Northfields Community Library

. . . and more

Thank you for supporting us!

In 2025- 2026 there were

- 22,758 visits
- 1,115 newsletter subscribers
- 15 organisations running regular activities
- 10 raffle prizes donated by local businesses
- 102 volunteers
- 8 young people on volunteer placements
- and 504 events …
- … attended by 4,483 people aged from 0 to 80+





… and more!





Activities in the library



Our regular classes include the Shared Reading Group, the Knit and Natter Club and our ever-popular Monday Socials, open to all but especially welcoming older residents.

Our Travel Lovers' Club is held three monthly, our Book Club monthly and our Tuesday Rhyme Time for babies and toddlers is a highlight. This year we have added a weekly Chair Yoga Class, which attendees (and our volunteers!) find immensely beneficial.

Author talks have included visits from Dr Ben Still, whose physics and astronomy talks fascinated adults and children alike, and a talk from children's author Laura Henry-Allain MBE brought our largest audience ever to the library.

There's plenty on offer for children, who are always excited to join the annual Summer Reading Challenge. There are holiday activities throughout the year, with sessions run by authors, artists and drama tutors. This year is the National Year of Reading, promoting the joys of reading for pleasure, and our Storytimes for young children are taking place across the year. And for junior engineers we've held robotics and coding classes

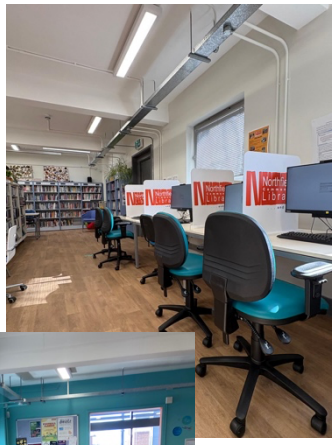


We're always happy to welcome external groups and individuals to help us run events. The Ealing Hong Kong Club offered Chinese Calligraphy and Art classes and decorated our windows beautifully to celebrate Lunar New Year; the Choir from SS Peter's and Paul's Church gave a wonderful concert at Christmas time and a Graphic Design student held a fascinating workshop, which was very popular with young adults. Local groups such as the Art Group below can also hire our premises.



Thank you to everyone who has helped us over the past year to create such an exciting range of events and activities. And if you would like us to offer sessions on any subject please let us know – we welcome your ideas!

Library refresh





We completed a refresh of the library. This included replacing the worn, old furniture; providing some new child friendly furniture in the children's area; enhancing privacy for users of the public computer; new display equipment and additional storage in the back office to service all the activities we now run. We are grateful to **Heathrow Community Trust** who provided part of the funding for the project. The installation of a solar battery with funding from **Ealing Community Climate Grants** was delayed but we hope this will be completed by summer 2026.

Opportunities for young people

Our volunteer placements for young people on the **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme** are now well established and we are happy to welcome young people who have completed Bronze level with us as they return to do Silver. There are six places each year, with applications and interviews in September and January.

WLPA - West London Performing Arts Academy offers an education programme as well as the Performing Arts classes to young people with SEND. We recently hosted a young person for a short work experience placement. Sammy came fortnightly and he was accompanied by his support worker. It was great to see how Sammy grew in confidence over that period and enjoyed engaging and feeling connected to another local community organisation. Sammy was presented with an achievement certificate at the end and he provided us with some feedback.

> " Working at the Library made me feel happy"
>
> "My favourite part of the week was when I scanned the books"

This year we have introduced a weekly **Storytime** for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND**),** from the **Log Cabin Charity** which takes place each Thursday late afternoon. We have a bank of volunteers on a rota who deliver the sessions weekly during school term times. It has proved very popular and enriching for both children and the volunteers. Much noise and enjoyment can be heard in the children's section during the session. The children often talk of their time in the library to their carers, and look forward to it each week. It allows them to engage and feel connected to different people and be in a different setting in their local community.

SKY Broadcasting Partnership



We are talking to the **Sky Community Engagement Team** about how they can support us with providing volunteers from their workforce in Osterley for some of our activities and services that we provide in the library. Their strategy is to place their staff as volunteers in local community organisations where they can contribute on a regular basis. In the meantime some of us were invited to their Tea and Talk event in Osterley which proved to be a very generous and welcoming event.

Trustee change

We were sad that Joy Doyle (centre, striped jersey) stepped down at the end of her 3 year term in December 2025. Joy is amazing and achieved a lot in her 3 years to develop our Outreach work, attending many school fairs, community events and networking meetings as well as completing our Marketing Strategy.



We are in the process of recruiting a new Trustee - more details to be announced.

We have also created a new role of Associate Trustee to encourage people who do not have the time or would prefer not to have the full responsibility of a Trustee or want to learn new skills. Speak to a Trustee if you are interested in exploring this.



Fundraising and Finance

We raise funds by selling donated items, through our book, craft and plant sales; providing services such as printing and letting the premises; and through donations at events, online and through our Friends of the Library scheme. This year we beat our target of raising £12,000 through in-library activities and donations, raising over £13,000. Our big annual fundraisers, the Plant Sale and the Christmas Bazaar, brought lots of visitors and record takings as we introduced a Christmas Raffle and a new programme of gardening talks.

In the financial year 25-26 our income overall increased by £8,051 from the previous year, largely due to the receipt of two additional grants to support the library refurbishment and solar power installation, as well as an increase in the donation from a major donor. This is against a backdrop of a reduced grant from London Borough of Ealing. We used some of our reserves as match funding for these projects, and we have also invested reserves in a fixed term deposit account to provide some residual interest income.

This year our expenditure amounted to £32,755, which is £8,679 more than the previous year, largely due to the library refurbishment. We expect to complete the solar power installation this year. While the London Borough of Ealing provides our premises, building maintenance services, book stock and public use PCs, the library is required to fund operating costs (i.e. Water, Electricity, Stationery, Cleaning, Insurance, Volunteer Overheads, its own IT, Training & Development), marketing, activities and fundraising.

We should also not forget that the library is wholly operated by volunteers and last year we were open for 30 hours a week for 50 weeks. Typically, each volunteer does a 3 hour shift and each shift is run by 3 volunteers. This equates to approximately 4500 hours of volunteer time per year. This excludes other volunteers who provide background support, such as those organising activities, performing outreach activities, raising funds, administrative support and trustees. So, time is also a key component when considering the total costs of running the library!

To our all our Friends and donors, our volunteers, the organisations that work with us and our grant givers – MANY THANKS!

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HEATHROW COMMUNITY TRUST