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Press Release

WINNERS OF THE NAG PUBLIC LIBRARY PROJECT OF THE YEAR GRANT 2021

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NAG Public Library Project of the Year Grant 2021

Two Public Libraries have been chosen to benefit this year from the NAG Public Library Project Grant thanks to doubling the funds available. The winners for 2021 are Wandsworth Libraries with their “Roehampton Kaleidoscope” and Derbyshire Libraries with “Read, Play, Puzzle” and each will receive £5,000 from the National Acquisitions Group.

Both projects impressed the NAG Executive Committee with their value for money, sustainability and innovation in very different ways.

The “Roehampton Kaleidoscope” project focuses on Urdu speaking women in the locality of the library and providing tuition via workshops firstly around English conversation but then moving on to mental well-being, digital literacy and job skills with a community celebration event to finish.



In Derbyshire “Read, Play, Puzzle” will build on the explosive growth in gaming, jigsaws and reading over the last year and offer group participation to combat social isolation. The funds will enable the purchase of a selection of books with related games and puzzles to encourage active participation in literature and create opportunities to engage with books in different ways.

Our Chair, Alison Millar explains the motivation behind providing this fund:

“As Chair I am keen that NAG gives opportunities for public libraries to learn from each other and because of that I am so pleased that NAG are offering this award. While we welcome innovative new projects we are also excited to fund the “what if?” type of project. Have you had something that you have wanted to give a go for a while? Do you have a problem that you would like to try out solutions

for? Then this NAG grant is for you. If you are awarded the fund all we need afterwards is for you to share your experiences with other library colleagues.”

Both projects will be presented at NAG events in 2022 which will enable other NAG Member libraries to use their ideas within their own library services.

Notes to editors:

About this Grant:

The NAG Public Library Project of the Year Grant was designed to enable public libraries to take forward an innovative project, which may have already had a pilot phase, and develop it further. All applicants must be NAG Members. Normally, the grant offers one £5,000 award however for 2021 this fund was doubled.

The previous winner was Vision Redbridge Culture & Leisure (2019) and the Grant was not awarded in 2020.

For further information contact:

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About NAG:

NAG is a voice for everyone from all sectors associated with library and information resources, Chief Officers, librarians, publishers and service suppliers – providing leadership and a source of shared expertise for its membership in the public, academic and private sectors.

NAG produces industry standards and impartial good practice guidelines relating to its core purpose. It offers opportunities for education and training, knowledge sharing and networking through its series of regional seminars and workshops.

About our winners:

Wandsworth Libraries consists of 11 branch libraries, Local history and Archives and a Home Delivery Service, which are all managed on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Council by the charitable social enterprise GLL, the country's largest public libraries provider. GLL works closely with Wandsworth Council to ensure that Wandsworth libraries provide services focussed on the needs of the local community.

Roehampton Library is a popular neighbourhood branch which has an excellent reputation for user and community engagement among the local population and has become a cultural hub for the area. Please contact janice.fernandes@gll.org for more information about their project.

Derbyshire Library Service is a local authority managed service in the East Midlands of England . Bounded by Yorkshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire is a large county with an estimated population of 802,700 people. The library service maintains 45 static

libraries and two mobile libraries providing a core service with three distinct elements; 1. directly accessible services through static libraries, 2. digital access to services including eServices and online resources and 3. outreach through a well-developed Home Library Service, Bookstart and Mobile Library Service. We aim to provide a sustainable, customer and community focussed service through our vision to "provide people focused services at the heart of local communities, enabling access to books and reading, information, digital skills, technology, cultural and lifelong learning opportunities for all". Please contact Ruth Sharpe on Ruth.Sharpe@derbyshire.gov.uk for more information about the project.