

Wroughton Library Parish Council Report Dec 2024

The Christmas lights and Christmas books are out ready for the Christmas period, gifts are being bought for our trusty volunteers, plans for author visits and evening workshops are in hand for the Spring.

Dates for your diary – please encourage every elderly person you know who uses and is struggling with tech to come along to The **Home Instead Tech Café**. This is a charity that gives advice and training to help people access everyday tech. They will be offering free sessions in the library on the following dates:

15th and 29th January 2-4pm

12th and 26th February 2-4pm

They offer basic tech advice and tuition to get people started or improve their skills. No need to book, but attendees will need to bring their device along. This initiative has come about after Central Library was offering something similar; so Cathy and I emailed to see if our residents could benefit from sessions without having to travel into town. The feedback has been positive and I suspect we will have a full house.

Lantern Parade & Reindeer Food at the Christmas Lights Switch-on

Both craft clubs and the cubs' willow lantern making session were fully booked and out of 39 children only 5 did not turn up on the night. Hopefully you were all witness to the launch of the Lanterneers! Thank you to Emma and Cathy for your encouragement and support, and to Amanda's volunteers for helping to clear the path to the Lanterneers' area beside the Christmas Tree. Feedback from both people watching and especially parents has been fantastic; a parent came in on Wednesday to say how lucky she felt to have the library as a community hub, and how creative it was becoming; music to my ears.

Greg's "Creation Station" was fantastic for our Reindeer Food activity. (thankyou Greg!!) We had about 60 + children through the library in under 2 hours to make a bag of reindeer food, when we ran out having got through 15kg of bird food!! We were able to send those who came in after with the bags, eyes, noses and antlers so they could make their own at home by just adding their own bird food. We have plans to repeat this next year with tweaks to make it a more streamlined experience.

In the meantime Paula and I are working hard to prepare the story trail which will be mounted outside by the grounds team ready for the 21st December (last day the library is open before re-opening on January 2nd)





Wroughton Library 50th Birthday Party

This was a really fun, well attended event, with people meeting again after years. Thanks to Cathy, who did most of the work! The Celebration Cake and John's Bakewell were both very popular. (Thankyou John!!)

The Junior School Book Ambassadors (15 children aged 8 – 11) had also visited the library on the previous morning with Mrs Blagg, to enjoy some cake after doing the shelving. This is part of our ongoing work to help strengthen children's literacy skills and make sure children know there is somewhere warm and welcome they can visit for books outside of school hours/ term times.

Photos show Amy, archivist and librarian from the Science Museum National Collections with some fascinating books.

Guests, John's bakewell tart, celebration cake and new bunting hand knitted by Paula's daughter Pippa Daws.





Wolf Events

Finally last month we hosted Pippa of Pippa's perfumes, and Louisa Campbell. Pippa showed how to make perfumes and Louisa taught seven ladies how to make their own earrings. Again the feedback has been excellent.

Ongoing Support for residents from outside organisations

We continue to host visits from Swindon Housing Officers and Citizen's Advice Financial First Aiders once a month, both are well attended.

We can issue food vouchers, but we've never been asked. The office have handed out all but one of theirs, so we've kept a couple in the library and the rest are now in the office. We can also hand out Healthy Start vitamins to anyone with a Healthy Start card. We've not been asked for any of these, but we understand the take-up in Swindon is very low. And we can also hand out All Yours Boxes (no questions asked, no need to take any details).

Regular Library Clubs and Groups

Wroughton Library Lego Club is always well attended by our "regulars" - children and parents who stay for at least an hour or more. We also facilitate a weekly adults board games club, and Knit & Natter, and we've recently been asked if we could start a Book Club (we're looking into that). Weekly Rhyme time for pre-school children and their parents/

carers is still very popular and new families are coming along. Two childminders have started to attend with six pre schoolers once a month to coincide with either the SBC housing officer visit or the Citizens Advice sessions; this provides a gentle hubbub so that residents who seek advice may not be so easily overheard. In addition, TickTock Preschool children continue to come in for their weekly story time and singing.

Footfall has been increasing since we have been using Infant and Junior school comms to share information, so awareness of our offering is spreading. Paula and I have developed an excellent working relationship and I am getting to know the Library volunteers really well.

In the meantime we are noticing how many “lost” elderly users come into the library; they are lonely, and easily thrown by issues with tech, which they bring to the library for us to solve. This is time consuming for us and frustrating for them, so not only are they (and we) looking forward to the aforementioned tech workshops, but we feel that a Monday afternoon group for people to make friends and feel less isolated would be a much appreciated, good use of the library space.

Hannah Dosanjh, Library Supervisor