remain in place until at least the end of January 2021 when we hope it will be relocated onto the Green. Carl was amazingly generous with his time and, in addition to the commissioned Inspiration, lent the library two of his wonderful Carnival sculptures, which have brightened up the garden during these dark times. Carl also opened his archive to us and there will be an exhibition of his photographs later in the year—watch this space! 

Kayla

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PCL's English Study Group

'ESOL' sessions have not stopped during the closure of the Library. We have been open 24/7 using our Facebook Group. – link here: Eflclassroom | FacebookGroup, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EflClassroom>. We post activities which members can try out in their own time, with some students sending us screen-shots of their work and scores for activities. We use Messenger to chat to each other. We also use Skype - or we post a Zoom link in our Group for our sessions together. We have created 51 Study Units to support all the levels of our members. PLEASE REQUEST TO JOIN US at Eflclassroom Group | Facebook. We look forward to seeing you Virtually! 

Our mail: libraryhub68@gmail.com

Suzanne

We need volunteers to keep the library open. If you can help, email us on prestoncommunitylibrary@gmail.com