

Porlock Community Library Report for May 8th 2024 by Cllr. D Thornton

The Porlock Community Library Partnership Quarterly Review meeting took place on Tuesday 16th April. Of particular note:

- Excellent year end results, with a 14% increase in visitor numbers yr. On yr. Particularly pleasing was a 12% increase in the books being issued and a 30% increase in active members.
- The 10th anniversary event was discussed and is to be on 10/10/2024 at 10 o'clock. I think that it might be appropriate if a limited number of 10th anniversary mugs were made available, they could be given to volunteers etc. PPC to consider this.

The annual presentation exercise was completed for Porlock Community Library by Somerset libraries. Porlock community library's overall evaluations were between 8-10 with excellent comments. I'd like to thank Mary and her volunteers for all of the hard work they have put in to attain this.

Training on the new LMS will be taking place throughout May with the new system going live on 4th June.

See below for the report from the library officer.

Porlock Community Library Report - for Porlock Parish Council May 2024

On 4th April the library and Wildways, part of the Somerset Wildlife Trust, ran a bug hunt in the Old School Centre orchard with storytelling and wildlife drawing in the library from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. It was a very successful afternoon. Eighteen children had a wonderful time in the orchard under the guidance of Wildways volunteers. The highlight was finding a slow worm. Wildways brought an array of displays for children and adults alike. Total visitors for this one event were 69 with three people joining the library.

At the Annual Parish Meeting I met Clare Walsh from the West Somerset Food Cupboard and we have a meeting soon to explore whether the library could become a collection point for their food bags, which are pre-ordered. Also, following on from an approach to the PPC, I am delighted that Victoria James from West Somerset Microcare Providers will be giving a talk in the library, to the public, regarding the role of micro carers in June and we are also discussing whether one of her team members could be available in the library for a regular drop-in event - similar to the police or Citizen's Advice.

Having a fortnightly drop-in at the library enabled West Somerset Citizen's Advice, during the last financial year, to help Porlock residents to gain financially by £60,856. The sums of money are derived from Welfare and Benefit applications and appeals and the balance was derived from debt related solutions.

Our efforts at helping out the local pharmacy re: setting up some of their customers with the NHS App has not gone unnoticed by the Library Service, who have suggested that all Somerset libraries should, if they are able, offer this service.

The library's annual performance (2023/24) was praised by our Library Service partner. Visitors, issuing of books and events all increased year on year. Can I personally express my thanks to the Parish Council and all my volunteers for their valued and continued support, without the volunteers Porlock would, probably, not have a library.

Mary Perkins Library Officer and Volunteer Co-ordinator.