

Mobile Libraries report 2016/17

The mobile library visits Brandon Parva, Runhall and Welborne on a Wednesday every four weeks. A current timetable is enclosed for your information.

Mobile library visit reminders

A new mobile library e-mail reminder service started last year. E-mail reminders are sent to mobile library users advising them that the mobile library will be in their area during the next few days.

Mobile Library Friends

We have been trying to recruit Mobile Library Friends to help us to promote the mobile library service. We are looking for people who:

- have any suggestions for new stops in their area
- would be happy to deliver mobile library flyers to local households
- know of any shops or cafes in their village which may be happy to display one of our posters.

Slipper Swaps

The mobile library service has held 3 'Slipper Swap' days in South Norfolk and Broadland, working with local district councils to provide the opportunity for older people to swap their worn out slippers for a new slip-resistant pair, free of charge, on the mobile library.

Promotions

Mobile libraries take part in a number of promotions each year:

Brave New Reads is a shared reading programme between the library services in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and Writers' Centre Norwich. Chosen by readers, for readers, Brave New Reads 2016 offered six brilliant books and opened up new worlds of reading and writing.

Norfolk's Great Big Read encouraged people to pick up a book and get back into a reading habit. The 2016 promotion linked with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, with an emphasis on making Shakespeare accessible to readers of all levels. The current 2017 promotion – Norfolk's Most Wanted – recommends the top 20 most popular books to escape with.

Summer Reading Challenge - another successful event in 2016! The Big Friendly Read – celebrating 100 years of the world's favourite storyteller, Roald Dahl – took place during the school summer holidays. Children who read 6 or more books could then collect medals and certificates from their local mobile library in September.

The ImagiNation Project is a reading and arts activity for 11-18yr olds which runs in libraries across the East of England. ImagiNation encourages young people to enjoy reading and get creative! Young people were given a log when they joined, with activities to choose from to help them express their ideas about what they have read, or to record how a book made them feel.

Historypin Connections is an oral history project to record important historical events and help with social isolation issues which many older people face. A Community Development Worker gathered and recorded oral history stories from our customers, and in collaboration with the digital company Historypin, these stories were posted on their website.

Healthy Libraries

Mobile libraries support Public Health campaigns each month by providing relevant leaflets and posters on mobile libraries, as well as having a range of health related books.

Books on Prescription

'Reading Well - Books on Prescription' is a recommended reading list of high-quality information, support and advice on a wide-range of common mental health conditions including anxiety, depression, phobias and some eating disorders. The scheme helps you manage your wellbeing using self-help reading and is endorsed by health professionals. Other reading lists available are 'Books on Prescription for Dementia' and 'Shelf-help - Reading Well for young people'. Leaflets and books are available on mobile libraries.

Norwich Castle Museum partnership



In 2016 one vehicle was repainted to support the Cressida Cowell 'How to train your dragon' exhibition at the museum



and a second vehicle has been repainted in 2017 with a Norwich Castle design, which will be attending the museum during the Easter holidays.

Online reservation service and app

We have been encouraging our library users to reserve books via the online library catalogue for collection from their local mobile library. A new app was launched to access your library record and order items from the catalogue. The app is downloadable from the Norfolk County Council website.

Jigsaw puzzles

Orchard Toys of Wymondham made two very generous donations of children's jigsaw puzzles/games to the Mobile Library Service. Jigsaw puzzles for adults and children are available to borrow from the mobile libraries based in Norwich and can be borrowed free of charge for the usual mobile library loan period of 8 weeks.

Story Sacks

We have been encouraging families, nurseries and pre-schools to borrow story sacks. A story sack is a bag containing a favourite children's book with supporting materials to stimulate language activities and make reading a memorable and enjoyable experience. They are available on request from the mobile libraries based in Norwich and can be borrowed free of charge for the usual mobile library loan period of 8 weeks.

Bear's Reading Adventure sticker storybook

Mobile libraries have been giving each child a FREE copy of Bear's Reading Adventure - a sticker storybook for families with children aged 0-5. Each time they read a book with an adult, the child can come back to the mobile library to collect stickers – ten in total – and then download a certificate to celebrate their success. Bear's Reading Adventure also contains tips for families on how they can have fun reading together every day.

Advertising on a mobile library

We have been contacting organisations throughout Norfolk to see if they want to advertise on the back of our mobile libraries, as a way to generate income for the service. If you know of any organisations who might be interested in advertising on the back of any of our mobile libraries, we would be very grateful if you could provide us with their contact details.