

Porlock Community Library Report for June 12th 2024 by Cllr. D Thornton

The new Library Management system went live on 4th June. This is a new system and training has been provided to the library officer and two volunteers. Obviously further training and practical use of the new system has been, and is required. This has meant that the library officer has exceeded her usual hours for May and will exceed them again for June by fifteen hours each month. I would suggest that PPC pay the library officer for these hours (not to be given as TOIL) as they are solely justified for the training and integration of the new system.

The library usually puts on a craft morning every week during the summer holidays (six weeks) as part of the Summer Reading Challenge. A budget of around £50 will be needed for this, for any sundries etc.

The library participates in the church's annual flower festival (early August) and would like to be able to offer a volunteer, who will be doing the display a small amount of cash she can use, if necessary, around £30? Although, she normally sources most of the greenery from her garden.

The 10th anniversary coffee morning in October will need a budget of £100 maximum to provide cakes etc. It has also been mentioned that commemorative 10th anniversary mugs be sourced, this needs further investigation before any budget implications.

As noted in the report below the library and food bank joint initiative went "live" on 29th May, which provides another very useful community service.

Porlock Community Library Report - for Porlock Parish Council 12th June 2024

May and the first week of June have been busy for a variety of reasons.

Firstly, myself and two volunteers attended a day's training course in Taunton library regarding the new Library Management System which has just been introduced. This has been a major undertaking by the Library Service, changing from one provider to another. I am pleased to report that Porlock went "live" on Tuesday 4th June without any hitches. Training of the volunteers will be ongoing to ensure they are comfortable using the new system.

On 29th May the Library and West Somerset Food Bank launched a joint initiative to tackle rural food poverty. The library will now keep emergency food parcels available for people who are in crisis. There will be 3 types of food parcel available: a family bag, a single person pack for someone with cooking facilities and a single person pack for someone without cooking facilities. Each food parcel contains a carefully thought-out range of non-perishable food items. Any family/person experiencing food poverty can just call into the library and collect the appropriate bag.

The library has also hosted three talks and has trialled a new monthly group - The Book Recommendation Group - hosted by one of the volunteers. This will now take a summer break but will return in September, when people can just drop in on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.30 am to chat with others about books they might be reading, liked or didn't like etc. Also starting in September will be a Creative Writing Group.

On 20th June at 2pm the Network Lead for Micro Providers will be giving a talk in the library regarding what care etc these providers can offer. The initial approach was made to PPC by the network and it would therefore be good to see Council representation at this talk.

During half term a craft afternoon for the over 6's took place making parrots! Enjoyed by all. The next big event for the library will be the annual Summer Reading Challenge, which starts on 6th July. An assembly at

the school to promote this has been arranged for 17th June. We hope to run a craft morning/afternoon once a week during the summer holidays. A small allocation of money (£50?) for this would be beneficial should we need to purchase paint/crayons etc.

A small amount of funding to the maximum value of £30 for the library's entry in the church Flower Festival in August would also be helpful.

Mary Perkins
Library Officer and Volunteer Co-ordinator
6th June 2024