

Wroughton Community Library Parish Report June 2025

Storage space

We now have the cupboard outside the library which is proving invaluable! I have almost filled the floor space with boxes that we had been squeezing anywhere we could find. We have attached lights with a movement sensor inside and the Grounds Team have measured the cupboard for shelves. Hopefully we can soon move and reorganise all the clutter behind the desks so that the library feels calmer.

Bubble fish tank

As part of our neuro diversity inclusion measures we have purchased a bubbling “fish tank” which has lights which change colour. Thanks to Suresh who helped install it. Now that we’ve got the fish to sink as well as float it works brilliantly and is a magnet for children. (It’s attached to the wall by a bracket so can’t be pulled over.)

On Tuesday mornings our brilliant volunteers, Lesley and Val, run Rhyme time song and story sessions for preschool children. We have upped our game by providing role-play food, a tea set, and some trays of sand for sensory play. Last Tuesday we had 50 people here between 11 and 12 o’clock. Not all of them stayed for the session but most were families. I noticed two new mums who arrived alone, and we are making sure they feel welcome.

Steve Antony and Stitch Social

Unfortunately Steve Antony has had to cancel his visit, but will reschedule. Stitch Social are an Arts group who make banners with slogans sewn on, which have exhibited widely including at Central Library. Josie and Jo came to see us to discuss how to hang their banners in our library from August to September. We also discussed how they might fund at least one workshop for adults, and whether they could run one with Wroughton Junior school pupils, which I would then come back and ask the Parish Council to fund – this is all work in progress. I have been in touch with Sam Blagg at Wroughton Juniors about this.

Kingfisher Primary School

Kingfisher Primary is within our parish, yet only one child from this school visited over Easter. I visited Kingfisher school with their raffle T shirt and have hopefully established a rapport with the school secretary, who has since offered to help us at the Christmas Switch On. I will be speaking in their school assembly in early July to explain where the library is and how it works, and we will try to encourage some of their pupils to come along. I’ll update you in July.

Duck Race Grant!

Bev has been in touch to say that the library can be awarded up to £300 from funds raised by the Duck Race! This is brilliant news and we would like to purchase two “slat boards” which are fixed to the end of the library shelves. We plan to display books which are on “shortlists” or have been recommended by our borrowers. This will be Paula’s project and it’s a great idea. A huge thankyou to the Duck Race organisers for awarding us the grant.

Tech Friend Café, Citizen’s Advice, and BT Digital Switchover sessions

Tech Friend’s Café, which offers free guidance and problem solving for mobile phones and tech, is back every third Wednesday of the month. The numbers attending vary but the last session drew nine residents who stayed the full two hours. If you know anyone who might benefit, please tell them where we are!

Citizen’s Advice has had a funding reprieve and have offered to come back every third Friday of the month which is very welcome news. Please spread the word as we want people to take advantage of this free service.

We offered the use of the library for a BT phone line Digitisation session on the 23rd May to answer residents' questions about what this change will mean. It was unexpectedly busy with 23 people attending to speak to the 2 volunteer advisors, with 2 more residents coming in after the library had closed, as BT had advertised the wrong opening hours!

And finally

Two of our school pupil T-shirt winners came to see us nonchalantly wearing their winners' T shirts, which were a perfect fit and looked great! We are continuing to see pupils returning to come into the library at weekends, so the Easter competition seems to have been a success in encouraging some junior school age children to use the library and read for enjoyment.

Hannah Dosanjh, Library Supervisor