

South Gloucestershire Library Service Annual Report 2015-2016

This report summarises the work of South Gloucestershire Libraries in 2015/16, it highlights the impact we have had on communities and individuals.

Reading and literacy

Vital statistic 1.1 million books issued

Winterbourne Library 40,633 books issued

Time4Reading

This year the service has been working across South Gloucestershire on the Time4Reading project involving schools (primary and secondary) and the wider community. Schools have developed an award scheme to reward schools who achieve certain criteria, see www.southglos.gov.uk/time4reading

Children reading

The work with children and the encouragement of children to read makes South Gloucestershire one of the leading authorities – more children took part in the Summer Reading Challenge per capita than any other library in the South West. The service does work with all ages from pre-school children to teenagers, 44% of books issued are children's books. The Concorde Book Award is becoming a highly prestigious award and this year's ceremony was an exciting affair.

A parent said of the Summer Reading Challenge: 'Really amazing, has turned my 6 year old into a bookworm'. Maya said: 'A great excuse to go to the library! Fun and interesting workshops with cool facts. I wanted to finish the challenge to get a medal and I found new books to read too'.



Adult reading

To mark the Rugby World Cup libraries supported the regional reading passport, this opened doors to working with Bristol Sport through a longer term relationship both in schools and libraries.

The high profile events and activities are complimented by work within all the communities in engaging people with reading both within the library and in community settings.

In June the LibrariesWest consortium expanded to include Dorset and Poole, providing users with a range of 2 million books to choose from.

Information service

Vital statistic 140,000 enquiries

Winterbourne Library 14,638 enquiries

Libraries provide access to information, they are often the first place people will go to for help and staff are able to either provide the answer or refer to another agency or resource. For details of the information service see <http://bit.ly/1rCICEJ>.

Many enquiries are straightforward such as "How do I apply for a Travelcard?" Other enquiries are more involved and personal such a signposting a customer to bereavement services and support groups or helping them trace a friend "somewhere in Winterbourne".

Digital literacy

Vital statistic 137,000 hours of usage of the computers

Winterbourne Library 5,700 hours of usage

Digital inclusion is a priority both at local and national level and the service working with Community Learning has trained staff and volunteers to deliver a consistent offer to people wanting support with IT. With the increasing channel shift in all organisations access to IT and staff to support is becoming critical for the success of the digital inclusion plans.

The service was successful in receiving a grant to promote online access and worked with the other community groups in South Gloucestershire to promote access to IT.



J came to us with no knowledge of IT but was keen to get online. With the help of our excellent computer support volunteer and help from various staff members she became IT literate and even bought a laptop though South Gloucestershire low cost computer scheme and is now an independent learner.

Health and wellbeing

Vital statistic 4,000 Books on Prescription titles borrowed

Winterbourne Library 144 borrowed

Reading is healthy in its own right but libraries have continued to develop a series of books for specific conditions under the Reading Well Books on Prescription project – this year the dementia collection was launched which included stock for carers, and people experiencing dementia. In addition staff were trained to become health champions in each library. This complements the dementia and mental health arts project and memory cafes hosted in libraries.



Winterbourne now hosts regular Silver Sing Alongs since a trial event during Discover 2014. They are very popular and of great benefit in terms of enjoyment and stress relief to those that take part especially those with memory loss.

Similarly our fortnightly craft group sessions help alleviate isolation for some members of our community and the learning of new skills and communication with others supports health and wellbeing of the individual.

Learning

Vital statistic 16,667 hours of formal learning

Winterbourne Library 2,736 hours.

Libraries promote lifelong learning, self-improvement and social mobility and play an important role supporting the educational curriculum with reading for enjoyment. They provide both formal learning programmes working closely with Community Learning and local colleges and informal learning opportunities with people developing their own skills and knowledge through use of IT and books. The service works closely with UWE where users can use their library card to access high level stock. The library workforce provides users with essential support to get the most from available learning opportunities.

They also support the economic growth of the area through providing volunteer opportunities and providing a touch down base for local workers. One gentleman regularly uses other libraries as a temporary office using the Wi-Fi and taking mobile phone calls. This means he has no office overheads.

Culture and creativity

Vital statistic 9,600 adults and 65,000 children attended events in libraries

Winterbourne Library 1,007 adults and 5,569 children attended events

Libraries enrich the lives of individual and communities through the provision of events, activities and exhibitions helping people gain a sense of place and take pride in their neighbourhoods and communities. The Discover Festival is a major part of our promotion, festival highlights at Winterbourne Library included Line Dancing, a talk on the garden at Dyrham House as well as a talk on Frenchay Hospital's history. Regular events include our craft group, pencil drawing workshops and the Annual Quiz, now in its 6th year. The service also supports national weeks to raise the profile of specific issues such as British Science Week, World Mental Health Day and World Book Night.

Community

Vital statistic 917,743 visits

Winterbourne Library 36,236 visits

Libraries are valued safe and neutral spaces where people of all ages are welcomed and participate in a range of activities. The stories behind the visits are powerful testimonies to the value of libraries. Being based in most main communities enables the service to host the delivery of other services, we work in partnership with Community Learning, Public Health, DWP, and various voluntary sector groups enabling to work with local communities. At Winterbourne Library regular craft and pencil drawing workshops are taking place and occasional exhibition by outside providers such as the Crossbow Camera Club or Winterbourne Down Art Group.

In addition libraries can be hired by community groups to ensure use of the building is maximised – users of Winterbourne Library include SGS College who use this venue to teach computer literacy and several of Winterbourne's seven reading groups.