

Library Quarterly Review Report – Q1 2026/27

Q1 stats (April- June)

Visitor numbers – up 2% compared to the same quarter last year.

Physical issues – up 1%.

New members up a staggering 35%. This is no doubt a consequence of the recent BorrowBox promotion undertaken outside the library and this is due to be repeated again in early Autumn.

Active members - the current figure is 388 which is just 4 off the highest that we have ever recorded.

Events - up 7% however the attendance at these events is down by 3%. This compares very favourably to the average CLP figure which is down 2% on events and minus 5% on attendance.

Summer reading challenge (SRC)

As you are all no doubt well aware, it is the season of the SRC, which this year is 'Read to the Beat'.

Last year for the first time we recorded some disappoint figures (33 children signed up but only 14 completed the challenge which was a disappointing completion rate of only 42%, which was below the average set by other CLP's), so we have undertaken a bigger promotion this year with Rebecca visiting the village school and sending info out to all the local parish schools.

It's great to report back that we have already signed up 24 children (2 of which who have already completed it).

Once again massive thanks must go to the Parish Council for the donation of the book vouchers for the completion draw. Our PC was the first CLP to support their local library with this generous gift, and it has now been copied by a number of other CLP's

General housekeeping

The frontage of the library has had a facelift with new painted woodwork and new painted plaster. The lettering/ signage to the library has also now been fixed.

There are plans for a group photo of all the volunteers outside the library to help promote the library and highlight the great work done by them. This will appear in the ' Fiveways' magazine and on the various social media pages. The last group photo was taken when the library first became a community Library which is over 10 years ago.

Heatwave

It has not been easy for the volunteers at the library during the current heatwave, and our thanks go out to all for maintaining to keep the library open.

The heatwave was discussed at the quarterly review meeting and the library central team have now decided that if we feel that the temperature within the building is a health and safety concern to both staff / volunteers and users then we can take the decision to close the library. However, we will need to notify the library central team ASAP of any actions as opening hours/ days are a statutory function that the central library/ Somerset council have to manage.

To help keep the building cool and help reduce the need for any closures the PC are in the process of approving an additional desk fan and the installation of blinds in the children's area. This should greatly improve the situation both in the summer heatwaves and the middle of winter.

ICT update

The central team recognised and apologised for the ICT issues that currently exist and have been causing us hassle. They are aware of slip printer issue, logging on issues (Microsoft issue), and they are exploring the possibility that when the memory was recently cleaned and cleared by the Council's ICT it was too thorough, whilst there are work arounds it's not ideal. Somerset Councils ICT team also acknowledges the speed of resolving issues is frustrating

Annual presentation exercise

This was carried out by the central library team and their feedback as ever was very praiseworthy.

The Queen's Birthday

To mark Her Majesty The Queen's birthday (17.7.2026) she reported a renewed commitment to supporting children's literacy with the announcement that every Year 6, P6 and age-equivalent child across the UK will be gifted a special edition of the bestselling book Impossible Creatures by award-winning author Katherine Rundell this Christmas.

The Queen's Christmas Present, in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, celebrates the National Year of Reading and aims to ignite and embed a transformational love of reading.

During the Autumn, **the book will be distributed through schools and libraries**, alongside a collection of free resources and support to inspire children's reading and sustain long-term reading journeys, including resources for libraries to encourage children, families and the wider community to engage with the story and the programme.

To ensure that every eligible child across the UK can access the initiative, the National Literacy Trust will undertake targeted community outreach in disadvantaged communities, engage families through a network of 900 National Year of Reading partners, and develop a series of free resources, activities and events with partners for schools and libraries. In England, this outreach activity will be supported by a one-off grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.