

Article for Rainhill Parish Council Newsletter - 2017.

Another year is upon us and the library remains busy as ever, being a focal point in the community.

St Helens Libraries have recently developed a Reading for Pleasure strategy, looking at various ways of improving literacy, as well as promoting general reading for enjoyment for both children and adults alike. Because of this we are introducing some new services, not just in Rainhill Library but in all 13 of our libraries across St Helens.

For our very youngest readers we have introduced Bears Reading Adventures. Follow Bookstart Bear on his reading adventure, which takes him to the park, supermarket and library. However, there are ten objects missing that need to be found and children will get a sticker for each of the missing objects every time they borrow a book.

When children have collected all 10 stickers they can download a certificate from www.bookstart.org.uk/bearsadventure which also contains tips for families on how they can have fun reading together every day. Children can join in with Bear's Reading Adventure any time but why not bring them along to our read and rhyme times where they can meet other children, have fun, sing songs, and read books together.

In addition to our usual Reading Group for adults, there will now be a "Storytellers Aloud" session where children can listen to various stories, perhaps reading aloud themselves, and sharing their experience in a friendly environment. These sessions will take place on the first and third Thursday in each month from 3.30pm to 4pm.

Our new Homework Club will hopefully encourage children to complete homework on time. Library staff can guide them to our various information resources, both printed and online. Homework Club members get 10 free black and white printouts and the club takes place on the second and fourth Monday each month from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Another recent development is the introduction of on-line magazines and comics. "Comics Plus" lets you borrow from a choice of 15,000 digital comics! "Zinio" offers on-line versions of popular magazines such as "Good Housekeeping" and "Auto Express", as well as 12 months of back issues. All you need to access these services is a library card and access to a web browser. Remember as well as comics and digital magazines, we still offer e-books letting you download books in the comfort of your own home. There are no fines on these as they wipe off your device once the loan period is up! Why not look at all our digital services by downloading the St Helens Library App available from the Play and Apple stores.

Remember we also have ample computer facilities in the library with free access to 10 public computers and printing facilities from 10p per page. Or use the computers to do some family history research – all free of charge!

Our Libraries are busy, vibrant places where you can be sure of a warm welcome, a great read and the chance to try something new. Call and see us to find out more.

How can I join the library?

It's really easy to join St Helens Libraries and it's still free to join. Just call in with proof of your address and also proof of signature and you will become a library member that same day. Don't forget to join your children too and make visiting the library a family outing.

When is Rainhill library open?

Monday 1pm – 7pm

Tuesday 1pm – 7pm

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday 10am – 5pm

Friday 10am – 5pm

Saturday 10am – 1pm

Phone 01744 677822 or email rainhilllibrary@sthelens.gov.uk

How can I find out what's going on?

- St Helens Libraries make great use of social media. Follow us on twitter *@STHLibraries*, Facebook *STHLibraries* and Instagram *sthlibrariesandarts*
- Look out for event posters and flyers in the library
- Check out our website www.sthelens.gov.uk/libraries