

Parish Council report from Wroughton Library July 2025

A big thank you goes to the grounds team who have put up brackets in our new cupboard ready for shelves; just in time as we have already filled it to the brim with things that used to be behind the desk.

They have also put up a shelf above the adult fiction section which we can use for paintings, including those done last year by the scouts with local artist, Rhianon Hitchcock. I have contacted the scout group to let them know.

Summer reading challenge

It's that time of year! We will launch the Summer Reading Challenge on the 12th of July. This year it includes packs of books and activities for preschool children, distributed free by the Reading agency. The aim is to encourage parents to register their child with the library service, and to keep children reading over the summer holidays by making three visits to their local library. Reading for enjoyment is key; many schools are reporting that children have shorter concentration spans as they spend more time on their screens, so we are offering an alternative free of charge, with the added bonus of being next door to a beautiful green space and a playground.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme is *Story Garden; Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors*, which is right up our street. We have already made garden light catchers, planted seeds and provided themed colouring sheets, and we are happy to provide extra activities over the summer holidays.

The extra admin for this can be quite challenging, so the paperwork will be organised on the cleared shelves behind the library desks.

Explore learning will also offering two different workshops that tie in with the SRC for children aged 4 to 11 on August 19th and 27th.

Forthcoming events

A group called Stitch Social will be exhibiting a collection of banners in late August. Banners have a long social history; used in processions by the Chartists, Trade Unions, protestors and Brownies alike! Stitch Social also offer banner making workshops, which we are in the process of organising for August/ September. More information to follow.

Creative Writing Sessions

Last month we were approached by local resident Heather Hawkins, who is offering Adult's Creative Writing sessions free of charge. The Parish Council has kindly agreed to let her run these in the Alex room on five Tuesday mornings from 9th September to 7th October. Comms to follow.

Pick, Cook and Eat

Cathy and I recently attended the Gardening Society's Summer Outing at Overtown Manor B and B. Overtown Manor is owned and run by Nancy Lawson; a trained chef who worked with James Martin, and who recently starred in "Four in a Bed".

Nancy started a charity called "Pick, Cook and Eat" which she runs from her garden. Her organiser Rhona and volunteers work to support children and adults with learning disabilities by showing them how to cook vegetables they have planted. Nancy has offered to run a fundraising evening in September explaining what they do; hopefully involving food to sample. She is a total star, please support the comms for this event. More to follow.

This month's Artist in the cabinet is Martin Barrett. He is a wood turner and extremely talented. Please come into the library and peruse his very reasonable pieces which are all made from locally sourced wood.

I sometimes struggle to find someone to cover for absence, so we have advertised for more casual staff. In the meantime, Zoe has kindly stepped up to the plate; I would like to extend my thanks to her and to the office for sparing her.

Finally, last week I visited Kingfisher Primary School in Mid Wichel. This visit had been planned for some time, but after Easter when we realised that only one child from that school had visited, it became clear we needed to promote ourselves. I spoke to the whole school, class by class, and left leaflets for all parents explaining what we offered and where we are.

Teacher Julia Connell has since emailed to plan a “reward scheme” for the children, and one of their Trustees came in to give some really positive feedback.