

Painswick Community Library
Report for year ending April 2021

The valiant team of Library volunteers have continued to provide a service – albeit limited – to customers in Painswick and elsewhere, throughout this Covid affected year. Despite the fact that many volunteers were shielding, they have managed to ensure that the library will be ready to re-open as soon as the Covid rules allow.

In line with Government rules, the Library was forced to close from April to August 2020, but re-opened with reduced hours in September on a Click-and-Collect basis. Customers were required to reserve books on line from the County catalogue, for collection from the door of the Town Hall, but were not allowed to enter the library itself. By November just 2 customers plus 2 volunteers, to allow social distancing, were allowed inside. In January 2021, lockdown again forced closure, but in February the library was able to re-open on a Click-and-Collect basis. Restricted numbers of customers were allowed in again from early April, though several services had to be withheld, including all but one public computer, magazines and newspapers

Despite the restrictions, 913 books were issued between August and April 2021. While the library was closed, a considerable number of under-used books were withdrawn, to free up space for new ones. These withdrawals were offered free of charge to anyone able to access the Town Hall, for example when the Post Office was open; over 100 of these books have gone to appreciative homes.

The Library Trustees are grateful to the Parish Council for all their support during this year, and for the hand-sanitizer, information notices and cleaning, which has helped to keep everyone safe. We look forward to opening properly next month, if Covid allows....

Roey Parker, April 2021

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