



Wroughton Community Library Parish Report February 2025

New Lights Shaun Matthews from Hickmans has been to inspect the current lighting which is so dingy during the winter months that people struggle to read. He will send a quote for four ceiling lights and one large one to hang over the service desks.

Footfall

In terms of numbers attending **Craft Club** it is an interesting picture; usually we have around 30 people across the course of an afternoon, but on 9th January we had 69 people in the library over 3 hours. This seems to be the highest count so far; 3 of the parents explained that they just wanted somewhere warm to meet.

Lego club is well attended. The record was 83 people who came in during one morning in October, but the figure is usually around 60. At such times we worry that it's overcrowded, but we are working on some storage solutions for various items to free up more circulation space. Greg's Creation Station may be put to regular use once Sunny Dosanjh has made lids for it, so it will be able to double up as a table to provide an overspill area for older children.

Two of our fantastic library volunteers, Lesley and Val, run **Rhyme Time** on a Tuesday morning. This is consistently popular and well organised. We can expect around 25 people during the first hour and another 25 over the second. There were nine pushchairs in the space outside the library on the 4th February, (two child minders with six children had already left) but we are careful not to block any fire exits.

Steve Antony (award-winning, best-selling children's book author and patron to Swindon Libraries) visited (for free) to tell the children about his books and how he starts the story and keeps a sketchbook full of ideas. When we spoke to him afterwards he was really impressed by how intently everyone was listening (he says usually adults are on their phones) and we rounded off his visit with a drawing activity on a roll of paper. He has arranged to come back again in June as it's the 60th anniversary of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, which he has illustrated. I'm feeling confident that we can come up with an activity that children (and adults) won't want to miss!

Citizen's Advice will no longer receive enough funding to continue coming to the library after March, so the last session is on 21st March. Please put the word out with your friends, neighbours and local groups, as it's now or never if someone local wants face to face, free, impartial financial advice in a local setting.

Tech Friends Café has been a great success; 9 people came to the first event and 7 to the second, which was easier to manage. We hope it will be extended, in the meantime we are also looking into similar SBC funded sessions teaching people how to use their smartphones.

By the time you read this we will have had our event with **Louise Hunt Skelley** - Paralympian, Mentor, Ambassador, Motivational Speaker and Author, and hopefully it will have been well attended, and hopefully you were there!! These events are part fundraising, part encouraging people to enjoy reading, part supporting local authors, part promotion of Wroughton Library and also Wroughton Parish Council. All of this means working hard to promote the event. Sharing the comms is time consuming. It's not just putting posts on fb, it's contacting local organisations, such as schools, other libraries, etc. Organising these events is stressful, because we want them to succeed. So please, for any event which WPC/ Wroughton Library organises, share the comms and the details with your friends, neighbours, and any other group you belong to, because every bit of sharing & promoting you do for your parish and your library

helps share the information with residents and makes the event more successful. If you haven't already, please follow our library page and like our posts – thankyou!

Half Term holidays – Paula and I have plans for printing sessions with proper messy printing ink, some code breaking activities and old fashioned games to entice children in over the half term. We will share these comms with Wroughton Junior and Infant Schools next week, and also with Kingfisher Primary in Wichelstowe. I have had a lively email conversation with two members of staff about what the library can offer and they are keen to visit! (Hurray!) We always try to engage children and parents in conversation and it's striking how surprised people are at what we offer, and that it's free.

I will also try and relaunch our **Instagram account** for parents who don't use Facebook.

Hannah Dosanjh

February 2025

Wroughton library Supervisor