



Wroughton Library Parish Report September 2026

Plans to extend the library – we can all dream

To begin with, thank you for not dismissing the idea of extending the library. I came to the Projects meeting feeling philosophical and left feeling quite excited at the prospect of what I could do with extra space. I was imagining a room with a long table and chairs running down the middle; ready for discussions or creative projects with our residents.

Heather Hawkins

Speaking of which; Heather has begun the first of seven poetry session with ten attendees, and I was impressed by how she drew ideas and discussion out of them. We have one more week of just Heather's group, then on the 23rd we will also be joined by children from Wroughton Preschool for a weekly story session, while the poetry sessions are held in the hall before moving back into the library once the children have gone. Knit and Knatter will be concurrently running in the Alex Room.

Jules at the Bothy at Burderop House.

Last Tuesday I visited Jules who runs the Bothy and plant nursery with her partner. The Bothy sits alongside a walled garden which grows unusual plants destined for sale to high end buyers such as London hotels and shopping malls. Jules had posted the idea for a "library" on Facebook, and to be honest my first reaction was one of dismay as it's hard enough to explain to residents where we are and that we still exist, without there being another library nearby but elsewhere. She reassured me that it was very different and still in its early stages, and to cut a long story short we will keep in touch with the hopes of liaising on an interesting project at a future date.

Lego Competition with Gardener's Society

We almost swept the board for a third year in a row, had one of our regulars not decided to buy lego for her grandchildren who made beautiful model gardens at home! I like to think we had a benign influence.

End of Summer Reading Challenge /no Neil

The Summer Reading Challenge should be the highlight of our year with visitor numbers peaking as parents use the library to keep children stimulated and occupied over the summer holidays. However this year, due to staff changes or management decisions at Swindon Library HQ, there was less rocket fuel and more coasting.

The SRC officially began nationally on the 4th July, which is what we advertised in our "What's On ", sent to local schools and displayed in the library, but as the date drew near we realised there were no resources or communication. I phoned two core libraries who had no idea when the Swindon start date actually was, so we waited to hear what was happening. By the time Swindon Launched its SRC on the 25th July, it was too late to alert local schools to remind children to come to their local

libraries, and too late to remind teaching staff to make a fuss of children who returned to school with SRC completion medals after the summer holiday.

Obviously this radio silence was extremely frustrating, but we will never get to the bottom of who the decision makers were in this case. The uptake has definitely been lower than that of the last two years.

New cover librarians

Carolyn Joyce is now working at Marlborough College, Ruby Dosanjh has started her Apprenticeship and sadly another member of staff has resigned due to health issues. Emma put an advert on Facebook to advertise for cover staff one Friday in August, and by the following Tuesday we had fifteen expressions of interest, plus visits to the library, and more since. After much consideration Emma and I decided to focus on applicants who were looking to gain some additional experience and develop their CV, as well as those who demonstrated strong IT, social media and communication skills, which are particularly useful for this role. Added to which, it is a very detailed role and they may only be needed once every six weeks or so, so being comfortable with the systems and having the confidence to pick things up quickly is particularly important — which is a long time to remember your passwords!

Upcoming events

September is relatively calm but strap yourselves in for October...

October 3rd the Roxy Foundation will be in the library on Saturday morning. The Roxy Foundation advocates for and advises families with neurodivergent children. This is a free event and will hopefully cement the good relationship we have with this organisation.

Friday 9th Wine Tasting 7-9pm

Sarah Philip from Magnums Wines on Wood Street will be bringing one fizzy, three white and three red wines (with a possible bonus wine if numbers allow) pate, cheeses and homemade bread, and will explain why we should all drink more of these quaffable delights. I'm usually easily persuaded on this count, however I'll be the licensee that evening, (my thanks to Emma and Zoe who completed the paperwork costing £21) so I will probably be the only sober soul in the building.

This promises to be great fun; tickets cost £26 for members and £28 for non-library members.

"Mystery book lucky dip" on the night. On a more sober note, I'm hoping to entice the elusive 30- 50 demographic for this one, even males of the species might be tempted, so please spread the word and the flyers, once I've printed them.

15th October Canal Trust Evening

Chloe Ford returns to present the incredible progress of the new canal which will run from Abingdon to Semington, and link the Wilts and Berks to the Kennet and Avon canal systems. Not everyone wants to travel by boat but everyone understands the importance of the miles of pedestrian pathways this huge engineering project (run by volunteers!) will create. A good news story that should be applauded. Tickets £5, refreshments and cake provided.

Saturday 17th October Phyllida Richards Printing Workshop

Phyllida was sign posted to the library by Julie Smith, who is currently showing in our cabinet. She is an experienced provider of printing workshops, and will be offering a session for adults and older

children for an hour and a half, printing onto either a tea towel or a duffel style bag. The materials will be sourced by the Parish but the costs will be covered by the session price of £7.50 to £10 pp.

October 24th Create a Christmas bird workshop for the Christmas Lights Switch on Procession

The first of five hour-long sessions each Saturday from 24th October to 21st November to create paper doves of peace that can move their wings as if flying. Many thanks to Zoe who has offered to support me while I teach these sessions, as I may need to run down the corridor to check on the library especially if it's a week where we have a less experienced cover librarian (Paula works alternate Saturdays) We will tailor these sessions to a theoretical parent and child working together, with a maximum of 25 children in total; while knowing that we will most likely exceed that number as parents often bring a sibling to the sessions with the expectation that they can make one too. Unfortunately, the current size of the library and corridor dictates the limited numbers of participants, in what I hope will be our best procession yet.

Thank you to everyone; please promote the library where you can; we have leaflets with our opening times if you need.

Hannah Dosanjh, Library Supervisor