

## ***Library report to February 2015 Parish Council Meeting***

There was a letter from the school in December saying that they would increasingly be using the community room. I have asked for a meeting to understand the impact this will have on the library but have received no response. While the community building is for everyone, when groups hire it they tend to control those in the room and do not interfere with books on shelves or the PCs. It is important that there is an understanding that all users of the community room have to ensure that there is no damage/disruption to equipment of the others. This includes how chairs and tables are stacked etc and the space available for them. Some parents have kindly returned books to the library that their children had borrowed from the school library for which we are grateful.

We have heard nothing more of the progress of the SLA, this needs to be addressed urgently and the requirements reflected in it considered in the light of the changing shared use of the community room. While the school no longer want to visit the library regularly we are delighted that additional nurseries and playgroups are visiting or benefitting from a supply of books from the library.

I understand there will be some refurbishment of the building because of its role as a community facility but the precise timescale for this is not known at present.

The provision of the metal book holder, as envisaged, has been particularly successful with the younger children, allowing them to choose their own books at an early age. Plus it has also provided an ideal display unit for the Usborne Books covering ages 5 years - 10 years which has been extremely well received by parents/carers.

The library would request £500 grant from the PC in the 2014-2015 year so that books can be purchased to support the 2015 reading challenge for young children. As reported we had record numbers participating last year and completing the challenge and the junior borrowing figures reflect the significant use of the library by this age group. In fact all ages have been indicating a steady rise in new members which demonstrates the need and use of the facility. In the first 9 months of the 2014-2015 year the library issued more than 12000 books (which included 8750 junior books), added 76 new users and now have over 500 active users.

In line with County Council policy we have been discussing how we can contribute to the "hub" system, which is still being investigated. We are providing a service to the unemployed to assist their fulfilling the requirements of the Employment agency. If required a suitable quiet time for meetings between the unemployed and their career advisers at the beginning of Library sessions can be arranged, to date five meetings have taken place. The meetings are restricted when the Playgroup visits, hence the need for an appointment.

The volunteers will be running a raffle in February, the prize having been donated, to raise funds for the purchase of specialised books.

Kate Grant