

#Rally4LoB

Rally for Libraries of Birmingham!

Saturday 7th February 2015
12.00 - 14.00

Library of Birmingham, Centenary Square,
Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2ND

Friends of the Library of Birmingham:
www.facebook.com/friendsoftheLoB
t : @FoLoB_

Friends of Birmingham Archives and Heritage:
www.fobah.org
www.facebook.com/FOBAH t : @FoBAH_org



Carl Chinn
Poetry
Give the Library a hug
Storytelling
Trade union speakers
Fancy dress
Campaign for our libraries
Petition the Council House

Join the library!
Use the library!

Libraries of Birmingham

Thousands use the LoB and the Community Libraries every day. Libraries bring together our diverse communities, foster active citizenship and self-development, and support education and enterprise. Yet, 18 months after opening, a £188 million world-class library is cutting services. This harms the city's reputation and the aspirations of its citizens.

The cuts

The global recession was caused by international bankers, not by public libraries! Central government's austerity cuts have reduced Birmingham City Council's support grant and stopped them increasing council tax, forcing a 5.7% cut in the 2015-6 budget. The average for other councils is 2%. Poorer cities have had the biggest burden of cuts.

For Birmingham, this means £1.5 million cut from the 2015-16 budget, and another cut in 2016-17 of £3.3 million.

Oppose the cuts to the library service!

is blocking growth. We paid in this city for the LoB and will go on paying for it whether it is reduced or not. This is crazy. It's time for bold decisions that restore pride in our city. The LoB is an investment in our future, our children's future, and the future of this city's prosperity.

employers say that skills shortage

The Impact

- LoB hours cut by 40%, from 73 to 40 per week
- Less access to study space, books, computers
- No new books
- No access to the internationally important City Archives, Photography Archives and Special Collections
- No library outreach work
- No library funding for exhibitions and events
- No story times for children
- No schools events
- No school holiday activities for children
- 100 library and archives staff made redundant
- Cuts to community libraries and mobile library

'Forward'

Libraries are vital to a civilised city that looks after its citizens and promotes education and understanding. Yet they are being forced into a spiral of decline at a time when

employers say that skills shortage

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We can make the politicians reverse the cuts

Birmingham City Council will set its 2015-16 budget by the 17th February. A big show of support on 7th February, National Libraries Day, will prove that the LoB and Community Libraries are important for everyone. So, kids, parents, students, researchers, academics, all the Great Reading Public, join the Rally, and say this will not happen! Ask your MP to support the Early Day Motion 682 in Parliament. It's easy to contact your MP, use

www.writetothem.com

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