

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL & LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 16 OCTOBER 2003

READING MAZE

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report seeks to inform the Committee of the successful summer reading scheme, *The Reading Maze*, which was promoted at all libraries for primary school age children during the summer holidays.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that members of the Committee note the successful *Reading Maze* summer reading scheme promoted through all libraries in Angus.

2. BACKGROUND

Following the successful summer reading campaigns of the previous three years, The *Reading Relay*, *The Reading Carnival* and *The Reading Planet* Cultural Services participated in the 2003 National Reading challenge, *The Reading Maze*, which was again jointly promoted by Launchpad and Books for Students.

The National Reading Challenge was designed to encourage children to use their local library during the summer holidays and it ran from Friday the 4 of July to Saturday the 16 August. The Reading Challenge was open to all children who were enrolled at a Primary School on the last day of term 2003 or who were due to start school in August 2003. To successfully complete the Reading Challenge each child had to read at least 6 books over the summer holidays and complete a *Reading Maze* record card.

As with the previous reading challenge invitations to join the *Reading Maze* were distributed to all primary school children through the schools towards the middle of June. Once again Cultural Services was indebted to all the Director of Education and all Angus primary school staff for their help in distributing these invitations. In addition children who were not at school were able to receive a pack from their local library.

This year the Reading Agency provided a CDROM which contained a range of promotional suggestions such as word search games, colouring sheets and book reviews. All libraries organised a number of successful activities and prizes for the best entries in the local competitions including book tokens for the best book reviews were generously donated by a number of local sponsors in each burgh

Every child successfully completing the Reading Challenge was given a medal at an awards ceremony at each library. The medal presentations to each child formed part of an organised event at each library.

The prime purpose of the Summer Reading Challenge was to encourage children to read during the summer and where appropriate children were encouraged to be adventurous in their reading and not just pick safe and easy titles

A statistical breakdown of the number of children participating in the scheme is included for information along with a breakdown of the previous summer reading scheme for comparative purposes. This year, in addition to including a breakdown of young people enrolling into boys and girls, we have included a breakdown of the numbers completing the Summer Reading

Challenge into boys and girls. It is interesting to note that the percentages of boys (36%) and girls (64%) enrolling is closely mirrored in the percentages of boys (37%) and girls (63%) completing the Reading Challenge.

Statistics for Summer Reading Scheme 2003

Service Point	Number Enrolled	Boys	Girls	Boys Completed	Girls Completed	Total	Under 4	5-7	8-10	11+	New members
Arbroath	73	27	46	19	29	48	0	12	24	12	4
Brechin	68	17	51	11	34	45	0	19	24	2	2
Carnoustie	103	25	78	13	44	57	1	14	30	12	2
Forfar	116	36	80	36	70	106	3	60	38	5	16
Kirriemuir	124	61	63	45	46	91	4	37	41	9	1
Monifieth	45	24	21	16	11	27	2	13	10	2	0
Montrose	161	59	102	44	67	111	6	48	51	6	4
Edzell	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Friockheim	24	7	17	2	9	11	0	4	6	1	0
Letham	11	3	8	1	2	3	0	1	2	0	0
Newtyle	16	6	10	1	3	4		2	2		1
Mobile 1	0	0	0	0	0						
Mobile 2	22	8	14	8	14	22		6	14	2	0
Totals	765	273	492	196	329	525	16	216	242	51	30

As can be seen from the figures the number of children enrolling on the scheme fell slightly this year to 765 and this may have been due in some part to the very warm weather this summer which would have encouraged more outdoor pursuits. It is encouraging, however, that the numbers of children completing the Challenge rose by 26.

The continued success of the Reading Challenge is due in no small part to the enthusiasm and dedication of all the local library staffs who worked tirelessly over the summer to ensure that many children enrolled in, and benefited from, the Summer Reading Challenge and we intend to further develop the Reading Challenge in the summer of 2004.

Statistics for the previous Reading Challenges are included for comparative purposes and it is clear that a significant number of children are taking up and completing the Reading Challenge each summer. It is gratifying to see that each year the Reading Challenge encourages a number of children to join and use their local library.

Whilst the girls taking part still outnumber the boys it is pleasing to see that a significant number of boys are interested in participating in the Reading Challenge.

Statistics for Summer Reading Scheme 2002

Service Point	Number Enrolled	Boys	Girls	Number Completed	Under 4	5-7	8-10	11+	New members
Arbroath	122	38	84	58	0	21	29	8	5
Brechin	76	31	45	31	1	11	16	3	10
Carnoustie	77	18	59	39	0	11	24	4	0
Forfar	113	34	79	97	0	43	36	18	5
Kirriemuir	126	53	73	87	0	36	39	12	0
Monifieth	63	30	33	19	1	9	8	1	1
Montrose	185	78	107	115	19	34	53	9	15
Edzell	5	3	2	2	0	1	1	0	0
Friockheim	33	15	18	32	1	19	12	0	2
Letham	13	6	7	10	2	6	2	0	0
Newtyle	6	2	4	6	0	1	5	0	0
Mobile 1	3	0	3	3	0	0	3	0	0
Mobile 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	822	308	514	499	24	192	228	55	38

Statistics for Summer Reading Scheme 2001

Service Point	Number Enrolled	Boys	Girls	Number Completed	Under 4	5-7	8-10	11+	New members
Arbroath	165	50	115	111	5	51	49	6	16
Brechin	78	32	46	41	1	20	15	5	4
Carnoustie	98	24	74	41	0	8	29	4	0
Forfar	114	25	89	80	0	34	28	18	11
Kirriemuir	123	42	81	84	3	34	33	14	0
Monifieth	64	25	39	24	1	13	7	3	1
Montrose	154	48	106	88	3	37	37	11	18
Totals	796	246	550	469	13	197	198	61	50

Statistics for Summer Reading Scheme 2000

Service Point	Number Enrolled	Boys	Girls	Number Completed	Under 4	5-7	8-10	11+
Arbroath	142	43	99	82	0	53	68	21
Brechin	110	35	75	52	0	36	64	10
Carnoustie	45	12	33	19	0	14	29	2
Forfar	89	27	62	52	0	13	72	4
Kirriemuir	102	33	69	66	4	45	45	8
Monifieth	51	24	27	27	0	19	29	3
Montrose	131	57	74	71	14	47	43	27
Totals	670	231	439	369	18	227	350	75

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs incurred relating to this initiative have been contained in the Leisure Services 2003/4 revenue budget.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no Human Rights Implications associated with this report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Law and Administration and Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JOHN R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.