

Library Managers Report

After a great start to the year for the Library and FOGL the situation then changed for us all.

I would like to start with the positives:-

- We have started a Rhyme Time with Stay and Play thanks to the help of two volunteers Lisa Hewlett and Jacky Underwood. This is held monthly in the library on a Wednesday morning when we are shut to the public. Parents and carers bring their 0-4yrs to play in the library and then join us for a rhyme time. FOGL provide a song bag for each child and the volunteers have created simple craft activities to go with the rhyme of the month. This has been very well attended and when the situation improves we will reinstate it.
- Weekly storytime continues with a big thank you to our regular readers Jacky Underwood, Sarah Chambers, Bev and Kate Herbert.
- We have run a number of coffee morning also on a Wednesday morning with support from the committee.
- A great programme of local authors talking to FOGL member in the evening over a glass of wine. Thanks to Gaye and Tina.
- A regular computer drop in/booking event to get help with using mobile phone, computers and ipads. These have been well attended and have carried on in lockdown over the phone – see FOGL webpage for details.
- The Webpage has been up and running well with Dorothy Hirsch at the helm.
- I have put on holiday activities during school holidays to help bring children into the library. Anything from simple crafts – quick hunts around the library to Lego challenges.
- The highlight being the Harry Potter evening, when over 30 wizards and witches come to the library for an evening of fun games and crafts.
- We also opened for the Christmas evening where we decorated gingerbread people and listened to the Ginger Bread Man story.

All these events would not be possible without the financial help from FOGL, Volunteers and the funding of an assistant (Gill Amos) for 3 hrs a week. The extra time it gives me, allows these events to be planned, organised and run. Thanks to Gill Amos for all her hard work and continued support to Goring Library this year. Without a doubt it has brought more people into the library and created a lovely community atmosphere within the library and I hope you have been able to attend some of these events. They will be back, but only when it is safe to do so.

The library shut in late March due to Covid 19 and has yet to reopen. However I am working very hard as is the library service to get us into a position to reopen. In the meantime FOGL have been running the webpage to keep members in contact with the library. Please do take a look at www.fogl-oxon.co.uk. We have continued Story Time with Jacky Underwood providing lovely stories which Dorothy Hirsch edits and we will continue this until we can restart the regular sessions in the library. We have been growing a pebble book worm outside the library which has grown well and has some beautiful painted pebbles from both young and old often depicting a favourite book. Bob will remain outside the library until we open so please take a look or add another pebble. FOGL ran a best joke competition to help celebrate the summer reading challenge usually a big event in all Libraries (this switched to online this year). The winner will be announced soon.

Information about reopening will be on the OCC library website and FOGL website.

While we are shut I have been supporting other libraries which are open (a list is on the library door), but will return to Goring as soon as I can.

Please do support us when we do reopen and I look forward to seeing you in the library soon. Finally a thank you to Jacqui Gray and all the committee for all their ideas and support over the last year, to Mary Carr who manages the rota and co-ordinates all the volunteers and of course the volunteers for making Goring such a welcoming library.