

Cambridgeshire Libraries, Archives & Information Service

Sawtry Library

Library Profile

2006/07

September, 2007

Foreword

For several years Cambridgeshire's library service has been developing the information it provides about the development and performance of its libraries. In a spirit of open and pro-active provision of information about the service, for the last few years a series of library profiles and other information sources has been made available in both paper and electronic formats.

The library profile is intended to give a rounded view of how each library in the service is performing in relation to others of a similar size within the authority; it is designed to provide contextual information about the library - for example access, local age profile, issue figures; and it investigates the learning, promotional and other activities in which the library has been engaged.

This library profile is a core element in a three-part plan to enable library customers and staff to be better informed about their library. A series of library information posters is displayed in every library - giving snapshot information on performance and other activities, and during the course of the last few years a programme of Library Development events has been rolled out. Using the library profile as the basis for engagement, these events enable library staff and managers to talk to local people, councillors and others about their library, its progress and its future. Findings from the events have been used to inform the service's ongoing planning processes, and progress against the actions identified is now displayed in each library.

If you would like to make any comments or enquiries about your library profile please contact

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Library Profile

SAWTRY LIBRARY 2006/07

Note: This profile represents a snapshot of the library during the year 2006/07. The profile is updated annually. Please check our website for up-to-date information (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)

A Summary Of Sawtry Library

Sawtry Library is a joint-use facility shared with the Community College, so the pattern of opening hours reflects the fact that the school uses the library during the day. Hence, the majority of public sessions are in the afternoons (two of these are shared by school pupils and the general public). The appearance of the library is enhanced through an active programme of attractive displays, and a lively reading group for adults meets once a month. There is also a Reading Group for the 8-11s meeting once each month. (Note that comparisons with other Level 1 libraries should be treated with caution, as there are no other joint-use libraries in this group.)

An Extended View Of Sawtry Library

1. Accommodation

The library is an integral part of the community college and was designed as a joint use public/school library in the 1980s. The college pays for the premises and charges the library service an annual rent to cover costs.

There is ample car parking available.

The interior of the library is light and open, covering an area of 223 square metres. The ceiling and lighting were replaced in 2003. An automatic door was fitted under DDA, as was a new counter and library guiding.

2. Opening hours

This library opens for **15** hours a week:

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	4pm - 7pm
Wednesday	2pm - 5pm
Thursday	4pm - 7pm
Friday	2pm - 5pm
Saturday	9am – 12 noon

3. Accessibility

Car park - college car parks, one directly beside library and one other; ample spaces although may involve short walk

Public transport - bus stop - both directions in Fen Lane. From both walk towards the Green and turn left into College approach road (signposted) Stagecoach 16

Ease of access - wheelchair friendly and fully accessible for all

Public Telephone - no

Toilet - nearest in Leisure Centre in building behind library, with disability access which is available after 3.25pm each day and Saturday mornings. Facilities in the College can be accessed on request during term-time.

4. IT equipment

Number of People's Network and other Computers	PN-Adult	PN-Children's	Total
	4	2	6

5. Activities

Children's Activities

Summer Reading Mission 2006 - 113 children registered, 64 completed the challenge.

Presentation of Medals and Certificates on 14 September 2006, presented by Mrs Joan Potter of Sawtry Parish Council attended by 45 children along with parents and other family members.

Sawtry Parish Council generously supports the library each year with a donation enabling us to have Staff here to talk to the children about the books they have been reading.

2 craft afternoons were held as part of the Summer Reading mission with a total of 30 children attending them.

Aug 06 - 55 children plus carers attended our Mr Rainbow Summer show.

The library holds a Storytime every month throughout the year with attendances as high as 20 children plus carers.

Class Visits - early in 2006, after consultation with the College and local Infants' and Junior Schools, a trial programme of class visits was arranged. The College allow the library to be used for one whole school day each half term. The first set of visits in February & March saw 162 children from the Junior school coming to the library on these visits, with 64 children joining the library, most, for the first time.

In May and June, 120 children visited from the Infants' School, with 30 children joining the library.

As these visits proved so popular and worthwhile, there is to be a continuous programme of visits starting in the Autumn term. So many of the children who came on these visits have now become regular library members, some encouraging other family members to join, so it has proved a great success.

Learning Centres

We now have an IT Volunteer who comes to the library most Thursday evenings to help people with enquiries on the PN PCs. This was as a result of advertising after the success of 'First Time On-Line' arranged via the Huntingdon Learning Centre, and our Volunteer has become the first to be appointed under the new 'Engage' initiative. Over 20 people have come along for these sessions in the first 3 months since they started, and it has really encouraged people to have a try with computers!

Reading Groups

Sawtry Pagets met monthly from September to July in the library. Usual attendance around 6-9.

