



PROJECT HAIL MARY

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THE MARTIAN

I don't want to come off as arrogant here, but I'm the greatest botanist on this planet. Mark Watney, The Martian - Andy Weir

May the 4th & Science Fiction Month, Q&A, VE Day, Mental Health Awareness Week, International Museum Day & the Sci-Fi Book Cover Competition.

MAY
THE
4TH
BE WITH
YOU

May the fourth marks the beginning of our annual **Science Fiction Month**, a celebration of everything Sci-Fi; Star Wars, Dr Who, Star Trek, Stranger Things and more. This year we are focusing on author **Andy Weir** and his Sci-Fi titles *The Martian*, *Project Hail Mary* and *Artemis*, Andy is also our Author of the Month. *Project Hail Mary* is a 2021 science fiction novel (now a 2026 film) about Ryland Grace, a science teacher turned astronaut who wakes up with amnesia on a spaceship. He must recover his memories to save humanity from a solar-dimming pathogen. Our new display incorporates a wide selection of authors including Novels and Graphic Novels. **We also have our annual Sci-Fi Book Cover Design Competition.**



Virtual Author Workshop
Iqbal Hussain
11am, Wednesday 6th May.



VE Day (Victory in Europe Day), on May 8, 1945, marks the official end of World War II in Europe, celebrating the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. Following intense fighting and Adolf Hitler's death, millions celebrated in streets across the UK, USA, and Europe, highlighted by parades, parties, and Royal Balcony appearances in London. *Our latest display has a broad selection of WWII related fiction and non-fiction books.*

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

11-17
MAY 2026

This year, **Mental Health Awareness Week 2026** will take place from the **11th** until the **17th** of May. The theme is 'Action'. Being part of a safe, positive community is vital for our mental health and wellbeing. We thrive when we have strong connections with other people and supportive communities that remind us, we are not alone. Communities can provide a sense of belonging, safety, support in hard times, and give us a sense of purpose. We want to use Mental Health Awareness Week to celebrate the power and importance of community. *We have a great new display to coincide with this event.*

International Museum Day
May 18 2026



International Museum Day 2026: Museums Uniting a Divided World. On 18 May 2026, museums worldwide will mark International Museum Day under the theme "Museums Uniting a Divided World". The theme highlights the potential of museums to act as bridges across cultural, social, & political divides, fostering dialogue, understanding, inclusion and peace within and between communities worldwide. As places of learning, museums contribute to peaceful coexistence and mutual respect. This theme will also guide the celebrations of ICOM's 80th anniversary throughout the year. *We will have a new display of topical material.*

SCIENCE FICTION BOOK COVER DESIGN COMPETITION

DESIGN AND PRODUCE A BOOK COVER FOR A SCIENCE FICTION STORY... YOU CAN CREATE A NEW COVER FOR AN EXISTING BOOK TITLE OR CONSTRUCT A COMPLETELY ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR YOUR OWN INVENTED STORY... THE COVER CAN BE BLACK AND WHITE OR FULL COLOUR, PENCIL, PEN OR FULLY DIGITAL... THE FINISHED DESIGN CAN INCLUDE THE TITLE, THE AUTHOR NAME AND ANY FURTHER TEXT INFORMATION YOU WISH TO ADD ABOUT THE BOOK... ONCE YOU HAVE DRAWN THE ARTWORK, WE WILL SCAN THE IMAGE AND ADD FURTHER TEXT, EFFECTS AND DIGITAL IMAGERY ELEMENTS ON THE LIBRARY COMPUTERS (SEE MR DALTON TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROCESS)... THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION RUNS FROM FRIDAY THE 1ST OF MAY UNTIL FRIDAY 29TH OF MAY... SOME EXAMPLES OF OUR FANTASTIC WINNING ENTRIES FROM PREVIOUS COMPETITIONS ARE SHOWN BELOW...

