

Your local library bulletin: January – June 2025

Here is a summary of what has been happening in South Gloucestershire libraries.

Supporting communities – people and place

- Over 285,000 visits were made to South Gloucestershire Libraries between 1 January and 30 June 2025.
- In that six-month period our friendly, knowledgeable staff answered more than 38,000 enquiries.
- Emersons Green Library opened its extended Children's Area in March (see below) , enabling us to provide an even more exciting and welcoming space for the many local families and schools that use us regularly.
- Yate and Emersons Green Libraries, in partnership with the Council's Resettling Communities team, ran activities to celebrate the Lunar New Year
"Really interesting event and lovely to expose the children to different culture. We really enjoyed the craft..."
- Libraries supported Ben Zephaniah Day (April) and Pride month (June) with eye catching book displays.
- During Gypsy, Roma & Traveller History month five libraries hosted displays from the GRT Education Service who ran a successful class visit at Patchway Library *"It was a very fascinating session with great engagement and a fantastic presentation"*



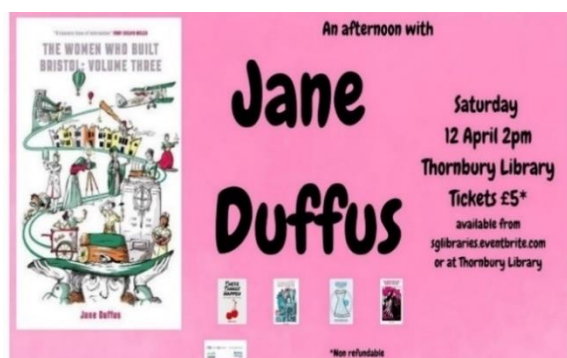
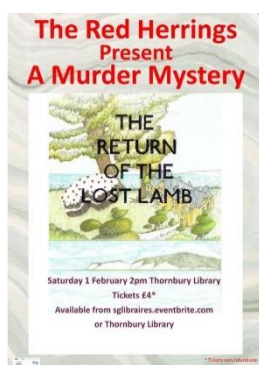
Giving children the best start in life - children, young people and families

- Fire Fighters from Avon Fire & Rescue Service ran Storytimes for 566 Key Stage 1 children across our libraries. These fun sessions underpinned with a fire safety message drew plaudits from the teachers:
*"... it was **informative, engaging and fun**. Sam was amazing!! We loved the dragon and the story No Dragons for Tea. It was a very clever and engaging way to reinforce the message from today's session."*
"Absolutely amazing! So informative, excellent teaching. So brilliant with the children."
- Family theatre – the programme of family shows at Yate Library have continued to be sell outs, while two shows for pre-school children toured several of our libraries to great parental acclaim! These shows really help young children with their communication skills and to understand storytelling:
*"Amazing!!! The **children maintained focus throughout** because they couldn't look away. The performer engaged in a way that the **children instantly felt comfortable**. Really great production."*
*"Absolutely brilliant, as always, please do more of these, **some of our children will never go to a theatre.**"*
*"**Wow did not even realise the library performs shows**. It was so well laid out with plenty of space, clean and homely. Show was fantastic, would really like to see more."*
- Big Top Crafts, our staff led February holiday activity, was also popular:
*"Love these events, my daughter loves arts and crafts, and **it is wonderful to be able to get out of the house without spending money.**"*
*"My 5-year-old said it was **amazing!**". Very good and well put together and **encouraged my daughter to look at books.**"*
- Book character **The Dinosaur That Pooped** joined us for World Book Day Storytimes and class visits
*"The passion of the staff was brilliant. So, engaging for the Children.... **It will definitely support the children's love of reading**" (Teacher feedback Cadbury Heath Library)*
- All Reception Class children received their own library cards as part of our 4-year project to join up every primary school aged child. Building on that Reception Classes also visited the library for a fun session with author and illustrator Robert Starling and his sloth (puppet!)
- Our popular Rhymes Times and Storytimes continue, thanks to Town & Parish Council funding at some libraries.



Reading, literacy and culture

- **Adult Author Talks** – in the past six months we have arranged and hosted author talks by crime writers MJ Arlidge, Anna Britton, Debbie Young, Claire Douglas, John Connolly, Tim Sullivan and Simon McCleave; romance novelists Freya North and Veronica Henry; first time novelist Charlotte Butterfield; historical novelists Ali Bacon & Jean Burnett; local history author Jane Duffus and military historian Mark Seaman. Without fail these events are praised and very well received:
"I attended the Claire Douglas event on Saturday afternoon. It was the first author event I've been to, and I just wanted to say how excellent the whole session was. It was a really interesting and engaging session so thanks for organising it. All the staff were extremely friendly and helpful without exception and the tea and cake was a wonderfully delicious surprise! It really was an excellent afternoon so please pass on my thanks to all involved."
- **Performance** – The Red Herrings Drama Group staged a Murder Mystery Play at Hanham Library, which sold out.



Health and wellbeing

Libraries have helped to publicise various health campaigns including South Gloucestershire's **Are you getting enough to Eat?** campaign (including with meals on a budget cookery books) and Public Health's **Stay Well This Winter campaign** which includes flu vaccination, Norovirus, cold weather and winter pressures.

Coming soon

An exciting Autumn programme of Children's Theatre Shows and Author Talks
 2025 Summer Reading Challenge 2025: Story Garden – launched in July
 All Year 6 pupils will receive their own library cards this Autumn.
 Windows 11 upgrade to public PCs to provide enhanced security and functionality.

South Gloucestershire Libraries: the space where people, communities & ideas grow

www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries