

Wroughton Library Friends (WoLF)

Fundraising & Promotional Events:

• **Christmas Lights Switch-on**

We had a table with library information on our weekly/ bi-weekly groups, how to join the library, types of books available, online books, the Financial First Aiders, and a free book give away using withdrawn books, etc. It's important to continue to promote the library as we always come across residents who don't know Wroughton has a library, and also because a library is such an important asset. WoLF also ran a children's activity in the Alex Room. The whole event was very popular and we hope to do the same next year.

• **27.10.23: An Evening with Dick Mattick on STFC**

- 61 people attended, the most yet, a very popular event.
- Eventbrite used as a trial to try to increase engagement – disappointingly only 10 tickets sold via Eventbrite. Meeting with Treasurer in process of being organized to understand whether FOWL broke even on tickets sold via Eventbrite v cost to sell via Eventbrite. But positive that so many people are buying direct from the Library, although some of these were on the night.
- Trialled starting the event with free tea/ coffee/ cake & asked for donations – made £25.

• **01.12.23: An Evening with local author Victoria Gosling with her recently published second book, 'Bliss & Blunder'.**

- We had 20 people to this event and made approx. £100. Vicki is a very good speaker. It was a very good event.

• **15.02.24:an afternoon with Joy Wodhams talking about her children's books**

- Joy is another local author. She has kindly offered to come and speak to children about the books she's written.
- We have provisionally booked the afternoon of 15th February. More details nearer the time.

New furniture

- The library supports local authors & artists by allowing them to sell their books & goods from the cabinet in the library, with FOWL taking 20% commission. There is a book carousel in the upstairs store which would be ideal, but we've been advised this belongs to the Country Market and it cannot therefore be used in the Library. FOWL are meeting on 28th November to discuss purchasing a book carousel for use the Library. So far the authors who are using the carousel have all done events for free which has helped raise funds for the library.
- The library staff have advised that the children's picture books storage (in the 'train & carriage') is now full. A new, second 'carriage' which would fit costs £219+ VAT. FOWL will look to fundraise for this.

Re-painting the interior of the Library

- Nationwide visited on 28th November to assess whether their volunteers would be willing to paint the corridor leading up to the library and the ladies toilets, once the water leak has been rectified and the mould/ damp treated. They are potentially interested. This is work in progress and an update will be provided when more information becomes available.
- The library ceiling and parts of the walls need repainting following a leak earlier in the year which was due to an issue with the roof. There is water damage and staining, and paint peeling off the ceiling. The EHT has had a quote and agreed to pay 70%. It would make sense to repaint the walls at the same time, as the ceilings/ walls are so high that a specialist scaffolding tower is required. The walls are looking tired and will show if parts are repainted due to the water damage. WoLF (see below) have applied to Wroughton Community Fund for a grant for the remaining 30%, the cost of a new book carriage and also the carousel, as well as funding to enable WoLF to put on some sessions with well known children's authors, who we've been advised cost in excess of £200 per session. We will update you on the outcome of the bid in a future meeting.

- Repainting the library involves staff and volunteers moving all the books, shelves and furniture out of the library before work can start (ie: before Christmas) and then putting everything back into the library before it can re-open, hopefully the end of the second week in January.
- The more help we get, the quicker we'll be able to get everything moved, so **if you're able to help us move books and/ or furniture on the afternoon of Weds 20th Dec, or during the day on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd, we'll welcome you with open arms! Please let Cathy or Emma know if you're able to help. Thankyou.**

WPC

- **Footfall**

Average monthly people count/ footfall in the library as follows:

- June 206
- July 211
- Aug 232
- Sept 226
- Oct 212

These mirror the loan figures – ie: spike during the summer (July-Sept), with a fall in Oct, but Oct figures slightly higher than June's. This is despite all the recent rain/ flooding during October locally to the library (Devizes Rd in front of Catholic Church, Devizes Road zebra crossing, outside the Ellendune one Friday, The Pitches etc.)

- **Loans**

Loans on a monthly basis went up significantly during the summer period (July-Sept) and have now returned to something approaching the pre-summer period, although October's loans figures are still 4% above June's, indicating we are still increasing the average number of books loaned out. The spike during the summer could be down partly to taking part in, and promoting, the Summer Reading challenge. However, some of the increase was also due to numbers of adult books borrowed. Badbury Park & Old Town Libraries cater mainly for children, so the fact that both the adult & children's loans increased during the summer suggests that WPC is correct in catering for all ages/ multiple abilities/ needs etc.

- **Volunteers**

We have put a huge amount of work into recruiting additional volunteers for several types of roles within the library, having taken welcome advice from SBC regarding references. The volunteer roles include:

- general library duties such as shelving returned books, meeting & greeting users, helping set up/ down for lego club etc. We previously had 2 volunteers and have increased this to 8, with 3 more almost ready to start.
- Home Library Service – we have volunteers for whom we have references, but we need to resolve the questions over DBS checks before they can start volunteering in this role. In addition, we are not reaching the people we think could benefit from this service as take-up has been minimal. Based on the Home Library Service operating in Wroughton several years ago, we'd expect to see between 12-20 users. However, we will not increase the promotion of this service, until we have resolved the DBS checks issue.
- Storytime volunteer: our existing volunteer decided to stop for personal reasons, and we have now recruited a replacement.
- Noticeboards: we have 4 large noticeboards within the library, and the one on the outside of the ECC. We are hoping that one of our new volunteers may take on responsibility for them, which will free up time for Sally & Paula.
- A volunteer has scanned the withdrawn books on the ziffit app and found we have 2 boxes of books worth approx. £20. We are trialing ziffit for the first time and will let you know how this goes.
- In the meantime, we had several more boxes of withdrawn books which weren't worth anything and which were not taken away at our free book giveaway at the Christmas Lights Switch-on. The same volunteer has contacted some of the local care homes/ sheltered housing complexes, and we have been able to rehome some of the books to them.

- **DBS checks – policy**

We are in the process of drafting a policy for DBS checks for volunteers – please see separate report.

Wroughton Library:

- Encourages lifelong learning, a place of education.
- Encourages reading and discussion for pleasure.
- Provides free access to a wealth of information & knowledge.
- Is a safe & welcoming space for everyone, regardless of their situation.
- Signposts support for people in financial difficulty, essential in a cost of living crisis.
- Provides an opportunity for people to connect with other people in a positive environment, reducing loneliness & isolation, whilst building a resilient community.
- Provides a free public access computer
- Provides free wifi/ broadband

Reading does more than just help us to learn about our own personalities.

- Studies show that it can increase our emotional intelligence as we understand a range of perspectives and motivations.
- When we read we create mental simulations of the activities, sights and sounds of scenes in a story, blending these with our own memories and experiences, all of which stimulates the neural pathways.
- Reading helps us to develop our own ideas and personalities as we compare our reactions and beliefs to those in the story
- As well as this, research suggests that reading for 30 minutes a week increases health and wellbeing. Reading for pleasure has been found to improve our confidence and self-esteem, providing the grounding we need to pursue our goals and make life decisions. It can also aid our sleep and reduce feelings of loneliness.