

Wroughton Community Library Report for June 2024

Introductions

This report is written by Hannah Dosanjh. I am the new Library Supervisor. I have lived in Wroughton for 18 years, am a former Parish Councillor, and an artist and author. I am a member of Wroughton “Obsessive” Library Friends (WOLF) and have seen first-hand the excellent work with the public that Sally and Paula have done to restore footfall after the pandemic. I aim to continue this, and raise the profile of the library as a safe and enjoyable space for our residents, offering craft activities for children, stronger links with local schools, opportunities for artists and evening events to attract residents who visit less frequently.

Library Users & Data

The number of our library users is up compared to May. We believe that the range and quality of clubs we offer means the library is better known, creates a welcoming space and gives people an “excuse” to visit. Craft Club continues to be popular so we feel it is answering a need. Feedback is so good we plan to run it every Thursday during the holidays. This will complement the Summer Reading Challenge “Marvellous Makers” which we launched successfully on the 6th July. I will have the data to give you in my next report for your meeting in September.

The Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is a national project and distributed to us through Swindon Libraries. It is designed to encourage children to continue reading over the summer, so that their reading levels do not suffer. Paula and I attended training in June. We will also be setting out children’s games that improve numeracy recall and reasoning skills, alongside the adult games club, to encourage participation.

Rhyme Time

Rhyme Time on a Tuesday has been well attended and is something children and parents really enjoy. Volunteers Val and Lesley engage children in songs and play, and parents use the time afterwards to browse and borrow books.

Engagement with local schools & nurseries

- For the past few months, **Tick Tock Nursery** have visited for an hour with us every Wednesday with children who are due to start school next term. This has helped them become accustomed to sitting and listening for longer periods. This has been so positive they are planning to repeat this next year.
- We have a contact within **Wroughton Junior School** who is very positive about forming links with the library; and I am open to a school visit to explain what we do and the benefits of joining.
- Links with **Wroughton Infant School** have so far drawn a blank but I am working on this.
- Links with **Kingfisher Academy**: this is on my list for the near future.

Saturday Lego Club

This Club enables families to relax, stay longer (up to an hour) and borrow more books. We have found families return regularly, and these parents tell us that they remember attending the old library when they were children, so their children are second generation library users.

Citizens Advice Financial First Aiders

CA continues to offer one session a month in the library. We promote this on facebook and in Wroughton Monthly. It was slow to start but we have recently had queues of residents waiting to talk to the advisors, so it appears to be much needed. Sessions have been booked in until the end of this calendar year.

Library Events & Fundraisers

I organised a tour of John and Doug White's Overtown Farm in June. Unfortunately, it clashed with a WPC Planning Meeting, which was a shame as it was a gorgeous evening to be outside gazing at cattle, which I suspect those on Planning would have enjoyed! Two attendees came from Old Town, and we raised £70 towards the new library Computer.

New Computer

It has arrived! On 10th July SP Computers installed a new computer, which has already been used by residents for internet searches and document printing. £500 was kindly donated by the Duck Race, and WoLF kindly match funded the rest.

Explore Learning

Explore Learning are coming back to run 4 free sessions in August Explore Learning provide all the promotional material and parents sign up for the sessions using Eventbrite. . These were popular when we facilitated them in May. The free sessions are intended to help children to maintain their maths & literacy skills during the long summer break.

Sally's Afternoon Tea

This was a lovely event and well attended. It also provided a good opportunity for volunteers and staff to come together to catch up and get to know each other better. Thank you to everyone who contributed food, and especially to John for the bakewell tart! Sally has left big shoes to fill, but has been incredibly helpful in explaining the complexities of library life, and we wish her well. In the meantime, I am requesting spydus training from Glenda at Swindon Library, partly to improve my skills but also to train Parish employees who may need to cover in the library. As I write this, I haven't heard back but will keep Cathy informed.

Looking Ahead

I am currently looking at various things including (but not limited to):

- How we can involve the local schools in celebrating the Library's 50th Birthday on 28th November.
- Making reindeer food in the library as part of the Christmas Lights Switch-on
- Setting up a new Library fb page (we've double checked and we can't transfer Sally's login)
- Making contact with Kingfisher Academy in Mid-Wichel and Wroughton Infant School
- Following a very popular aromatherapy event/ fundraiser in April, there will be a make your own perfume workshop/ fundraiser in November.
- It's International Menopause Day on October 18th, and I am delighted to announce that Dr White from the Wroughton Health Centre has kindly agreed to give a talk explaining the menopause and answer questions about symptoms and treatments. This is planned to take place on the 17th Oct, but will keep you posted.
- Emma has prepared a job spec for new casual zero hours members of staff to cover when necessary.

Hannah Dosanjh
Library Supervisor