**Report from Willingham Library 2019/20**

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. We have a joint arrangement with Peterborough and Suffolk libraries which allows our customers to request books from those libraries for £2.

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.

The library service also offers the Spydus app, a free download on both Apple and Android phones, via which members can access their account, search the catalogue and make requests.

Use of library computers and w-fi for customers continues to be free.

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**
The library is now established as offering a great service to those wanting to apply for or renew bus passes and blue badges and this is much appreciated by customers.

* **Class Visits**

These took place in April 2019 and were also planned for the two school Reception Classes for April 2020.  Unfortunately, they did not take place due to Covid-19 closures.

* **Summer Reading Challenge**

61 children registered to take part and 48 completed the challenge (a much higher finishing percentage than previous years) having read 6 books over the summer holiday and discussed them with staff and our teenage volunteers. They received a medal and certificate at the ceremony in September which was attended by Councillors Linda King and Jim Watson, and Mr Dave Morel, Head of Willingham Primary School.

Money donated by the Parish Council enabled us to do the following:

* Host a Magic Show.  Well attended and children thoroughly enjoyed the event. (£120)
* Run a Star Wars event – children dressed up as characters and made their own light sabres and Millennium Falcons. (a small amount to buy craft items)
* Jointly with the school, had an author visit on World Book Day from local author, Lou Carter.  A separate report has been provided.  (£300)
* Ran Lego events – staffed by volunteers from our Friends group.  As closures took place, we were in the process of spending £100 to buy additional Lego and Duplo.
* **Volunteers**
The library has three general volunteers, Anne, Rosemary and Jenny whose input is much appreciated by staff. Anne and Rosemary also run the out-of-hours Family History group twice a month.  Rosemary and Linda have helped run children events at the library.
* **Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)**
The library supported the Feast in October 2019 by opening on the Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday with members of the Friends group, who also mounted a ‘where is this’ quiz with photos from the OldWillingham website.  The library also hosted the Octagon Art Group’s Exhibition which brings in a lot of extra visitors.
The Friends regularly host events in the library – Poetry and Prose and Desert Island Discs evenings, plus two reading groups and a family history group. During the Easter holidays they organised a family book trail.

Last year, they began hosting a book sale on the first Saturday of every month, which proved very successful, and also a monthly scrabble afternoon.   These will continue when we re-open.

The library would like to thank the Parish Council very much for the kind donation for 2019/2020.  As we will not be running a Summer Reading Challenge this year in the usual format (it will be digital), we think it only fair not to ask for a donation for 2020/2021

Many thanks again for Willingham Parish Council’s generous support for the Summer Reading Challenge over the years.  Hopefully, normal service will be resumed in 2021

Yours sincerely

Pauline Brown

Area Library Manager

South Cambridgeshire North

**Report on author visit to Willingham Primary School on World Book Day, by Lou Carter**

On World Book Day, the staff of Willingham Library arranged for local author, Lou Carter, to visit Willingham Primary School.  The visit was funded using some of the money Willingham Parish Council had donated to us for the Summer Reading Challenge.  This seemed a perfect way to get the maximum number of children to benefit from this generous donation.

The morning began with Lou addressing a whole school assembly and explaining the stages of book production – from the idea, right through to the book being available for sale.  She invited children to take on the parts of author, illustrator, publisher, production workers in the factory in China, marketing and finally, book seller.  Over 300 children sat spellbound.  Cllr Linda King attended the assembly.

Next, she visited the Reception children and they made finger puppets of her book characters.  Years 1 and 2 acted out scenes from her books. After lunch, the older children listened to one of her books and then went away to produce their own versions.  She visited every classroom to help them formulate their ideas.  The day ended with a sharing assembly where children read out their stories.  Willingham Library staff were there throughout the visit.

This visit would not have been possible without the Parish Council money and the library and school are extremely grateful.