Emersons Green Library bulletin

It's been another busy few months for our libraries. Here is a summary of July to December 2023

Supporting communities – people and place

- over 27,621 visits were made to Emersons Green Library July-December 2023
- our friendly, knowledgeable staff members answered over 4,238 enquiries
- we supported Green Libraries week highlighting how library membership is a green action to take – buy less, share more; and spotlighting interesting and informative titles we have on climate and environmental themes – both on our shelves and as eBooks /eAudiobooks
- libraries accommodated additional recycling boxes, food waste containers and rolls of nappy sacks for residents during strike action. We have also introduced printer cartridge recycling
- Emersons Green Library supported the Three Greens Festival by hosting the Nature Arts display (and staff helped to judge the winners) and stayed open extra hours for their events

"I've been coming here with my 2 children for the last 6 months and it has been a real haven for them (and me!). The staff are so kind and patient with my children and we are so grateful for the activities and the space to learn and create together "

Neil Weston

Group Librarian

Giving children the best start in life - children, young people and families

- Summer Reading Challenge 2023, Ready, Set, Read! was a huge success. **21% of children aged 4 -11 years in South Gloucestershire** took part, by comparison uptake in the other South West region authorities averaged 14%. This included 596 children at Emersons Library, where we also hosted the closing ceremony (see photo below)
- over 1,570 children either came to a free craft activity or took a free craft bag home over the Christmas holidays too, including 175 at Emersons Green Library, making a significant difference to families struggling with the cost of living
- the 4 year **My Library Card** initiative completed a second year, giving all school children in reception and year 6 their own personalised library cards. We aim to address the attainment gap and ensure all children have access to the benefits of free reading materials and library services
- Concorde Book Award shortlist was announced. The shortlisted books have all been nominated by children and young people aged 11- 14 in South Gloucestershire as great reads they would like to recommend to their friends. Young people take part by joining a book group at their public or school library shadowing the award, or by reading the shortlisted books and voting for their favourite at their public library by World Book Day, 7 March 2024
- we are taking part in the Booktrust Storytime pilot programme designed to support libraries to inspire low-income families with children aged 0 – 5 to share stories together and make visiting their library part of everyday life
- Emersons Green Library hosted two festive shows featuring "BS3 Santa" in December, which gave local children the experience of live theatre

"Being a new first time mum over covid was very isolating. Coming to these sessions became a lifeline"

"My child has made several milestones here, from copying other children - first standing, first colouring, first time holding a book independently. The social aspect of these sessions cannot be underestimated especially as lots of parents cannot afford other sessions."
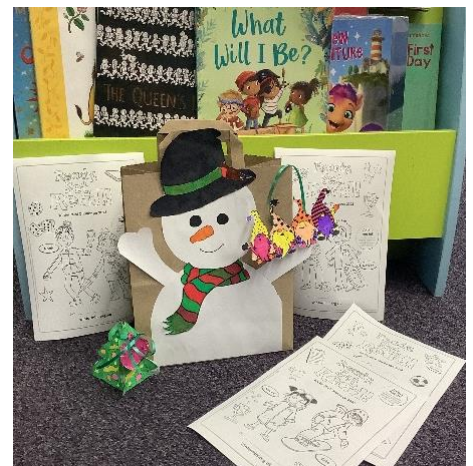
South Gloucestershire Libraries: the space where people, communities & ideas grow

Health and wellbeing

- Emersons Green Library have hosted monthly charity Coffee Mornings which have helped raise funds for local support groups and raise awareness of the health and advice services they offer.
- we also supported Public Health's **Stay Well This Winter campaign** which includes flu vaccination, Norovirus, cold weather and winter pressures
- Warm Packs came and went almost immediately! Once again proving libraries are a popular community place for residents to access council services

"Change of scene and socialising skills for children. Helping mothers' mental health"
"Lovely friendly staff always happy to help thank you! A great service" (Google review)

Resources and support - learning, information and digital skills

- new Windows 10 computers were installed at all libraries along with new faster scanners
- Digital Champions are our volunteers who give free one-to-one support sessions to help those who need to feel more confident using the internet and online services. We now have Digital Champions in nine libraries. Several libraries also host computer classes provided by Community Learning & SGS College
- we have added digital newspapers to our free [BorrowBox](#) app service; members can download and read offline or stream around 70 UK national, regional and local titles on the day of publication

