

Our Camden Libraries



Keeping you informed on what's happening in our libraries.

February 2021 - Please wear a face covering, sanitize your hands and keep 2 metres distant from others when visiting Camden Libraries

Current Library Offer

Are you missing having library books to read? We have three ways for you access our books

Request and Read - pick up books from Swiss Cottage, Highgate, Kentish Town and West Hampstead libraries. Order your books online or by phone (inc. children's books) and collect them from the library. To order online visit

www.camden.gov.uk/request-and-read or call 020 7974 6987 Monday to Saturday, between 10am and 3.45pm.



Home Library Service is available for housebound customers, including if temporarily. Find out how to register [here](#) or email homelibraryservice@camden.gov.uk

We have e-books, magazines and newspapers that are available to download from our [Digital Library](#).

You can also access **Computers** at Pancras Square, Queens Crescent, Kilburn, Holborn, West Hampstead and Kentish Town libraries. A limited printing and photocopying self service is available. You do not need to book but the libraries will operate a limited capacity to maintain safe social distancing. This means occasionally you may need to queue.

All libraries are open from Monday to Saturday between 11am and 3.30pm.

Your feedback on our service

Thank you to everyone who filled in our online survey last summer about the services we offered during COVID. We had nearly 2,000 responses!

There was wide spread recognition of the role that libraries play in bringing people together and how they can help rebuild communities.

Our key findings were:

- Two-thirds of you told us access to books helped with wellbeing and loneliness during lockdown.
- Half of our Home Library Service users said it made them feel more connected to their community.
- Although physical book borrowing was down by 85%, Digital Library use doubled.
- PC provision in libraries was recognised as essential for those without access at home.
- Study space is valued for remote working, homework and study
- Children's book borrowing fell due to reduced opening hours.
- Many people are not coming into libraries due to fears about Covid and others were not aware libraries had re-opened.

When we are able to, we plan to open our Children's Libraries, reintroduce study space and increase opening hours.



Families For Life Early Years!



Free virtual sessions for families with children aged between 2 – 4 years. Topics covered on a rolling basis - you're welcome to attend one or all of the sessions. Attend 3 or more sessions and receive a LOVE2SHOP Voucher.

- Eating Well at Home
- Fun Breakfast ideas and hidden sugars
- Understanding labels and portion sizes
- Staying Active at home without using screens

Starting Solids and Starting Solids Next Steps sessions are virtual sessions with Camden's Health and Wellbeing Team using Microsoft Teams or by phone. Microsoft Teams is free to download on a computer, phone or tablet. Either visit your app store or go to:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app>

For more information or to find out more about what we offer contact Camden's Health and Wellbeing Team on 020 7974 6736 or email us at

healthandwellbeingteam@camden.gov.uk or visit <https://www.camden.gov.uk/health>



Join the Camden Virtual Tea Dance

Camden Events Service will revisit their 30 years of hosting afternoon Tea Dances with an on line alternative between March and May 2021.

Our LoveCamden webpages will offer instruction on dance moves 'Strictly come dancing style', demonstration and opportunity to join with some live on line Tea Dances. Our ambitions are to welcome Camden elders as well as everyone interested in 'dancing from the comfort of their homes'

To join our mailing list and hear more about the project as it develops email:

events@camden.gov.uk

Library Updates

Loan Period

We are moving back to 3 week item loans. Fines will not be charged for overdue items during this time.

Learn new skills

Camden Adult Community Learning run a range of online courses to help improve digital skills. For more information and to register [visit our website](#) or call **020 7974 1828**. They also offer a wide range of online learning.

Camden Local Studies and Archive Centre

The Centre is closed but [resources can be accessed online](#) including the catalogue of collections and local history recordings, articles and presentations. Staff continue to answer enquiries and are able to undertake reasonable research for customers. They are also running live online local history events. They can be emailed at: localstudies@camden.gov.uk or phoned on 020 7974 6342 or 020 7974 3860.

Online activities

Find online activities [here](#) such as book clubs, author events and children's activities.

Online reference information

Use your library membership to access our free databases to help you research your family history, newspapers, and dictionaries and encyclopaedias. [Find out more on our website.](#)

Maths on Toast 'Stay-in' Family Session – Codebreaking for Spies!

27th February 12.30pm - 1.30pm

For children aged 4 - 12 and their families

Join us as a spy and unravel secret messages! When you think of secret agents, you might think of disguises, foreign travel, but you probably wouldn't think of maths! Help us crack codes using your logical and mathematical thinking.

Book your free tickets via this [Eventbrite link](#)

After more creative maths fun? Go to <https://www.mathsont toast.org.uk/>



Symptom-free coronavirus testing for workers

Camden Council is offering free rapid COVID-19 tests for people who do not have symptoms and must leave the house for work. Tests have a 45-minute turnaround time and aim to identify people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 but may be infectious so could still pass it onto someone else. Tests are available at four sites across Camden. You can find out more and [book an appointment on our website](#).



Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre's Events Health and Medicine on the Camden Home Front in two World Wars @ 6pm Tuesday 23rd February – Free event.

Health Services under unprecedented pressure is nothing new. The First and Second World Wars put strains and pressures on maintaining the health and welfare of the people of what is now the London Borough of Camden. Kevin Brown, author of *Fighting Fit: Health Medicine and War in the Twentieth Century*, will look at the problems and how local health services coped with the military needs of injured soldiers and the health challenges faced by civilians. Staying fit and healthy to fight the war at home was the great challenge. Could London make it? See how Camden fared. This illustrated talk lasts forty-five minutes and will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

Book your place here – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/health-and-medicine-on-the-camden-home-front-in-two-world-wars-tickets-138000911441?aff=ebdssbeac>

To keep you up to date with changes to council services and support available through the Council and its partners, you'll find updates at www.camden.gov.uk/coronavirus for the latest on council services and information on essential support. The webpage contains information in different languages and formats.

You can also check the rolling news feed at camden.gov.uk/coronavirusnews, Twitter @CamdenCouncil or speak to someone at the Council directly on 020 7974 4444 (option 9).

Home Library Service

We can bring books, audiobooks, music and films to you at home if you are a housebound Camden resident.

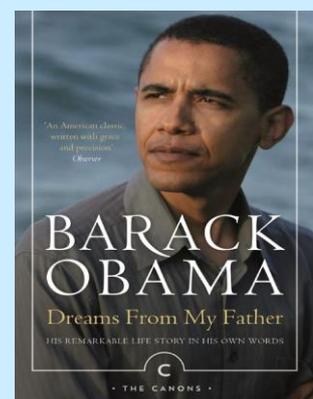
To request an assessment email homelibraryservice@camden.gov.uk



Our Digital Library

Use your library card to borrow from our digital library. Including bestsellers such as

**Dreams From My Father
by Barak Obama**



<https://camdenlibrary.overdrive.com>