

Small Wonders

CURIOSITY BARRELS



FREE activities for under 5's
in Leicester libraries

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

Small Wonders is a child-led, parent-powered, and artist-facilitated creative play and storytelling programme for children aged 0–4.

In 2024–2025, it took place across five libraries and four children’s centres in Leicester City.

As part of the programme, we have co-created Curiosity Barrels in collaboration with young children, their families, and local artists.

There are five Curiosity Barrels in total, each one unique. Every barrel reflects the creative journey of the families in its community, capturing the imagination, stories, and artistic experiences shared at both the local library and children’s centre.





Can you find them all?

Can you find all five fun filled
Curiosity Barrels?

Beaumont Leys Library Music

Highfields Library Stories

Pork Pie Library Sensory

St Barnabas Library Dance

The BRITE Centre Visual Arts

Listen, look, feel

Ascultă, privește, simte

સાંભળો, જુઓ, અનુભવો

Słuchaj, patrz, czuj

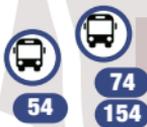
ਸੁਣੋ, ਦੇਖੋ, ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਕਰੋ

Active Leicester
- Leicester Leys
Leisure Centre

Boston Way

Beaumont
Park

**Beaumont
Shopping
Centre**



Beaumont Way

KREFELD WAY A563

Strasbourg Dr



Beaumont Leys Library

Music themed barrel

Beaumont Way, LE4 1DS



This Curiosity Barrel loves to make music!

Inspired by the exploration of rhythms, rhymes, and instruments with artist Stickman. Open the lid to play with instruments, build Cushion Mountain, count with sponges, and enjoy nature-inspired stories.

Artist involved:

Dave 'Stickman' Higgins is a musician and draws on inspiration from his cultural background as a British Barbadian jazz drummer and percussionist.





Stoughton Rd

**Uplands
School**

Oxendon Road

Gopsall Street

Melbourne Road

Dale ←

Darley →

← Derwent

→ Diseworth

← Donnington

→ Worthington

St Peters
Shops



17



Highfields Library

Story themed barrel

98 Melbourne Road LE2 0DS

Bring the outside in with this Curiosity Barrel.

Inspired by imaginative stories created by children at Highfields Children's Centre.

Create your own cosy outdoor space to read, listen, and bring stories and characters to life.

