

Menston Community Library

Menston Library closed on 1 April 2017 and reopened as a community library on 12 September 2017 on the day of the Menston Village Show to gain a maximum initial impact.

Our opening hours are:

Monday 9.30-1

Tuesday 2-7

Thursday 9.30-1 and 2-7

Friday 9.30-1

Saturday 9.30-1

Making a total of 24 hours

We aim to offer a valued library service to the community of Menston. We are much more than just a library. We aim to have three people working at each session which means we have time to help people select books, help with computer enquiries or just be a friendly face to chat to. Because our volunteers all live in the village we are well placed to answer questions regarding local services and places of interest and most visitors are greeted by name by a Volunteer. We display up to date timetables for bus and trains and sell a village street map.

Staffing

Jill Cooke is employed by the parish council for 22.25 hours per week to manage the library and train and support the volunteers.

Joe Woolen keeps the library clean for us, coming in for 2.5 hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Although the volunteers are becoming self-sufficient, in Jill's absence we occasionally employ other professional staff to provide back-up.

Volunteers

We have a willing group of forty plus volunteers who each bring their own transferable skills to the task of running the library.

We have supported and been helped by a group of young people participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We have a very keen 7 year old library ambassador and a 9 yr old volunteer amongst our team who cover a wide range of ages and experience.

Most volunteers work behind the counter and assist in running the library.

Four of our volunteers however have special duties.

One lady came in wanting to help but announced she couldn't do computers . She has become our very popular weekly story teller.

Another offered to run our fortnightly Saturday rhymetime

A further volunteer set up and administrates our staffing rota on google docs

Finally we have an artistic volunteer who makes displays and posters for us. We aim to set up three displays per month, 2 adult and 1 junior.

Around thirty of us had lunch together after we closed on a December Saturday to review our time together and make plans for the future. We are due to meet again soon.

Regular Activities

- Thursday story times
- Alternate Saturday rhyme times
- Weekly Thursday visits from pre-school
- Menston Thursdays reading group meets on the first Thursday in the library
- Act as a pick up point for 3 other monthly Menston reading groups.
- The Townswomen Guild meet on the second Thursday of the month to play Scrabble
- We always have a communal jigsaw out for people to put a few bits in and jigsaws available to borrow
- Customers appreciate our daily Yorkshire Post and weekly Wharfedale Observer and Keighley News in our reading area as well as other magazines that people drop in from time to time.
- A well stocked dressing up rail has proved popular in the children's area
- On Wednesday mornings when we are closed the library is used as a meeting place by local child minders
- Regular Saturday morning "surgeries" for district councillors.

Additional Activities

- We had a pre launch day on Saturday 9 September when we opened the library for people to come in and admire our new carpet. This coincided with the Menston Village Show and Bookstart Bear attended to dance at our two pop up rhymetime sessions. He also strolled around the show in the neighbouring hall to raise awareness. At this year's show the library will be hosting the photographic entries and we are displaying their schedules and entry form. .
- Writing the wharfe have held a meeting in the library and also "performed" in the library.
- 2 Author visits one adult and one junior.
- Tiny Toes Ballet taster session
- Pyjama Drama taster session
- Dog Trust visit
- Rhyme time challenge and visit by Tiny Signers and certificate presentation by Bookstart Bear
- Christmas crafts afternoon

- Easter Crafts afternoon with egg hunt.
- Visit by Menston Primary reception class
- Visit by Cherry Tree and The Railway Children nurseries.
- World Book Day and National Bookstart celebrations with free books
- Promotion of Menston in Bloom and collection point for spring bulbs
- Collection point for cuddly toys for local church fete.
- We give assistance with online application for Metro Cards
- We give assistance with other online queries e.g. family history queries, accessing E Mails and printing of boarding passes
- The movable shelves give extra space when the library is not in use for Thespian rehearsals and other activities. We are just about to take a regular booking as a rehearsal space for a swing band

Recent News

Jill visited Menston Primary School to promote the summer reading challenge at a full school assembly. To date over 100 have joined.

Even more exciting: Rebecca our rhyme time volunteer has received a letter from Her Majesty the Queen to the library - the rhyme time children sent some photos of their designs of wedding cakes for Prince Harry!

Eric Knight, the author of the Lassie books lived in Menston as a young boy. A plaque is displayed outside the library, inside there is a display and a new book describing his life has just been published and a copy donated to the library. We recently had a visit from a Japanese couple keen to find out about Eric. We occasionally get American visitors, visiting, as we do enquiring about Smith Wigglesworth who lived in Menston before going to the USA, born in June of 1859 in a shack at the bottom of Derry Hill and named Smith. Later this baby boy would shake the world with the power of God Almighty. In December of 1859 Baby Smith was christened in the front room of no 37 Derry Hill, Menston.

A more recent alumni of Menston was Bill Bowes who played for Yorkshire and later Menston. He made fifteen appearances for England in Test cricket and took part in the 1932–33 Bodyline series. Bill Bowes Court off Farnley Road is named in his honour.

The numbers since reopening

New members adult/junior 84/73

Visitors

Book issues

