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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 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 have benefitted from free Internet access until now, but from May 2018, this will change. Library members will have up to half an hour of free Internet access a day, paying £1 per hour for extra time on the library computers. Children and job-seekers will have free access as well as those looking at government and council websites. Wi-fi use will still be free. Members can access the library system on-line from home to search the catalogue, make requests and renew books as well as being able to use many and varied reference websites. Our e-offer continues to be excellent, offering free downloading of e-books, magazines and newspapers.

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.

- **Bus Passes and Blue Badges**

Library staff now offer a service to help customers apply and renew bus passes and blue badges. The customer just needs to bring along their documentation and staff can take photos and upload the scanned documents for them. It's a service which has been much appreciated by those who have used it.

- **Class Visits**

In November, the library and children's librarian hosted six classes, from Reception up to

Year 2 from Willingham Primary School.

- **Summer Reading Challenge**

Last year, 66 children took part and 38 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. The theme was 'Animal Agents' and had a puzzle which could only be solved by those who reached the 6th week. This caused much head-scratching among the staff and admiration for the children who solved it! Thanks to Councillor Ray Croucher who attended the medal ceremony.

The theme for the Summer Reading Challenge this year is 'Mischievous Makers' which will open up a very wide range of reading for all the age groups and we are planning to hold one event each week at the library.

The donation of money from the Parish Council allowed us to hold two slightly different events this year:

- Animal Experience. The team brought along some lizards, snakes and a meerkat for the children to learn about and handle – great fun!
- Little Lab of Science. This was an event for younger children, introducing them to very early science experimentation. Kitted out in white coats, they were able to get to grips with 'Animal Tracks and Communication' via animal sounds, looking at and making footprints and basic echo-location with a water tank.

- **Volunteers**

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

- **Family History Group**

The library hosts a family history group run by volunteers 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 this year arranged two Poetry and Prose evenings, both well supported. There was also a new venture – a Desert Island Discs evening, whereby people brought along their favourite songs to play and explain why they had chosen them – a popular and fun evening. They also run occasional other events and last year opened the library over the Feast weekend.

- **Willingham Feast**

The library supported the Feast in October 2017 by holding a Local History display organised by Rosemary Mumford from the Friends group and Chris Jakes, as well as opening the library throughout the weekend including activities for children.

Accounts

The library would like to thank the Parish Council very much for the kind donation of £500 made last year for the Summer Reading Challenge. The breakdown of spending is as follows:

- Animal Experience, event fee - £150.
- Little Lab of Science, event fee - £120.

- Staff costs for supporting the events - supplying books, liaison with the organisers and having staff to support the events on the day - £50.
- Total: £320 (The remainder will be carried forward to promote this year's challenge when we are hoping to have visiting authors).

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