

**Cambridgeshire Libraries, Archives & Information Service**

# **Huntingdon 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

### HUNTINGDON 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](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library) )*

#### **A Summary Of Huntingdon Library**

Huntingdon Library is a thriving market town branch with above average levels of business. Centrally located and with a broad span of opening hours, the library offers a wide range of services, including a busy Learndirect learning centre. A comprehensive series of activities and events for adults and children, a flourishing Friends Group, and a committed staff team all contribute to the success of the library in the local community.

#### **An Extended View Of Huntingdon Library**

##### **1. Accommodation**

Huntingdon Library is located behind the main shopping street near the market square and bus station. It was built in 1971 as the Headquarters of the former Huntingdon and Peterborough Library service, and has a substantial range of offices and a mobile library garage as well as the public library. The public library is housed in an octagonal building with a gallery first floor. Recent DDA work has improved access for disabled users.

The existing library is due to be demolished in 2007 for a new library to be built on the same site. The library will be closed for about eighteen months and from 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 alternative services are being offered from Dryden House, St Johns Street, Huntingdon.

The profile of the Library is an overview of the previous year. The move to Dryden House will result in some changes to our service as it is listed below. Opening hours will be extended slightly after the move to Dryden House, we will open at 9.30 am Monday to Saturday. Public toilets, including one with access for the disabled, will be available. We will be able to offer 10 spaces for free parking for one hour, there will also be two blue badge spaces.

##### **2. Opening hours**

This library opens for 45.5 hours a week:

Monday	10.00-5.30
Tuesday	10.00-5.30
Wednesday	10.00-5.30
Thursday	10.00-5.30
Friday	10.00-7.00
Saturday	9.30-4.00

### 3. Accessibility

**CAR PARK** - Yes, pay and display up to 3 hours, 20 spaces. Also Waitrose multi-storey car park 50 yards.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT** - Bus Station next door. Railway Station about 3/4 mile towards Brampton

**PUBLIC TOILET** - No, public toilets at Bus Station, and at Waitrose car park, (ladies on top floor- lift and stairs, gents on ground floor) Disabled access at Waitrose toilets

**EASE OF ACCESS** - Wheelchair friendly and fully accessible for all, lift to first floor.

**PUBLIC TELEPHONE** - No

### 4. IT equipment

Number of People's Network and other computers	PN-Adult	PN-Children's	Learning Centre	Local Studies – CD ROMs	Total
	13	4	14	1	32

### 5. Activities

- Learning centre – continues to be busy
- The Friends group continues to be active
- An Adult and a Children's reading group meet in the library on a monthly basis. Twelve other adult reading groups are supported by the library.
- Exhibitions/displays – exhibitions are held in the foyer throughout the year – local amateur dramatic groups, basic skills, Family History group, Rotary Club competitions for children, local author signings
- Children's activities:
  - Very successful children's storytime every Wednesday from 10.30am – 11am
  - The summer reading scheme – the Reading Mission, was again very successful. As in previous years the library is extremely grateful for the financial support from Huntingdon Town Council
  - A children's book group meets in the library each month

- Partnerships:
  - Nextstep have a public office on the first floor
  - The Cromwell Collection is housed in the library. This brings together the libraries collection of books on Cromwell and his times with those of the Cromwell Association

The Genealogy Room on the first floor has facilities for reading microfilm/fiche and a local history CD Rom machine. It also has a small collection of useful book resources.

## 6. Special Events Through The Year

Huntingdon Library hosts the Cromwell Association annual lecture each year. The Friends organise local interest talks.

### Library Users And The Local Community

#### 1. Active/regular users

- Number of borrowers registered at this library: 26318
- Number of borrowers with one or more items on loan: 3008
- Number of “active” borrowers at this library (those who have borrowed within last 12 months): 10484

#### 2. Membership – new members during 2006/07

Average new members per month	217
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	179

#### 3. Visits

	Visits		
	2005/06	2006/07	%+/-
This Library	246578	249538	1%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	180431	188268	4%

	Visits per open hour		
	2005/06	2006/07	%+/-
This Library	104	105	1%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	80	80	0%

#### 4. Long term trend in visits

	% change over 5 years
This Library	-7%
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	2938	7.5%	13.3%
5-9	2913	7.4%	10.7%
10-14	2599	6.6%	10.6%
15-19	2298	5.8%	1.8%
20-24	1891	4.8%	2.8%
25-34	6183	15.7%	10.6%
35-44	6660	16.9%	14.1%
45-54	5132	13.0%	10.6%
55-64	3971	10.1%	10.8%
65-74	2569	6.5%	11.1%
75 or over	2275	5.8%	3.5%

#### 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	41.8%	45.5%	11.7%	1.0%	0.0%
Staff Helpfulness	85.2%	13.6%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Choice Of Books	33.5%	49.1%	14.4%	2.8%	0.3%
Condition Of Books	30.6%	54.8%	13.8%	0.8%	0.0%
This Library Overall	50.6%	44.3%	4.9%	0.2%	0.0%

## **Stock And Issue Figures**

### **1. Stock holding**

2006/07	At this library	Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire
Adult books	22697	18132
Junior books	12913	9242
Reference books	17776	5435
Total:	53386	32809

### **2. No. of books borrowed**

	Books borrowed		
	2005/06	2006/07	% +/-
This Library	229182	228365	-0%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	195269	194703	0%

### **3. Books Borrowed per Hour Open**

	Books borrowed per hour open		
	2005/06	2006/07	% +/-
This Library	97	97	-0%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	86	82	-5%

### **4. Junior Books Borrowed As a Percentage of Total**

	Junior books borrowed as a % of total		
	2005/06	2006/07	% +/-
This Library	31	32	1%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	30	31	1%

### **5. Long term trend in book issues**

	% change over 5 years
This Library	-1%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	-2%

## Enquiries

	Enquiries		
	2005/06	2006/07	%+/-
This Library	37414	47775	28%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	24696	27075	10%

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:**

Membership of the library has continued to rise and the number of new members remains well above the average for the level of library within the county.

### **Customer Services Manager Comments:**

It has been a very busy year at Huntingdon Library and the high number of new members joining the library on a monthly basis reflects this.

Visitor figures have increased slightly and there continues to be a slight fall in adult issues, however the number of enquiries has significantly increased in the last year.

Plans to move the library to an interim building and rebuild the library on its current site have been realised. Customers were kept abreast of the developments and were well aware that alternative services were being offered from Dryden House, St John's Street, Huntingdon from the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 onwards.