

Haddenham Community Library AGM: Friday 30 August 2013

Managers Report

Since we became a Community Library in November 2012 many things have stayed the same, all the services that were previously offered are still in place, with the addition of several others too. This has been made possible by the generosity of the Local Community by financial assistance from our sponsors, and time and support from our wonderful volunteers, not to mention all the hard work our Trustees do to keep us going, our loyal customers of course, and the County for its ongoing support also.

Across the County, as well as at Haddenham Library, active users, Issues, Library visits, and Stock have all been slightly less from January to July 2013, compared to January to July 2012. I believe this is a reflection of the changing times, as so many people now have some sort of electronic reading device. For the Library service as a whole this is actually a positive sign, as it shows that we are moving with the times and offering our customers an even better service. Since the launch of e-books and e-magazines in 2012, we are meeting the needs of an even greater range of customers, enabling customers to borrow books for free from the comfort of their homes, on the train on the way to work, or laying on the beach on Fiji! An area that has increased both across the County and especially at Haddenham Community Library is new memberships, in the period from January to July 2012, there were 105 new memberships, increasing to 178 new memberships in the same period in 2013.

We have been running a variety of sessions in the Library, including Storytime for preschoolers, Knit and natter, Computer taster sessions, cops and coffee, Games Club, and a variety of children's craft activities throughout the school holidays. We have been building relationships with the local schools in our area and have built a particularly good relationship with Haddenham Infant School. I visited the school last year and spoke to their school council about what they would like to do at the Library. They advised me that they would like to have books that came to life and male storytellers. We designed a programme that ran all term in which a male volunteer came in to read some non fiction books to a class group of 30 at a time, I then arranged for it to come to life. We were lucky enough to have the fire services, segways, folding bikes, a tractor, a double decker bus and many more. We would like to develop this idea to include more of the local community. We have also worked with St Mary's Infant School to have groups of children in to do "work experience." It was a pleasure to have them, and was rewarding for all concerned.

I am very keen to give young people the opportunity to gain some work experience. We accept a constant cycle of Duke of Edinburgh students for volunteering as well as general young people volunteering. James, a local lad comes in on a Saturday to help other children and young people to choose authors and books, as well as tidying and rearranging the children's stock. Laura, a local young lady has been coming in to run our Summer Reading Challenge crafts and has designed us a Facebook page. We have another new volunteer starting in October on Thursday afternoons to help with our Games Club.

Due to the generosity of our sponsors we have been able to buy cards and glasses to sell, have WiFi installed, buy some new furniture, purchase new books to fill gaps in our stock, and many other important things.

Before I finish I would like to give a particularly heartfelt thanks to all my wonderful volunteers for all the hard work, kindness, and support they give at the Library. I enjoy my job immensely and feel very grateful to be surrounded by so many special people. You all do an amazing job, thank you.

Good Luck to David in his new venture at Winslow Library, working with you has been a pleasure. Thank you for all your hard work.