

Report from Chair of V4GCL for 2018-19

This has been a great year for Voices with many exciting activities and events taking place.

The local community are supportive of what the library offers, and all regular activities and events are very well attended and continue to grow. New groups have started up over the year and are very successful.

Previous funding from Ipswich Area Committee has enabled the library to continue to offer additional activities to young people every day throughout the week.

Street dance/hip hop sessions continue with Voices part funding the sessions; weekly boxing fitness sessions have continued with funding from Suffolk Sports.

Weekend activities offered through the year have been much more exciting due to funding secured from the RJB Fund. Activities have included Mr Bean workshops, family healthy cooking, Zumba & fitness and science.



Funding from the Gainsborough Community People's Forum enabled us to offer an evening art club and new equipment for the sound studio for future radio projects. Cllr Clements gave funding from her locality budget towards improved cctv for the meeting room and the sound studio equipment.

An exciting week of activities took place in March for British Science week funded by British Science Association, include a visit from Little Miss Inventor.



Tesco Groundwork funding enabled us to offer coach transport for local families to visit the seaside for the day.



Additional trips included two groups who attended the Wolsey Panto, and the street dance participants and their families who enjoyed the Just Jay Show at Seckford Hall.

The Library has hosted a Fun Palace weekend with music activities offered by IACCDA, a meditation evening, Talent Show, Christmas Fair, Christmas Disco and Medium evening, as well as occasional quiz and bingo nights and taking part in the Gainsborough Community Fun Day.



Art produced by our young people was displayed in the Town Hall during the Summer and at Christmas.

The Reading Challenge was very successful again this year, with those completing the challenge receiving prizes from Voices when presented with their medals by Cllr Kim Clements.

The Library signed up for the Fun Palace in October which proved to be a very busy weekend.

Seventeen talented local young people took part in our annual IP3 Talent Show which was very well supported by their families. Next year we will need to move the show nearby to a bigger location. Local singer and fundraiser, Roma helped judge and performed to the audience after the show.



Our fantastic Girls Group attendees took over the library in November for Children in Need and raised £103.

The Christmas Fair went well, with support from The Methodist group, who again organised family crafts and the donkey which was a big hit. The Methodist group offer a family craft session every Friday at the library from 4 – 6pm.

The Café is still running successfully thanks to all the wonderful volunteers, who raise valuable funds so that we can offer more and improve the library for the whole community. Food safety training was offered to all café volunteers and everyone who attended received their certificates.

Colin, a long-standing volunteer was recognised for his contribution by Suffolk Libraries and awarded Community Group Volunteer of the year.



Gainsborough Community Library received the Community Action Suffolk Community Building of the Year Award presented at the Museum of East Anglian Life.

I would like to thank ALL the Members of Voices and ALL the volunteers for all their dedication and hard work.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Leon Porter & Juliet Waite

Chairs V4GCL