



Wroughton Community Library Parish Report January 2026

Late in 2025 I had a conversation with the book purchaser for Swindon Libraries to explain that we would like to switch the ratio of new books from 60:40 children's to adults to 60:40 adults to children's titles. Children's books are VAT free and so are cheaper; but even so, we need to offer a more interesting range of adult books, which have been a tad thin on the ground since the autumn. We have been asking our customers for recommended authors and titles for our "recommended by you" section, and using these suggestions to feed our requests. It's a slow process but hopefully soon, we will receive a delivery of new titles which keep our customers returning again and again.

New shelves

The new shelf given to us gratis by West Swindon library has made a huge difference. It replaces the two shelves we nearly bought which would have cost almost £2000. We are ordering some magnetic upstands and label stands to make the categories clearer, and have had positive comments from our regular users.

Three new cover librarians

Ella Townsend, Carolyn Joyce and Kelly Waldek have all successfully completed at least one shift each and have all been excellent, I am delighted with their competence and professionalism.

New tent

A local family has kindly donated a large tepee style tent which we will trial during Rhyme Time on Tuesday and use during the holidays. I am always careful what I say yes to (!) but this is a very sturdy tent which does not need anchoring down and packs away easily. It could be argued that a library is all about books, but adding something that occupies children and gives them a sheltered space, can mean a richer reading experience and add to the buzz of a library visit. We will see how this pans out as it is quite large, but it's nice to have a prop to plan activities around.

Jan to Feb themes of "Things that Go" and Feb to March theme of "The GWR"

We are planning some simple STEM (science, technology, engineering and Maths) activities for January to February's craft club, then in March we will be remembering the closure of the GWR Works on March 28th 1986, with stories about trains, maps and a look at the impact of steam technology. These themes work well with the visit from author Steve Anthony who will be coming on February 19th to show us how he illustrated "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" and to help the children make 3D cars that fly! We will be promoting this soon.

I will contact Wroughton History Group to see if they have any photos we can put in the display case, and the Science museum to see if they have anything Railway related that can be handled.

Visits to the Library

Sarah Clarke from Wroughton cub scouts has requested the library be open on the evening of the 3rd February for a cub visit, so that the cubs can pass their reading badge. This is a great way to sell the

library's services, to distribute information and share the QR code which helps parents join their children online.

Two teachers from Wroughton Junior School have been in touch to request a visit to the library with up to thirty children; I have emailed them twice but have not received a reply as yet.

Citizen's Advice and an SBC housing officer continue to visit the library once a month each. I advertise these visits online and in the Wroughton Monthly.

Zoe has very kindly prepared a "What's on" poster to help keep our customers abreast and remind them of timings of visits and clubs. May I pass on a thank you to Zoe and to Emma for giving her the time to do so.

Hannah Dosanjh,

Wroughton & Wichelstowe Parish Councils Library Supervisor.

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