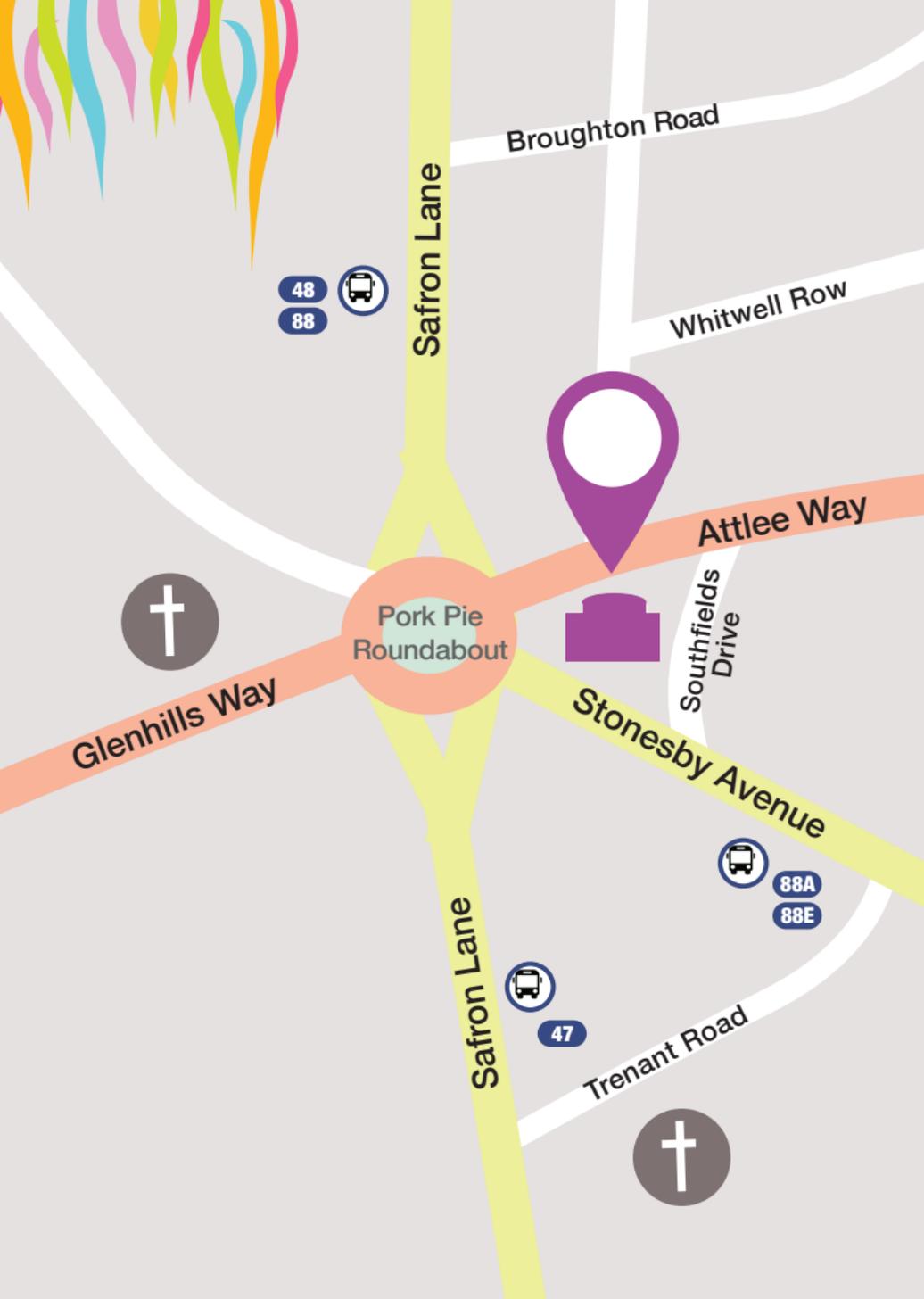
Want to hear a story? Press the buttons on the outside of the barrel to listen to the wonderful stories created by the children.

Artists involved:

Peter Wynne-Willson is a story-maker, actor and writer.

Adele Cleaver is a multidisciplinary artist who is passionate about bringing people together through the power of play.





Broughton Road

Safron Lane

Whitwell Row

48
88



Attlee Way



Pork Pie Roundabout



Southfields Drive

Glenhills Way

Stonesby Avenue



88A
88E

Safron Lane



47

Trenant Road



Pork Pie Library

Sensory themed barrel

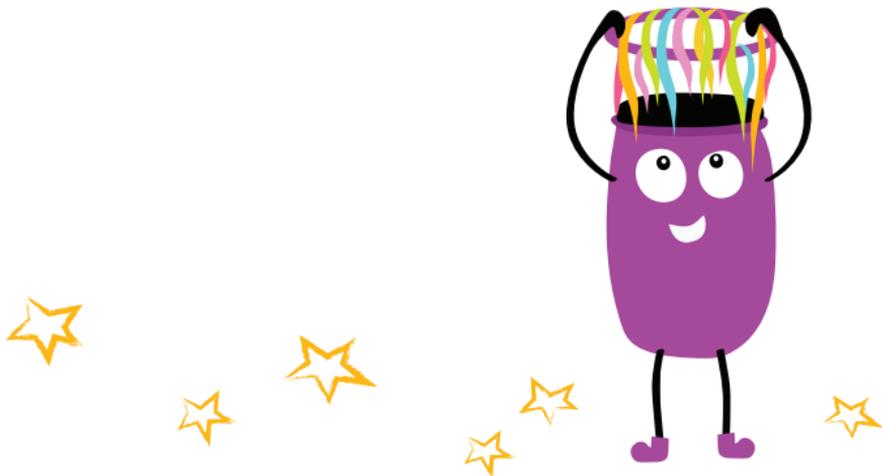
Southfields Drive LE2 6QS

This Curiosity Barrel has been specially co-created with and for babies aged 0–2 years.

