



Community-managed Libraries FACT SHEET



CHALFONT ST GILLES

Buckinghamshire

Pop: c 6,000



Services Provided: Story times for pre-school children every week, events during the school holidays and the 'Summer Reading Challenge'

Space also used for: MP, Councillors, Community Police and coffee mornings.

Opening Hours: Tues to Fri - 10am to 5pm & Sat - 9.30am to 4pm

How did it start?

In November 2006 Buckinghamshire County Council closed eight small public libraries including the County library in Chalfont St Giles. The Friends of Chalfont St Giles Library consulted their local community, including the Parish Council, and with their support decided to run the library. It was opened as a self-managed Community Library in January 2007. In 2010 the County Council revised its policy and agreed to work in partnership with the village and provide some support to the Community Library.

How is the library service managed and staffed?

Have around 50 volunteers. Two volunteers are on duty in the library at any one time. Typically each volunteer serves in the library for half a day once a fortnight.

What kind of library service is provided?

Residents use the Library in the same way and on the same lending terms as any library. Existing library membership cards are still valid and people can use the county library central reservation systems with links into the wider library network.

How is it funded?

Usual library charges apply and like many other community libraries, there is a £10 subscription to join the Friends of Chalfont St Giles. The money raised funds library improvements and helps to ensure that the library is able to maintain the best possible stock selection for both adults and children.

How is the building managed?

The building is managed by the Friends Chalfont St Giles Library.

What has changed since the library was managed by the community?

The library has increased its opening hours from the 20 hours per week provided by the old County Library to 34.5 hours per week. It is now open lunch times and Saturday afternoons. The book stock has increased by 60% and its lending has increased every year from 2007-12. The library building has been improved with new windows, a new porch and some interior refurbishment. In a joint project with the Parish Council, the Friends of Chalfont St Giles Library is working on a plan to build an extension to the library.

Link: A short film about the library is available from www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VIS_z2RLOQ



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FARNHAM COMMON

Buckinghamshire

Pop: c 6,000



Services Provided: photocopying, audio books, sale of books, liaison with local schools and organising educational trips and outings for the community.

Space also used for: Sure Start Children's Centre; Thames Valley Police Community Support Officers; food bank; quiz nights.

Opening Times: Tues 09:30 - 19:00, Thurs & Fri 09:30 - 17:00, Sat 09:30 - 13:00

How did it start?

In October 2011 a group comprising of 30 community-spirited people was independently established to take over the running of the library service from the county council.

How is the library service managed and staffed?

The Library is a registered charity. The 12 members of the Management Committee manage the day to day operation of the library and are trustees of the charity. The 320 members of the Friends of Farnham Common Community Library appoint the Management Committee (Trustees). The library is staffed from a pool of around 40 volunteers, 20 of which volunteer regularly. Shifts take either 2 or 4 hours and during each shift a more experienced 'shift leader' works alongside a volunteer with less experience of the systems.

What kind of library service is provided?

Residents use the Farnham Common Community Library in the same way and on the same lending terms as any Buckinghamshire County library. Existing library membership cards are still valid. Library members use the county library central reservation systems and continue to be linked into a wider library network.

How is it funded?

Buckinghamshire County Council pays for maintenance costs and £5,000 per year towards the library service. The group also receive rent from the Sure Start Children's Centre and the Police. To become a Friend of Farnham Common Community Library, a voluntary donation of £10 per annum is requested. As a charity they are also able to actively seek other donations from individuals and businesses.

How is the building managed?

The group have secured a 25 year lease from Buckinghamshire County Council. The Children's section of the library can be separated from the rest of the library and is used for other children's activities & events as well as by the Children's Centre in the mornings and on days the library is not open.

What has changed since the library was managed by the community?

Opening hours have been increased to 27hrs/week and there are frequent social events.

Link: A short film about the library is available from <http://vimeo.com/57039193>



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GRAPPENHALL



Nr Warrington

Pop: c 9,500

Services Provided: independent library service

Space also used for: private hire and other community groups

Opening Hours: Mon & Tues 2-6 p.m.; Thurs & Sat 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

How did it start?

Soon after the closure on the 2nd April 2011, a small group decided to try to return the empty building to community use. Over eighty people from the community got involved in the project. Discussions with Warrington Borough Council were successful and the building was handed over to a new company/charity, formed by the volunteers. Just before Christmas 2011, the keys were handed over to the 'Friends of Grappenhall Library'.

How is the library service managed and staffed?

Three librarians are involved in running the library. The library is operated and supported by the community. There are around 50 active volunteers, including 4 board members, a library team of 12 overseen by a librarian and 15 additional volunteers who support community activities which take place in the library (ie drop-in sessions for older people).

What kind of library service is provided?

Grappenhall Community Library sits outside the council's library management system and operates its own library management system. It has its own IT equipment and does not currently operate public internet access.

How is it funded?

Many books have been donated to the library, which has over 5,000 books in stock. It sells surplus/duplicate stock in the library and at local events. It has around 600 borrowers (over one-third of these are under-16s). It currently has around 135 Friends, each paying £10 a year and they also receive donations and do fund-raising. The kitchen and additional toilet facilities were not part of the original library and were installed after successful applications to Big Lottery (£10,000) and WREN (£30,000).

