

Bruton Town Forum Meeting 12th May 2026

Bruton Community Library Report

It has been a busy year for the library and the Trustees of the Frances Jane Ward Library Trust, Bruton. Our membership is growing and footfall is now up to pre-pandemic levels and the reception area is now been made more welcoming.

The Trustees and volunteers continue to fundraise to pay for the continuing maintenance of the building and the running costs of the library. Due to the lack of funds available following the extensive roof repairs, we no longer have a paid member of staff to cover Tuesdays, which is why our opening hours have reduced. Should more money become available our priority would be to reinstate and possibly extend further our opening times.

We are proud to have been a part of the BA10 book that was produced to raise funds for both ourselves and other charities in Bruton and are a collection point again for submissions for this year's edition – the collection box is in our hallway. Thank you to David Freestone for this initiative.

During term time we hold a RhymeTime for preschool age children, every Friday from 10.30am as a free drop in session, with an extended Stay & Play session until 12 noon on the first Friday of the month. These are becoming increasingly popular with parents and carers having a chance for refreshments and to socialise whilst their children play. Our new accessible toilet is proving useful for our customers, but also the general public with many visitors requesting to use it as we are seen as an obvious place to ask.

Last year we held 2 very well attended GCSE revision sessions for Maths with support from specialist volunteers. These were free drop ins just before the exams started and this year we have increased our support by holding 3 sessions and increasing the subjects covered to include English, Science and Maths. Due to popular demand we hope to hold even more next year and to expand the subjects covered further to include Religious Studies as new volunteers come forward.

We continue to host the popular Stitch It, Don't Ditch it sessions for One Planet Bruton on the third Saturday of the month as well as their Seed Swap station in the non-fiction room.

Last year was our most successful Summer Reading Challenge yet for primary aged children, following some outreach to local schools, and this year's challenge, "Read to the Beat", will be starting on July 4th and running until early September. We have also welcomed visits from the Hummingbird School to research local buildings and Bruton Primary School for a session with Mike Brownlow on the theme of his 10 Little Aliens.

We continue to offer free Wi-Fi and computer use, a printing, photocopying & scanning service for a fee, fiction and reference books, local history, children's reading schemes, picture books and young adult, audio books on cd, large print and maps on top of the digital services available through Libraries West and the BorrowBox app. These include foreign language tuition, Driving theory support and Ancestry UK which is free to use through our Public Network computer. There are 2 blood pressure monitors that can be borrowed by any library member as can the thermal imaging camera which will be available again to request from the autumn, when it is most effective.

Thank you to our customers, the Town Council, Trustees and volunteers and everyone who has stepped over our threshold for whatever reason – we are truly grateful for your support.

Emma Madge on behalf of Bruton Community Library