

Date: 3rd April 2017

Email: wendy.law@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Ms M Powell, Parish Clerk
Willingham Parish Council
Ploughman Hall
West Fen Road
Willingham
Cambridge
CB24 5LP

Economy, Transport and Environment
Executive Director: Graham Hughes

Cambridgeshire Libraries & Information

Bar Hill Library
Gladeside
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8DY

Dear Mandy

Here is the information regarding Willingham Library for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Report

The library continues to provide an excellent service in Willingham.

As well as books there are magazines, talking books and children's DVDs for loan. Items not in stock can be requested from other libraries for £1 for adults but this is free for children. Library members may have up to 2 hours free Internet access a day on the library computers and are also able to access the library system on-line from home to search the catalogue, make requests and renew books as well as being able to use Reference websites such as Encyclopedia Britannica – the junior version of this is excellent for helping with homework.

In the last year the library has offered the following:

- **Engage in the Afternoon**
A monthly event for the over-50s offering a speaker and refreshments free of charge.
- **Class Visits**
The library and children's librarian hosted six classes, two classes from each of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 from Willingham Primary School.
- **Summer Reading Challenge**
Last year 53 children completed the challenge whereby they read 6 books during the summer holiday, came to the library to talk to staff and our teenage volunteers about them and collected a medal and certificate at the ceremony in September. This was a large increase on the number taking part in 2015 and the children really enjoyed this year's Roald Dahl theme. Thanks to Councillor Ray Croucher who attended the medal ceremony.
The donation of money from the Parish Council allowed us to hold two author events this

year. These were held at the Primary School instead of the library to ensure that more children could benefit but it was made clear that the funding was from the library (and thanks were expressed to Willingham Parish Council for its support):

- James Campbell, a well-known children's performer and writer of the 'Boyface' series.
- Matty Long, wrote and illustrated the Super Happy Magic Forest picture books.

Both events were held in July and, as well as both being enormous fun and hugely enjoyed by the children, enabled us to promote the Summer Reading Challenge in good time for the beginning of the summer holidays

- **Volunteers**

The library has three general volunteers whose input is much appreciated by staff.

- **Family History Group**

Since April 2016, the library has hosted a family history group run by volunteers and taking place twice a month.

- **Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)**

The library still benefits from having an active Friends group. The Friends run a monthly reading group and an annual Poetry and Prose evening which is always well-supported. They also run occasional other events - last year this was a Book Trail connected with Willingham Feast.

- **Willingham Feast**

The library supports the Feast by holding a Friends event as above and hosting the Willingham Art Club's exhibition on the Sunday of the weekend.

Accounts

The library would like to thank the Parish Council very much for the kind donation of £600 made last year for the Summer Reading Challenge. The breakdown of spending is as follows:

- James Campbell, author event fee - £350.
- Matty Long, illustrator event fee - £140.
- Staff costs for supporting the events - supplying books, liaison with the authors and the school, collecting and returning Matty Long from Cambridge, supporting the authors on the day and dealing with the invoices - £50
- Total: £540 (The remainder will be carried forward to promote this year's challenge)

The money donated by Willingham Parish Council is paid to Cambridgeshire County Council and is only used to provide events and activities for Willingham Library.

The library will not be sending a representative to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Many thanks again for Willingham Parish Council's generous support for the Summer Reading Challenge.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Law
Area Library Manager
South Cambridgeshire North