

“The Word...”

Portsmouth Library Service

Newsletter

September 2009

25 years of the Lily Lambert McCarthy Collection



In 1984 the library service in Portsmouth received one of its most munificent gifts. The donor was Mrs Lily Lambert McCarthy (pictured), a wealthy American from an Anglophile family, who, since her childhood, had been an enthusiastic admirer of Admiral Lord Nelson, prompted by her father's acquisition of the portrait of Nelson by Füger and Southey's life of the admiral.

During the Second World War she was actively involved in supporting the British war effort through the British War Relief Society, for which she ran an office in Princeton, New Jersey. She was also active in helping men stationed at H.M.S. Asbury, a British

base on the coast of New Jersey for men whose ships were under repair in the United States. These things developed in her such a keen interest in Nelson and the history of the Royal Navy that she started to buy rare books relating to Nelson and his period of British naval history, as well as related paintings and artefacts, including Nelson >

...memorabilia.

In 1972 Mrs McCarthy gave her artefacts and her paintings (including the one that first inspired her) to the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth, where her gallery can still be seen. In 1984, having seen the fine Naval Collection at Portsmouth Central Library, she decided to place her collection of 1,000 volumes here and paid for an attractive glass case to house the rarer items. She also sponsored the first few annual *Nelson Birthday Lectures*, a set of four lectures on naval history given on or close to Nelson's birthday, 29th September, which ran each year until 1998.

The core of Mrs. McCarthy's collection relates to Nelson. There are copies of numerous biographies of the admiral, some published as early as 1806, not long after his death. Most spectacular is Orme's *Graphic History of the Life of Horatio Nelson* with its full colour plates. Robert Southey's biography is also there in several editions. There are accounts of battles, like the one of The Nile by Sir Edward Berry, one of Nelson's 'Band of Brothers' (1798). Several small volumes contain sermons given on the general thanksgiving day for the victory at Trafalgar, 5th December 1805. Books about Emma Hamilton, Nelson's famous mistress, are plentiful. Some of the papers of the late Oliver Warner, naval historian, are also part of the collection.

The Lily Lambert McCarthy Collection is in the Historical Collections area on the Second Floor of Central Library. It is part of the most important naval history collection in a public library in Great Britain. Please bring your Portsmouth library card or proof of name and address if you would like to read any of the items in the collection.

Free computer classes at Central Library

Central Library will be offering **free computer classes** in partnership with Highbury College over the next six months. These classes offer an introduction to using computers and also more specific help on particular functions and software such as spreadsheets, with help from experienced tutors. Details of the classes running up to the end of November are listed over the page. Details of further classes (running until March 2010) will be listed in 'The Word' closer to the time.

Classes can be booked at any library branch but will be held in the Central Library. For more information contact Patricia Garrett on 023 92688054

Wed 14th October 2-5pm - **Computing for beginners**
Wed 21st October 2-5pm - **Introduction to eBay**

Wed 4th November 2-5pm - **Create a CV**
Wed 11th November 2-5pm - **Getting to know the keyboard**
Sat 14th November 9.30-12.30pm - **Family fun with PCs**
Wed 18th November 2-5pm - **Understanding your digital camera**
Wed 25th November 2-5pm - **Enhancing your digital photographs**

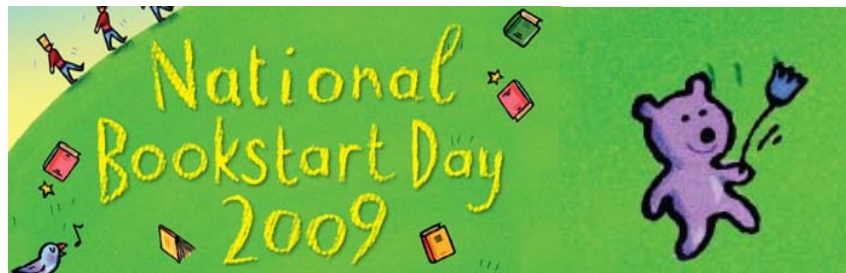
Summer Reading Challenge - the winners' event!



All children completing the **Quest Seekers Challenge** - having read six books - will each receive an invitation to come along to **Southsea Castle on Saturday 26th September** where they can collect their medal and certificate and take

part in competitions and craft activities. This is an ideal fun day out for the whole family. Please check the Challenge invitation for details of the times to attend or call 023 92688062.

National Bookstart Day - our favourite nursery rhymes



Come along to the Central Library for this very popular annual event for under 5s, parents and carers on **Friday 9th October**. This year the event is a **celebration of nursery rhymes**. Look out for posters and flyers with details from September in your nearest library branch or call 023 92688049.

'Bounce and Rhyme!' sessions

'Storytime!' sessions

- Alderman Lacey Library, Tangier Road

Monthly Wednesdays
10am - 12 noon

Every Friday 10.00 - 10.30am

- Beddow Library, Milton Road

Fortnightly Fridays
2.00 - 2.30pm

Every Friday 10.00 - 10.30am

- Carnegie Library, Fratton Road

Fortnightly Mondays
10.30 - 11am

Every Wednesday 11.00 - 11.30am

- Central Library, Guildhall Square

Every Wednesday
10.00 - 10.30am

Every Tuesday 11.00 - 11.30am

- Cosham Library, Spur Road

Fortnightly Tuesdays
11.00 - 11.30am and 2.15 - 2.45pm

Every Monday 2.15 - 2.45pm

- Elm Grove Library, Elm Grove

Fortnightly Thursdays
10.00 - 10.30am

Every Monday 2.00 - 2.30pm

- North End Library, Gladys Avenue

Fortnightly Mondays
11.15 - 11.45am (12 months+)
2.00 - 2.30pm Babies (4-12 months)

Every Tuesday 2.15 - 2.45pm

- Paulsgrove Library, Marsden Road

Alternate Mondays
2.00 - 2.30pm

Alternate Mondays
2.15 - 2.45pm

- Portsea Library, John Pounds Community Centre

Sorry, no sessions

Every Thursday 2.15 - 2.45pm

Please note: You can get this Portsmouth City Council information in large print, Braille, audio or another language by calling: **023 9281 9311**