

## **Library Report to the Waterbeach Annual Parish Meeting on Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>.**

WILL: Waterbeach Independent Lending Library continues to be very successful; at the end of 2017-18 there were **660 active** users which is a significant increase -- with some 118 new users signed up during the year.

**Overall the library issued 21227 items including over 16300 junior books** which shows how much the younger members of the community are using the facility. WILL encourages the children and adults to identify books they have enjoyed, or friends have found interesting, and then acts on their recommendations, which ensures the members are involved in their Community Library, thus providing inclusion from all ages.

The Reading Challenge in 2017 provided a record number of completed challenges and this year the Parish Council has increased the grant to support the Reading Challenge. This will be spent providing new books for the challenge on Mischief Makers to ensure all participants have an opportunity to borrow a new book and to enjoy the range of topics covered. There are books aimed at younger readers (4-7) more confident readers (8-11) and also titles selected for Young Adults who may be volunteering through the young people's programme or doing D of E community service.

The Reading Agency promotes the challenge saying

**"Reading for pleasure is more important to children's successes than education or social class. The Summer Reading Challenge gets three quarters of a million children into libraries to keep up their reading skills and confidence during the long holiday"**

Research shows that taking part in the challenge can:

- Increase children's confidence and enjoyment of reading
- Open up reading choices
- Offer opportunities for children to share their reading experience
- Raise the status of reading as a creative activity

From the visitor counts done quarterly it is estimated that there were 9399 visitors to the library in the year April 2017 to March 2018. Visitors often comment on the range of books available and are surprised at the variety offered. WILL is considered the best Independent Library catering for all classes in the Community!