

WYCHWOOD LIBRARY

I am pleased to be able to report that subject to planning permission and to the final achievement of the funding package (now in sight) the extension and refurbishment of Wychwood Library should commence next spring. The building work should take around 16 weeks. During this time it is likely that the building will need to be closed to the public on health and safety grounds. It is planned to provide a substitute service (albeit probably restricted to some degree). The options include the temporary use of other accommodation or possibly the provision of a mobile library stationed in Wychwood for the hours the library would have been open.

We are looking forward to seeing the results of this joint partnership scheme. In addition to the County Council contributing a sum towards the building costs, the capital receipts from the likely sale of the extended and refurbished first floor flat, plus excess land to the rear of the site, will go towards the project. The County Council is also paying for the architectural and other fees to realise the scheme. Thanks to the generous funding from local Parish Councils, plus a possible contribution from WODC (to be considered shortly), plus the superb local fund-raising led by the Friends of the Wychwood Library, the target is well within our grasp. The outcome will be a library more than doubled in size, with an improved open-shelf bookstock plus improved ICT and other facilities. It will be a library we can all be proud of for the new Millennium!

Fund-raising continues and the recent Rummage Sale resulted in £275 being added to the fund, thanks to Vi Miles and team of helpers. The next event will be a Book Sale at the Wychwood Library on Saturday August 5th from 10am to 3pm. Further donation of books would be welcome.

Two new schemes have been taking place in the library over the last few months thanks to two local people who have given their time freely. Revision Classes for GCSE Studies have taken place and also a class for Adult Learning. Both these projects are part of a pilot Scheme for libraries and are conducted during the library's normal closed hours. After the success of these pilots it is hoped to run similar projects in the future.

The recent colouring competition was won by brother and sister, Bethanie and Jonnie Nisbet. During the coming school holidays the Reading Relay will take place. This will encourage the children to read books. The readers will be rewarded with stickers for each book read. Two Story Times will also take place in the holidays for 3 to 8 year olds. The dates to remember are Tuesday July 25th and Thursday August 17th at 10am to 11am. Free tickets will be available at the library. There will also be a colouring competition.

The Library Opening Times are:

Monday	2pm to 5 pm	6pm to 7.30pm
Wednesday	10am to 12	2pm to 5pm
Friday	2pm to 5pm	6pm to 7.30pm

Beryl Brown, Library Manager.