How is the building managed?

The building has been transferred to the community rent free. Warrington Borough Council retains the freehold and if for any reason the library fails the Council can take back the building. The Council has provided financial assistance for the first two years of operation (50% of the costs in the first year and 25% in the second year). The library was also given access to the council's excess furniture store to help furnish the library.

What has changed since the library was managed by the community?

As a community hub, the space will be used to provide other support, especially for older vulnerable people following the successful applications to build a kitchen and toilet.

More information is available from <http://grappenhall.org.uk/>



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DUNCHURCH

Warwickshire (nr Rugby) Pop: c 3,000



Services Provided: storytelling, coffee mornings and computer training.

Space also used for: the Parish Council office and rooms are available to hire.

Opening Hours: Tuesday 10.00 – 18.30;
Thursday 10.00 – 17.00; Friday 10.00 – 17.00
Saturday 10.00 – 13.00

How did it start?

In 2012 Warwickshire County Council (WCC) decided to close Dunchurch Library as part of county-wide budget cuts. Dunchurch Parish Council held a number of public meetings where it was obvious that the community wanted to keep their library open. In April 2012 the Parish Council took over the library and became the controlling authority. The library is now open four days a week, as it was when run by WCC.

How is the library service managed and staffed?

Fully staffed by volunteers. There are currently nearly 50 volunteers trained in all aspects of day to day running of the library including

- Managing loans and returns, shelving books, helping customers find what they are looking for, reading to children;
- Presentation of the library - arranging the stock, keeping display up to date Fundraising - helping with events such as fashion shows, coffee mornings and talks;
- Publicity - advertising events, publicising library initiatives, spreading awareness of the library as a village hub.

What kind of library service is provided?

Residents use the Library in the same way and on the same lending terms as any library. Existing library membership cards are still valid and people can still use the county library central reservation systems.

How is it funded?

All the running costs for the library are covered by fundraising events (coffee mornings, fashion shows, talks), room hire and voluntary donations and a 'Friends of Dunchurch Library' subscription scheme.

How is the building managed?

The building is managed by the Parish Council.

What has changed since the library was managed by the community?

The library service has been maintained and the building has become a genuine hub for the community.

More information is available from <http://www.dunchurchlibrary.org/index.htm>



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HARBURY



Warwickshire

Pop: c 3,000

Services Provided: Standard library service plus an internet café.

Space also used for: Internet café and art exhibition space.

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. – midday. The café is open Weds-Saturday in the morning.

How did it start?

Following the decision by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) that it could no longer afford to run the library service in Harbury, a small group of volunteers formed a charitable trust to take on the continued provision of library services. Harbury Village Library created space in the library building to enable the start of a café.

How is the library service managed and staffed?

Harbury Village Library is a Charitable Trust, with a Management Committee of 8. Both the Library and Café are staffed by volunteers, but they are organised separately. The library is staffed by 38 volunteers – 2 at the same time, each doing about 4hrs a week. The group manage their own bookstock alongside the council collection.

What kind of library service is provided?

Residents use the Library in the same way and on the same lending terms as any library. Existing library membership cards are still valid and people can use the county library central reservation systems. The group however also successfully manage their own bookstock alongside the council collection.

How is it funded?

The Biblio's Café provides much of the income, but the group also run other fundraising schemes like a 'buy a book scheme'.

How is the building managed?

The library is managed by the charitable trust and is located in an old Victorian school building.

What has changed since the library was managed by the community?

- Over 10,680 drinks have been served together with 900 cakes.
- 243 pieces of artwork from 37 local artists have been exhibited
- the Library has added over 1,000 books to its stock
- Over 400 people have registered to make use of this additional stock and loans are running at around 200 volumes per month in addition to WCC books.
- Successful sales of surplus stock at the Village Summer Fair and the Victorian Street Fair where the Cafe bakers provided a terrific selection of cakes.

More information is available from <http://www.harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk/>



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WROSE

ShIPLEY, West Yorks

Pop: c 15,000



Services Provided: Standard Library Service and also offer audio cassettes, audio CDs, black and white printer and a colour/black & white A4 photocopier.

Space also used for: craft sessions

Opening Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.; Saturday 9.30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

How did it start?

Management of the library was transferred to the community in November 2011 with volunteers providing the service with support from Bradford Libraries and Wrose Parish Council. The library now hosts story-time, rhyme-time and a coffee session.

How is the library service managed and staffed?

Volunteers are responsible for operating the library with support from Bradford Metropolitan District Council Library Services and Wrose Parish Council. The Wrose Community Association originally took on the library with 16 volunteers.

What kind of library service is provided?

As well as over 4,000 books and free internet access, the library also offers a reading group, taster sessions for IT learners, and access to information throughout the district.

How is it funded?

The Wrose Community Association is responsible for fundraising.

How is the building managed?

The Community Association pays the rent to the Co-op, which is the landlord; the lease on the space is for three years.

What has changed since the library was managed by the community?

The craft skills of some volunteers has enabled the library to extend the range of services it offers; a development that might not have happened under previous arrangements.