

# feature



Above: authors Maggie Hamand, Richard T Kelly, Mark Billingham and Richard Newton



## Book yourself into the library

**A** GALA week of events celebrating the opening of the Dalston CLR James Library closed with a noisy bang at a family fun day on 3 March.

Over 200 people came to the event at the Dalston Lane library. Author and storyteller Sandra Agard entertained the crowds with her tales and Horrid Henry made an appearance to sign autographs and have his photo taken with his new young friends.

Other highlights from the 'Make a noise for libraries' opening week of events included music, poetry and reminiscence for older people; 'desert island books' with guest authors; and a celebration of CLR James's life.

Memories came flooding

back at the reminiscence event on 27 February with a morning of music and poetry. Older people looked at pictures from Hackney's vast online archives and chatted about the borough of old. The event was run by Hackney Archives and the Council's Community Library Service, which delivers books to the elderly and disabled in their homes.

Phyllis Hall, who receives the home visit service, said: "Libraries are a lifeline that I couldn't do without."

At the desert island books event, which tied in with World Book Day on 1 March, guest authors Mark Billingham, Richard Newton, Richard T Kelly and Maggie Hamand shared their thoughts with the audience on what books they would take should they

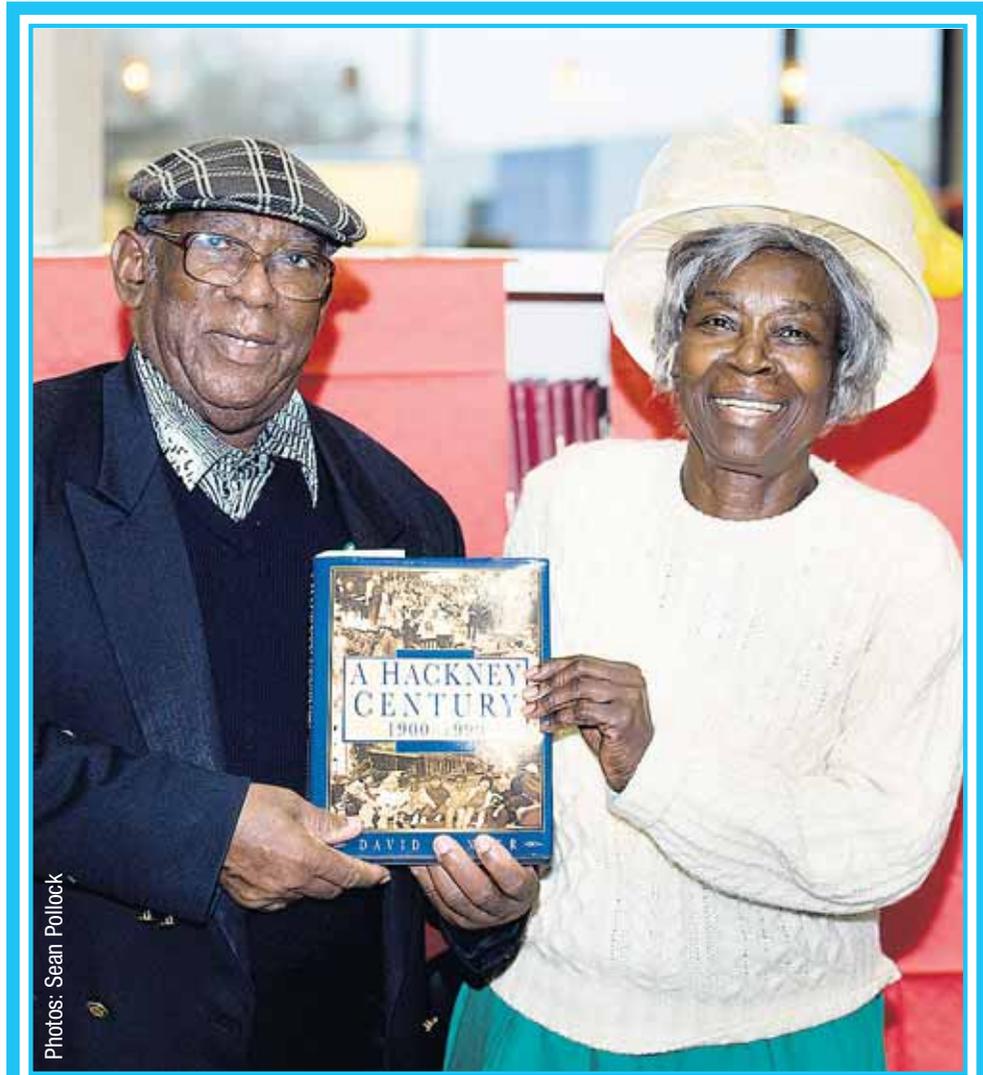
be exiled to a desert island.

The library also celebrated its namesake on 3 March with a launch of a permanent exhibition dedicated to the life and legacy of Cyril Lionel Robert James, attended by his widow Selma James and representatives of Black and Minority Arts Network.

Selma said: "When I came round the corner and saw the name CLR James on the new library building I was lost for words – CLR would have loved it too."

### MORE INFO

To join Hackney Libraries, visit a local library or fill in the online form. Visit: [www.hackney.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/libraries); or call: 020 8356 3000



Photos: Sean Pollock

Clockwise from top circle: Phyllis Hall attends the event; guests celebrate CLR James's life; Larwin Brown and Louise Walters visit Hackney Archives; CLR James's widow Selma with dignitaries; a boy enjoys a book; Horrid Henry with a young read; and Sandra Agard entertains