Inside, you'll discover a sensory world of textures, colours, shapes, and sounds, inviting little hands and curious minds to touch, look, listen, explore and play.

Artist involved:

Rachel Scanlon is an artist who explores creativity through play, illusion and scale.



37 38 38a 56



Uppingham Road

Saint Barnabas
Primary School

Shree Hindu Temple
& Community Centre



Kitchener Road

Bridge Road →

← Duxberry Road

French Road

St Barnabas Road

Smith Dorrien Road

Gough Road

St Barnabas Library

Dance themed barrel

2 French Road, LE5 4AH

This Curiosity Barrel loves to dance!

Shake, twirl, and sway with ribbons, fabrics, and instruments, and create stories with your moves. Can you dance your imagination to life?

Artists involved:

Karla Jones is a dance and movement artist.

Chris Sylla is a percussionist and

Tatenda Chitsamba is a music producer.





Westcotes
Park

Fullhurst
Community
College



Braunstone Ave.

Fullhurst Avenue

Goodling Avenue

Fosse Road South

83a
107



Folville
Junior
School

Folville Rise

Ellemere Road

The BRITE Centre

Visual Arts themed barrel

130 Braunstone Avenue

LE3 1LE



Dive into a world of colour and sound exploration with this Curiosity Barrel!

What sounds can you create?

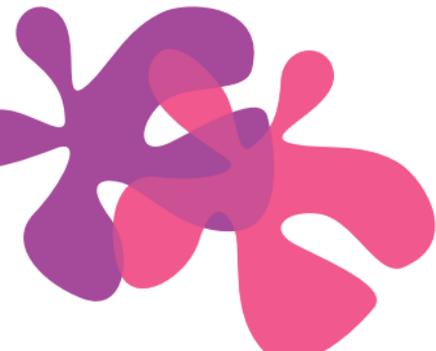
Can you tell a story using the colours?

Peek through the kaleidoscope and see the library in a whole new sparkly way!

Artists involved:

Corey Mwamba is a musician who plays the vibraphone.

Sian Watson Taylor is a visual artist.



More FREE Leicester City Libraries and Children Centres activities

Sign up to Leicester City Libraries to access the Curiosity Barrels, loan books and join in Toddler time sessions.

Toddler time is friendly, fun and free for parents/carers and their pre-school children to stay and play with toys and puppets, enjoy storytelling, join in with rhymes and singing and take part in creative activities.

www.leicester.gov.uk/libraries

For Toddler Times details click
'Children and young people'



Stay & Play sessions

Join your local Children Young People and Families Centre to take part in FREE Stay & Play sessions.

The play sessions allow parents and their children to play with lots of different toys and resources, learn about their child's development, pick up tips and to ask any questions they may have.

Find out more

www.families.leicester.gov.uk

Search: Stay & Play

Thank you to our funders, partners, artists, families,
and, above all, the young children
for making Small Wonders happen.

Libraries

Beaumont Leys Library

Brite Centre

Highfields Library

Pork Pie Library

St Barnabas Library

Children Young People and Family Centre's

Beaumont Leys Children's Centre

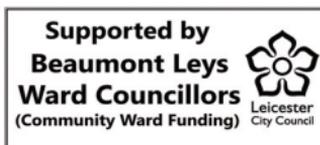
Braunstone Children's Centre

Highfields Children's Centre

Saffron Children's Centre



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