

# Friends

of South Warrington LIBRARY  
In Stockton Heath

**Update for SWISH Members during Covid-19 epidemic**

August 2020

Dear Member

## **Library Opening Hours**

As you will know, the library in Stockton Heath is now open but with a restricted service.

The SWISH Friends are very keen to encourage the local community to continue to use the library as much as possible. Our experience has been that the library staff are scrupulous in their attention to the safety of library users, so we hope that you will feel comfortable about making good use of the facility.

Stockton Heath Library is currently open:

Monday 10-1pm and 2-6pm

Thursday 10-1pm and 2-6pm

Saturday 9:30-1pm

## **Computer Booking**

All Library computers have to be booked in advance of use and can be reserved up to seven days in advance.

**To book: Please contact Stockton Heath Library directly on 01925 261148 between 10-1pm & 2-6pm, Mondays and Thursdays ONLY.**

- You will need your library card to book and access the computers.
- Please note that PC bookings are subject to availability and specific time slot requests may not always be possible, as the number of available PCs in use has been reduced to support the safety of customers and staff.
- As availability is currently limited, sessions will last for 1 hour only Maximum of one booking per day per person.

On arrival, customers must report to library staff to request access and confirm their booking and you will then be allocated a PC. You must have your library card to access the PC.

## **SWISH Library Events**

The Friends group had hoped that we would have been able to re-start some of our events but this is unlikely to be possible any time soon.

Cheryl Siddall, Strategic Lead for Libraries at Livewire, has written to us recently to explain the position on public events, which is likely

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Enquiries Contact : [membership@libraryfriendsswish.org.uk](mailto:membership@libraryfriendsswish.org.uk)

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to impact on many public buildings, not only libraries. A section from the letter is included below.

*“As we gradually reopen our physical library services in Warrington I wanted to keep you updated with progress. We have currently reopened 8 of our library sites with plans to reopen Padgate & Penketh in September and Birchwood & Westbrook in October.*

*All our libraries have reopened on reduced opening hours with increased staffing to support the customer journey and to manage the safety measures introduced in accordance with guidance produced by Government & Public Health England. These measures are in place to prevent transmission of the virus between staff and customers when using the library service.*

*In response to the national increase in the R-rating we have recently seen the Government introduce further measures, such as the mandatory wearing of face coverings, to help control the spread of the virus. We have also witnessed a number of our neighbouring regions entering local lockdowns. As we continue to follow Government guidance to ensure the safety of customers in our libraries, LiveWire will continue as planned and will not be delivering any public events or activities from our libraries until January 2021. As a key partners and advocates for the library service I am aware that this will affect your programmes. However, it is imperative that we work together to ensure a single message is portrayed to local residents to prevent any confusion. Therefore, can I ask that all events and planned activities are rescheduled to the new year.*

*Thank you for your support with this.”*

### **The Story of Warrington: Athens of the North**

If you have enjoyed Bill Cooke’s talks you will be pleased to learn that he has now completed his book: *“The Story of Warrington: The Athens of the North”* and it has been published.

Some of you will have purchased tickets for Bill’s third 2020 talk on the history of Warrington. He intends to give the talk when conditions allow and we can host it in the library, hopefully early in the New Year, so please hold on to your ticket if you have one and we will honour it as soon as we are able. He is talking about the book on Radio Warrington on Thursday 27 August, 8.00-10.00pm.

He will have copies of the book available at his talk if you would like to buy one. It is also available on Amazon.

### **New Facebook Page**

Livewire has now opened a Facebook page for libraries, which includes lots of interactive activities. Details of this and other updates from Wendy Molyneux, the Strategic Library Manager, are included below :

*“I am delighted to let you know that we now have a new dedicated Yourlivewire Libraries Facebook page. We will be using this page to meet the digital requirements set out by our commissioners in the town’s Library Strategy.*

*The plan is to extend our library service through digital platforms and the Community Librarian Team will upload daily posts. Each*

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*day will have a dedicated theme including weekly quizzes, digi activies, storytime, craft ideas, poetry, reading recommendations and loads more.*

*Please support our libraries by liking/following our new page on Facebook and help spread the world by sharing our posts.*

*Please also ask your friends and family who use Facebook if they will do the same.*

<https://www.facebook.com/YourLiveWireLibraries>

*Finally if you have any ideas for what you would like to see on our libraries page please send them to us all .....*

*Thanks in advance for liking and sharing our new Yourlivewire Libraries page."*

If you have any ideas about things you would like to see on the Facebook page, you can forward them to me ([Chair@libraryfriendsswish.org.uk](mailto:Chair@libraryfriendsswish.org.uk)) and I will pass them on to Livewire.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

This is a reminder of the Children's Summer Reading Challenge which is back with Silly Squad! This year the Summer Reading Challenge for children is in an all-new digital format, available via a special national website and for 2020 it's all about funny books, happiness and having a laugh. The theme of this year challenge is 'Silly Squad' who are a team of animal friends who love to go on adventures and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books. You can join the Silly Squad by heading on over to [www.sillysquad.org.uk](http://www.sillysquad.org.uk) on a new adventure by setting your own personal reading challenge to complete this summer. When you join Silly Squad you will access heaps of super silly activities, quizzes, videos, games and be able to track of your books, reviews and the rewards you unlock along the way. This year's Challenge runs from June to September, so there is still time to take part and get silly this summer. Remember to sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge this year and have a super silly summer! [www.sillysquad.org.uk](http://www.sillysquad.org.uk) #LetsGetSilly #SillySquad2020

Reading physical books counts towards the online challenge as well as digital material . There will be limited offers about the summer reading challenge released on Livewire's Facebook page starting this Monday, 24 August.

### **Future updates**

The position with Covid-19 continues to change on a daily basis. We will aim to keep you updated with any further changes that affect the local library service as they occur.

**Please keep using our local library.**

Peter Lewenz

Chair, SWISH Library Friends

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