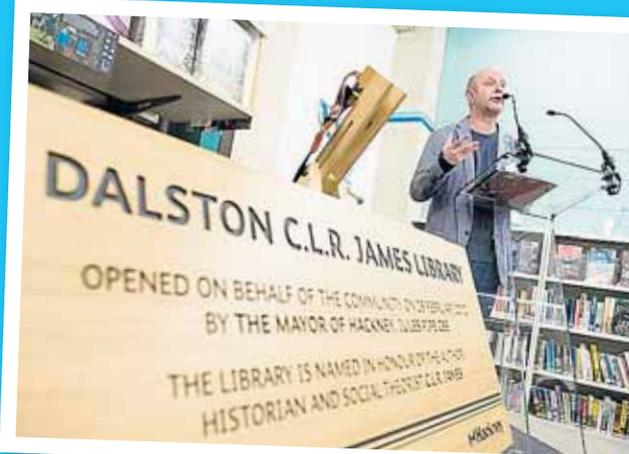
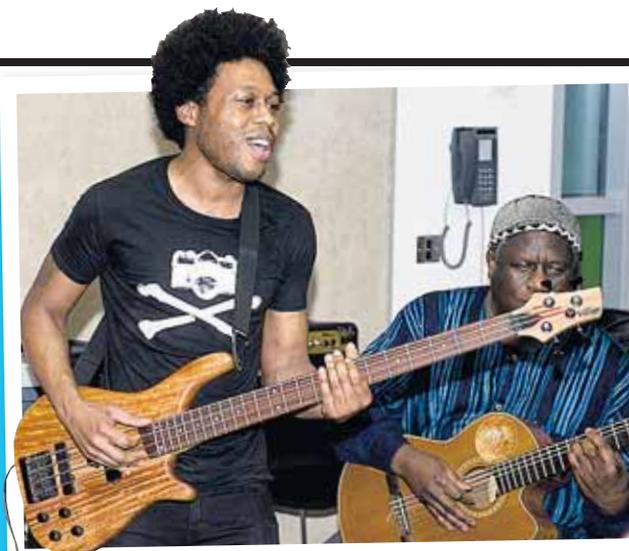




Above: Performance poet John Hegley, Mayor Pipe, & author Nick Hornby with competition winners, who helped unveil a plaque to mark the official opening of the new Dalston CLR James Library; entertainment and speeches during the day (right)



About a book

RENOWNED author Nick Hornby joined hundreds of people to celebrate the official opening of the new Dalston CLR James Library.

Over 1,200 people visited the state-of-the-art building throughout the day on 28 February.

Nick, who signed copies of his books for fans, said: "I'm happy to be here. I was keen to come along to this completely amazing event. I wouldn't be the author that I am if it wasn't for the library. I went every Saturday morning and started reading books at a young age – it changed my life."

Unveiling a new plaque to mark the library's opening, Mayor of Hackney, Jules Pipe, said: "This is a cause

“I wouldn't be the author that I am if it wasn't for the library”

for celebration, especially during these more difficult times. This fantastic facility is the most recent example of the Council's commitment to libraries.

"Libraries are the very heart of our community whether you want to borrow a book, use computers or study space, or just meet friends."

Sam Weinstein, son of the widow of author, historian and political theorist CLR James, in whose honour the library is named, also joined the celebrations. John Hegley kept the crowd entertained with poems and interactive songs.

Winners of the 'I Love

Dalston CLR James Library because...' competition were also presented with prizes on the day.

Samuel Tadese, nine, won an iPod for his entry. He said: "I used to hate reading, but now I come here and I love it."

Second place went to Milo Rothchild-Davies, 11, and in joint third was Nikita Kaur, 11, Dijon Hughes, nine, who all received book vouchers.

The new building in Dalston Square is twice the size of the one it replaces. Spread over three floors, the library covers 2,600 square metres, and features separate adult, teen

and children sections, 57 computers, study space, wi-fi and self-service technology. It will host community events and reading groups.

It is also the new home for the Hackney Archives service, which has a new search room including maps, local studies books, copies of historical newspapers, and a photograph database, containing over 15,000 old photos and paintings of Hackney.

Dalston CLR James Library is open Mon-Fri, 9am-8pm; Sat, 9am-5pm; and Sun, 1-5pm.

MORE INFO

For more info, visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/libraries; or call: 020 8356 3000.