

Saxilby Library Volunteers

Rationale for change of Wednesday afternoon to Thursday morning hours of work, to be presented to the Finance Committee June 2023.

Paper from Ruth Dymock, Library Volunteer

Back story: The library re-opened its doors in June 2021 following covid and the Pavilion fire, with the support of volunteers who were eager to provide their time to help return the village to normal service. There was a restriction on available days, so the historic 5 morning sessions per week were adjusted to cover three days only, with mornings and afternoons on Tuesday and Wednesday, in what we hoped was a temporary arrangement.

We rely on the availability of people who give up their time for library work, and in fact we lost three volunteers who could only work on Mondays, Thursdays or Saturdays. Poor use of trained volunteer resources leads to frustration/dissatisfaction, leading to our proposal for changed session times.

Visitor numbers: see breakdown of visitor numbers, details attached.

Mornings: most general library work is completed, and most visitors attend.

Tuesday afternoons: opening is really for the benefit of the school, who are very enthusiastic and want it to continue but can only manage this schedule.

Wednesday afternoons: little general work remains, and there are fewer visitors. The **half hour extra opening** to meet the needs of school children's needs is very little used (NB figures shown are frequently adult users).

Proposals:

(1) To return the Wednesday afternoon session to Thursday morning, as previously. This would support the village with an easier timetable whilst not changing total hours of access. Job satisfaction for volunteers would also increase. Our understanding is that some classes may already run on a Thursday, which could reduce the additional caretaker hours (which may also be saved by not requiring to cover Wednesday afternoon), so costs should be minimal for such a useful change.

We would add the notional extra half hour of after-school opening to the Tuesday afternoon, when we also host school classes with their teachers visiting and borrowing books.

(2) We would also like to open on Monday mornings again so that every weekday morning is covered, but understand that these additional hours may not be financially practicable. We are keen to offer this to the village, and suggest we could do this by asking for customer feedback from library users, and via the Foss Focus. This proposal has only been made realistic by the increase in volunteers trained recently, following increased footfall and new members.

Feb-May 2023: Breakdown of visitor numbers to library

TUESDAYS	10.30am-1pm	1pm-3.30pm	School classes
Date			
7/2	6	14	
14/2	27	9	
21/2	7	7	25
28/2	11	12	18
7/3	14	6	54
14/3	20	7	55
21/3	13	8	64
28/3	3	5	-
4/4	11	6	-
11/4	19	14	-
18/4	12	6	50
25/4	15	8	-
2/5	5	11	28
9/5	12	9	30
16/5	7	6	28
23/5	15	10	-
30/5	7	17	-
TOTALS	204	155	<i>369 school</i>
WEDNESDAYS	10.30am-1pm	1pm-3.30pm	3.30pm-4pm
Date			
1/2	14	5	2
8/2	8	5	-
15/2	7	18	1
22/2	11	5	-
1/3	9	5	-
8/3	7	7	1
15/3	9	1	3
22/3	5	4	-
29/3	14	2	2
5/4	16	4	-
12/4	18	11	1
19/4	3	5	2
26/4	5	3	3
3/5	5	2	1
10/5	12	2	3
17/5	10	3	7
24/5	6	2	-
31/5	?	6	-
TOTALS	159	90	26
FRIDAYS	10.30am-1pm		
Date			
3/2	8		
10/2	19		
17/2	20		

24/2	5		
3/3	14		
10/3	6		
17/3	15		
24/3	3		
31/3	5		
14/4	21		
21/4	9		
28/4	15		
5/5	12		
12/5	7		
19/5	11		
26/5	12		
TOTALS	182		