People tell us they felt relieved, less stressed and grateful after we have helped them to for example:
Access Government Gateway account: print documentation needed for job interviews; keep in touch with family

Reading, literacy and culture

- [Family Theatre @ Yate Library](#) is a collaboration with leading theatre companies, bringing high quality, inclusive theatre shows open to children, young people and families from across South Gloucestershire and funded by a grant from the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Our 2023 Autumn program included the immersive *Dragonbird Song,* delightful dance story *Early Weaves,* out-of-this-world *The Star Seekers* and the ever popular *Snow Mouse.* **"A lovely show suitable for all our children, including EAL. The children were fascinated and loved engaging at the end. Thank you"**
- we marked Black History Month with diverse stock displays
- we were delighted to accept a donation of over 100 Indian Comics into the service which are now available for anyone to borrow
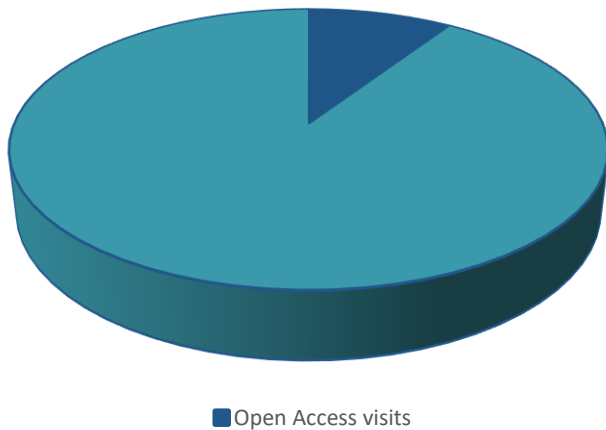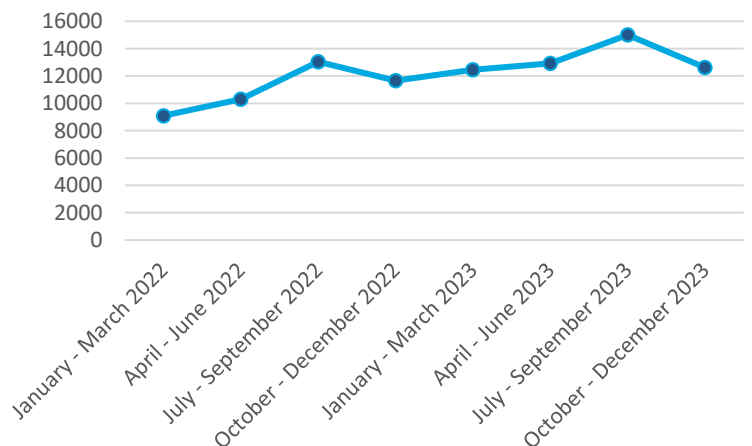
www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries

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Active Libraries

Emersons Green Library

Adding value to the community

2023 by library users on Google

27,623 visits to Emersons Green Library Juy - December 2023

■ Open Access visits

Emersons Green Library quarterly visits 2022 - 2023

Event participation at Emersons Green Library July - December 2023

■ Pre-school activities
■ Activities for children and young people
■ Events for adults
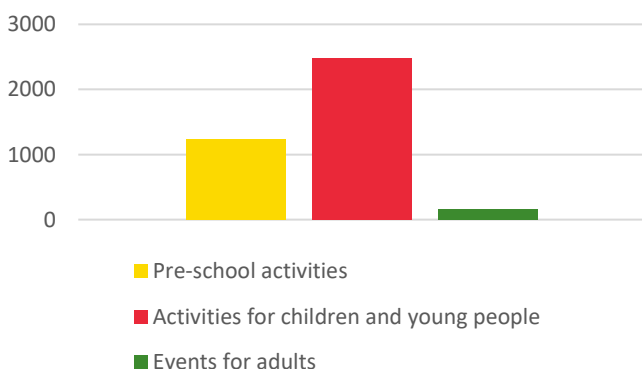
'**Library services** in England can **generate social benefits** to their communities to a value of at least **£3.4bn per year.** Libraries' **return on investment** is at least **six times the known cost** of running libraries nationally.'

'Libraries are places of living literacy, raising children's literacy levels and with the potential to **return a value of up to £60,000 throughout each child's lifetime.'**

Libraries for Living, and for Living Better:
The value and impact of public libraries in the East of England (University of East Anglia, CreativeUEA and Health Economics Consulting, June 2023)

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