



Bidford Community Library Ltd

Bramley Way
Bidford on Avon
Warwickshire
B50 4QG



Bidford Community Library Ltd. first opened on 2nd April 2012 – a year later and we are delighted to say that we are not only still here, but going strong.

A tremendous amount is owed to our volunteers – of which there are in excess of 50! – and we are proud to be able to say that the only ones that have left was due to moving out of the area, and we are still recruiting. The volunteers are of all ages from well into their 80s to our youngest who is 13. And it must be said, without them, there would be no library for the communities of Bidford-on-Avon and surrounding villages.

BCL Ltd must also thank Warwickshire County Council whose continued support is invaluable and a good example of collaboration for the benefit of the local community. Volunteers know that can always get assistance by contacting the Helpline, and we have been advised that this will continue for a further 12 months at least.

WCC came to see some of the Directors on Monday 8th April to carry out an annual review, and we are happy to be able to say that they will be sending a good report back to Councillors. They were particularly impressed by the level of volunteers and the good service we are able to offer.

We have also been able to establish what are the costs involved in running the library/community hub, which amount to just under £10,000 per annum. However, we are still too dependent on grants as part of the income. However, now that we are one year old, we are in a better position to dedicate more of our time in thinking of ways to raise funds. The current income is devised from:

- Grants from Bidford-on-Avon, Salford Priors and Wixford Parish Councils
- Grants from Awards for All – though this is for specific projects and promotion
- Friends of BCL – membership is £5 per annum and allows you to vote at the AGM
- DVDs
- Book requests and fines

- Computers
- Lettings

The number of users has remained constant, but we would like to encourage new members: a library is more than just books, although they are important. It is also a great place to meet people, read the press, participate in a Book Club, rent a DVD. Are you aware that we also have audio books, and that they can be downloaded so you can read whilst walking? And, if you are a proud owner of an iPad or tablet, you are also able to download eBooks direct from the WCC website. So there is a “virtual” library for you to tap into as well – all you need is a membership card and if you come to the library, our staff of volunteers will help you with that.

You can find the Citizen’s Advice Bureau at the library every first and third Friday of the month, between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm – by appointment only. In these difficult economic times, they have been very busy and are a welcome addition to the services BCL wish to offer its communities.

We are also aware of the many changes that are occurring in the Tax Benefit Systems so, if you need advice, you can contact Stratford-on-Avon District Council direct from the library via the Customer Access Terminal (CAT): this works like Skype, so you will not only be able to talk to someone, but also see them (and they can see you) You are also able to make payments, scan and send documents etc. and all without having to go the Elizabeth House in Stratford. Privacy is guaranteed, as the terminal is situated in a small room with a door!

As we start our second year of service to the community, we would ask for your continued support. A library is an important social facility and we don’t want to lose ours, as has been proven by the large number of volunteers willing to work to keep it open. So, here is to our second year and, hopefully, many more to come.