

WROUGHTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY UPDATE

- **Footfall**

This has been increasing week on week since we re-opened following the repaint in the New Year. Weekly footfall totals have increased as follows:

- 130 week ending 20th Jan
- 200 week ending 27th Jan
- 203 week ending 3rd Feb
- 204 week ending 10th Feb
- 224 week ending 17th Feb
- 209 week ending 24th Feb
- 216 week ending 3rd March
- 253 week ending 9th March
- 284 week ending 16th March (same W/E as the ECC 50th Anniversary)
- 266 week ending 24th March
- Footfall is highest on Tuesdays & Saturdays. Both days generally see over 50 people through the library, and we have had 2 days where staff have seen in excess of 80 people through the library in a single day, whether attending a group, borrowing a book, using the free to use public access computer, wanting to see the Citizens Advice Financial First Aiders, etc.
- We have a new Rhymetime Volunteer on a Tuesday morning who is proving to be very popular. Since Christmas, people have been attending Rhymetime on a regular basis and it's now very popular.
- Saturday mornings are popular due to Lego Club. Parents wait with their children and now talk to each other.
- Borrowing per month is up from 1,149 items in April 2023, to 1,574 items in March 2024 (this figure includes a very small number of audio books).
- New library joiners have been an increase of 220 net during the past year.

- **Volunteers**

- We now have 12 regular adult volunteers and 2 DofE students, all of whom help staff. This is probably as many as we can take. We can't use volunteers to run the library as they are not contracted to turn up, nor do they have the same responsibilities as staff.
- Covingham Library relied on trustees and volunteers, closed due to covid and never re-opened.
- Liden Library had a heavy reliance on volunteers and is now only open up to 7 ½ hours per week, and there are rumours it may close altogether.

- **Policies**

- **Safeguarding & DBS:** Cathy & Emma met with an SBC Officer who agreed to go through our draft and advise whether they are sufficiently robust. I've not had any feedback yet so I have chased a response. The officer is not back in the office until 15th April so I anticipate we may not receive a response for a couple of weeks.
- **Lone working:** we have reviewed this as the ECC staff hours had changed which meant that some library hours had become reliant on other users of the ECC, and we could not assume they would always be on site. In addition, those ECC users had no responsibility for library staff and it was unlikely they would be aware if any incident were to occur in the library due to the distance between eg: the main hall and the library.

- The ECC staff hours have now been clarified so that when the WPC office is closed, there should be ECC staff on site whilst the library is open.
- **Opening Hours**
We are reviewing a suggestion from the library staff to swap single working on a Tuesday/ dual working on a Wednesday, to dual working on a Tuesday/ single working on a Wednesday, as there is a much higher footfall on a Tuesday. This may mean a very slight change to the opening hours on a Tuesday & Wednesday, but the outcome should be a better service for library users. We will update Members next month.
- **Cover**
WPC Officers have all covered for library staff leave which impacts on WPC office workload. The zero-hours library staff we previously used are often unavailable as they appear to be covering more frequently for SBC libraries. We now have another person willing to work on a zero-hours contract basis who does not cover SBC libraries and it's anticipated this person will be available to cover most Wroughton Library staff leave.
- **Citizens Advice Financial First Aiders (AFFAs)**
AFFAs have been coming into the library one Friday a month. After a slow start, the sessions are now very popular with a queue of people at March's session waiting for help. Citizens Advice have commented that the sessions have been very positive and they have now booked monthly sessions up to the end of this calendar year.
- **Library 50th Birthday Celebration – 28th November 2024**
We are working with both WoLF and Wroughton Junior School who wish to be involved in the Birthday Celebrations. This is still at a very early stage. We will keep Members updated.
- **Events**
 - **Possible events in the pipeline: currently at the ideas stage:**
 - **Photographic Exhibition** – one of our volunteers has been awarded a small amount of funding to put on an exhibition of their photographs. We have agreed to hold this in our library, hopefully in May.
 - **Fund raising event for Thursday 18th March** – Pippa's Aromatherapy Workshop: the Library will get 20% of all tickets sold. Tickets are £40 each with a max capacity of 12 attendees.
 - **4 free workshops on 3rd & 5th April given by Explore Learning** - for children aged 4-6, 5-7 & 7-9 years, including phonics, telling the time etc. These were arranged shortly before SATS to give parents/ children maximum support as close as possible to the tests. Bookings were made direct with EL or via EL's Eventbrite account. EL provided the sessions free of charge. Whilst bookings exceeded the maximum number (12), fewer parents/ children turned up. WPC used the opportunity to promote both the library & the Weir Field Play Area launch to the parents with flyers on all the parents' seats. Following the sessions, EL provided free worksheets to the library for parents/ children to use. There was no financial gain to WPC/ ECC but also no cost as the sessions were provided free of charge and were put on purely as additional support for those families who chose to use it. EL have asked to re-book for some summer sessions. We are mindful of the fact that we do not want to be using the Alex Room if it could be hired out and bring in income for the ECC, therefore we have advised EL we will book the summer sessions nearer the time. They are happy with this way forward.