A further 3 private reading groups are attached to Sawtry Library including a group from Alconbury.

In October 2006, 'Sawtry Bookworms' was formed. This reading group for the 8-11s meets once a month on a Saturday morning. We have 8 members and most are regular attendees.

Displays

23rd October-31st October- - Display from the Local Guides

October 2006-Local History Display-'Sawtry's Pubs Past & Present'

Mid October 2006-Display for 'Noise Action Week'

March 19th -'Abolition of Slavery' display mounted via Quakers from Huntingdon Meeting House.

6. Special Events Through the Year

- **A Reading Group Meet** for groups around the area was held on Thursday 28th September in the evening with 30 people enjoying discussions, a talk from the Reading Development Librarian, Sylvia Voaden, and some wonderful homemade cakes produced by a local caterer.

- Saturday 7th October 2006 saw a '**Customer Appreciation Day**' with free drinks and AV vouchers, all of which was highly appreciated.

-**Police Surgeries** have been held once a month in the library since May 2007, where Local Community Officers are available to talk to residents about any problems affecting their neighbourhood.

Library Users And The Local Community

1. Active/regular users

- Number of borrowers registered at this library: 3870
- Number of borrowers with one or more items on loan: 593
- Number of "active" borrowers at this library (those who have borrowed within last 12 months): 1610

2. Membership – new members during 2006/07

Average new members per month	32
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	22

3. Visits

	Visits		
	2005/06	2006/07	%+/-
This Library	21736	20995	-3%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	18098	16831	-7%

	Visits per open hour		
	2005/06	2006/07	%+/-
This Library	28	27	-4%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	18	17	-6%

4. Long term trend in visits

	% change over 5 years
This Library	-35%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	-8%

5. Local community age profile

This table shows the age breakdown of residents within the catchment area of the library, together with information about the age of customers currently using the library.

Age Group	Residents (from 2001 Census)		Library Customers (from PLUS surveys)
	Number	% of Library Catchment	% of Library Customers
0-4	448	6.5%	4.7%
5-9	537	7.8%	19.7%
10-14	485	7.1%	17.8%
15-19	405	5.9%	4.4%
20-24	286	4.2%	1.4%
25-34	939	13.7%	5.1%
35-44	1149	16.8%	18.3%
45-54	969	14.2%	10.6%
55-64	773	11.3%	9.1%
65-74	448	6.5%	4.4%
75 or over	405	5.9%	4.4%

6. Library Users Feedback

This information is compiled from the Adult PLUS Survey, taken in September 2006

	Very Good	Good	Adequate	Poor	Very Poor
Opening Hours	16.5%	41.0%	31.7%	9.4%	1.4%
Staff Helpfulness	89.9%	10.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Choice Of Books	24.6%	53.6%	20.3%	1.4%	0.0%
Condition Of Books	29.4%	65.4%	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%
This Library Overall	52.1%	44.4%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%

Stock And Issue Figures

1. Stock holding

2006/07	At this library	Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire
Adult books	7602	4752
Junior books	8047	1195
Reference books	341	171
Total:	15990	6118

2. No. of books borrowed

	Books borrowed		
	2005/06	2006/07	% +/-
This Library	38810	39686	2%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	32844	31713	-3%

3. Books Borrowed per Hour Open

	Books borrowed per hour open		
	2004/05	2005/06	% +/-
This Library	N/A	N/A	
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	N/A	N/A	

4. Junior Books Borrowed As a Percentage Of Total

	Junior books borrowed as a % of total		
	2005/06	2006/07	% +/-
This Library	55	55	0%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	51	50	1%

5. Long term trend in book issues

	% change over 5 years
This Library	-7%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	-1%

Enquiries

	Enquiries		
	2005/06	2006/07	%+/-
This Library	3913	4186	7%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	3208	3124	-3%

Note: These enquiries are in-person queries received across the library counter. They do not include telephone enquiries, which are directed to Cambridgeshire County Council's central Contact Centre.

Library Supervisors Comments:

Visits to Sawtry library continue to fall. Despite this, the new member figures are consistently higher than the average for a level 1 library.

Many people use the Library website from home which will affect footfall. We are encouraged by how many requests are placed for items using the website.

The booking system for the PN computers is also proving popular, and this can be arranged either in the library, or by phoning the Contact Centre.

Customer Services Manager Comments:

There have been a number of successful events held at the library during 2006/07, whilst the Supervisor and staff have also set up a children's reading group that meets regularly at the library. The staff have achieved a great deal over the last year and carried out some excellent work during the library's limited opening hours.

The number of new members joining Sawtry Library on a monthly basis is notably higher than the average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire. There has also been a rise in the number of enquiries in 2006/07.

The Supervisor continues to provide regular library news items for the local community publications 'Sawtry Eye' and 'Alconbury Parish Pump'.