



## EASINGWOLD COMMUNITY LIBRARY: Update – February 2017

This email is being sent to everyone (including the volunteers) who has expressed interest in the future of our Library in Easingwold for whom I have a valid email address. The attachment contains the same information as that in the body of this email. Please let me know if you do not want to receive future emails about the Library.

In just over 6 weeks' time, on **1 April 2017**, Easingwold Library will become known as the Easingwold Community Library, when North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) hands over responsibility for its day-to-day running to Easingwold Community Library Association (ECLA).

In essence, this means that NYCC and ECLA will work together in *partnership*. NYCC will continue to provide all of the books and maintain the computers and their associated software, and will also provide 15 hours per week of professional library support. ECLA will be responsible for providing and managing a team of Volunteers to staff the library service (initially with the same opening hours as at present). ECLA, who will rent the building from NYCC for a peppercorn rent, will also be responsible for managing the building and for meeting the on-going operating costs (such as utilities, rates, building maintenance, insurance, cleaning, and general operating and administration costs). It is estimated that these costs will be about £15,000 per annum. The Home Library service will carry on as at present. ECLA will continue to receive support from NYCC's Libraries and Stronger Communities Teams and, over time, will seek to develop other complementary services that will extend and enhance the Library's role in the local community.

Steady progress is being made as we move towards the handover, though much remains to be done.

- ECLA has been registered as a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation** (CIO) with the Charity Commission. This enables us to qualify for Gift Aid donations and possibly for rate relief.
- We have opened a **bank account** with Barclays Bank.
- We held two Open Sessions in the Library in December to update the local community on progress and to **recruit Volunteers**. We have been overwhelmed and delighted by the strength of local interest and support from the residents of Easingwold and the surrounding villages (and NYCC have been pretty impressed too!).
- Volunteers need to undergo four half-day **training sessions** before they can work in the Library, and multiple sessions are being run by staff from NYCC in February and March. However, because of the amount of interest in undergoing this training, additional sessions will be run in April and May (and indeed at other times during 2017/18) to accommodate those Volunteers unable to attend the sessions in February and March. Further details will be circulated in due course.

- We have sought professional **architectural advice** on optimising the use of the available space. As a consequence, you will see some changes to the Library's layout. **Easingwold Town Council** will continue to have an Office in the Library, which they will rent from ECLA. In addition, **Easingwold and District Community Care Association** (EDCCA) will move from the Police House on Church Hill into a new Office in the Library in late spring/early summer. As well as providing vital rental income, EDCCA will also start the development of a community hub of associated services. It is anticipated that **Citizens Advice** will continue to run their drop-in sessions on Tuesday afternoons.
- To accommodate these developments, the **Children's Library** will be moving into a more prominent space in the main body of the Library, rather than being tucked away in a side room. This should facilitate activities such as storytelling.
- The **architect's plans** are currently being finalised (in consultation with NYCC). When this has been done they will be displayed in the Library, in The Advertiser and on our facebook page for everyone to see.

There are several other **potential developments** that are now requiring **input from Volunteers**. Many people expressed specific interests and skills on their volunteer recruitment forms – and now's your chance to get involved in developing these areas! If you are interested in helping directly with any of these, please can you email [communitylibraryeasingwold@gmail.com](mailto:communitylibraryeasingwold@gmail.com) and Diana Sanderson will arrange some meetings for you to get together and share your ideas. Working Groups can then be set up for each area to enable you to use your interests and skills to full effect!

- **Fundraising Initiatives:**
  - *Friends of ECL* – Many people have expressed a wish to support and be involved with ECL, but are unable to commit to working as a Volunteer. We envisage developing a Friend's scheme, whereby local residents pay an annual subscription for various (to be determined!) benefits;
  - *Sponsorship Scheme* – many local businesses have expressed support for ECL, and we anticipate developing some form of commercial membership/sponsorship, again with associated benefits;
  - *Other Activities and Events* – there is tremendous scope to use the Library for other activities, such as talks by authors, book clubs, hire of the space, social events.....
- **Training to Develop IT Skills:**
  - There seems to be plenty of local demand for a variety of opportunities to help people develop their IT skills. These could range from *courses* in using smart phones, tablets and lap-tops to full effect to *one-to-one sessions* to help people with specific IT and related problems – the possibilities are endless!
- **Publicity and Social Media:**
  - We need to develop *effective ways of communicating* what is happening at ECL to the wider community in a timely way. This could include writing regular updates for the Easingwold Advertiser, making and distributing posters, and developing the use of other social media platforms to complement our facebook page (you can currently find us on 'Friends of Easingwold Library').
- **Developing Children's Activities:**
  - There are many opportunities for developing *library-based activities* for children and young people of all ages – ranging from pre-school through primary school to secondary school. These could include storytelling sessions, supported reading, book clubs..... Again, the possibilities are endless!
  - Last (but by no means least!), Andrea Bayley of NYCC will be organising a number of *Library visits by children from Easingwold Community Primary School* in the next few months. If you would like to get involved in helping with these, please contact her directly on 01609 536845 or via [andrea.bayley@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.bayley@northyorks.gov.uk)

- **Other Specific Responsibilities:**

- In addition, we need a **Secretary** to volunteer to serve on the Management Committee. They will undertake the usual range of secretarial duties, including taking the minutes at the Management Committee meetings.
- **Managing the maintenance of the Library building** – we also require a small team of Volunteers with an interest in building management and maintenance to oversee the running of the facility on a day-to-day basis, including undertaking minor repairs (as and when appropriate!). In particular, we need **Maintenance Co-ordinator** to lead this work.
- *Please let any member of the Management Committee know if you would be interested in either of these activities.*

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support – lots of hard work lies ahead, but also lots of exciting opportunities!

Written by *Diana Sanderson* (Volunteer) on behalf of ECL Management Committee

#### **Current Members of the ECL Management Committee**

- **Shirley Shepherd – Easingwold Town Council (Chair)**
- **Jane Bentley – Town Clerk (Vice-Chair)**
- **Clive Barnes – Easingwold Town Council**
- **Tina Chamberlain - EDCCA**
- **Lyn Fenby – Volunteer/local Resident**
- **Steve Jarratt – Volunteer/local Resident**
- **Neil Madden – Easingwold Town Council**
- **Diana Sanderson – Volunteer/local Resident**
- **Michael Turvey – Volunteer/local Resident (Stillington)**
- **Councillor Peter Sowray – NYCC**
- **Plus:**
  - **Adele Wilson – NYCC Stronger Communities**
  - **Nigel Prince – NYCC Libraries**

#### **e-learning for Volunteers attending Library Training sessions in February and March (and subsequently)**

As well as attending the four Library-based training sessions arranged and delivered by NYCC, Volunteers undertaking the training will also be expected to work through two e-learning courses. You will shortly be sent details of these by Nigel Prince (Team Leader, Hambleton, NYCC Libraries). Priority should be given to the course covering Data Protection.