

# St Ives library

RECENTLY, I VISITED St Ives Library. What an asset it is. Lots of books; an area in which to sit, read and relax; friendly, informed staff; mums and toddlers singing quietly in the corner; and even a coffee machine.

It got me thinking.

On 13th September, the nation celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Roald Dahl.

Born in Llandaff, Cardiff's 'City within a City', in 1916, Dahl's first career was that of fighter pilot in World War II.

Then from 1943, he unleashed his writing talent on children and adults the world over: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda, The BFG, James and the Giant Peach. The list is almost endless. Meanwhile, in the 1970s, a new genre of entertainment became widely available: the video game. A remarkable 40-year journey of technological development led from those pioneering days of Atari to the present-day, Augmented-Reality of Pokomon-Go.

But have those advances come at a price? How many children and young people are playing a TV computer game but not reading a storybook?

And how many youngsters and adults have walked down Station Road, smartphone in hand, searching for Pokomon, unaware that our town library is there?

Dahl introduced us to Charlie and the Chocolate Factory over 50 years ago yet the chant of the Oompa-Loompas remains as fresh and relevant as ever:

"So please, oh please, we beg, we pray,  
Go throw your TV set away,  
And in its place you can install  
A lovely bookshelf on the wall!"

If we are concerned that the nation is losing its appetite for reading, we can all help by giving a child a book this Christmas.

Mike Trippitt is a freelance writer. He lives in St Ives town. His blog is at [www.miketrippitt.com](http://www.miketrippitt.com) and you can find him on Facebook.

## "Making more time for you" at St Ives Library

Sunday opening is back and Thursday afternoons are now available with Open+. Come along to our Open+ launch event on Thursday 3rd November 1.30pm-6pm to find out more. Staff will be available to register you for Open+ and to demonstrate our self-service systems. The official launch of Open+ will take place between 2.30pm-3.30pm.

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