

Bishops Lydeard Community Library

Meet Rebecca

Rebecca is our much valued and admired Library and Information Assistant in the Community library. She works three mornings during the week and alternative Saturdays. She guides the volunteers in their roles and tasks for their additional shifts. Rebecca creates a warm and welcoming ethos in the library and is passionate about her role.

"My journey into library work actually started after university, in 2000. My first job was at the Surrey History Centre in Woking. There I worked in the archives and local study library which was very enjoyable and sparked my interest in archive conservation.

After having my family, I returned to work for the library service about 11 years ago (including working in Taunton library) and I have been working here, in the Community library, since it started. Working in a Community Library is very rewarding because you really get to know the people who come in and I have become to be aware of what people like and which genres and authors are popular.

I really feel part of something and work with a large team of people for a shared purpose and we all see the worth of keeping the library open. It's always lovely to see the team coming in for a handover for the afternoons.

People come in for many other reasons than to get a book – and we try to provide the opportunity for a chat and a laugh, as well as information, the use of the computer and so much more. I want people to linger because the space is pleasant and inviting. When I am working on a Saturday, some families will come in for the whole morning and there is a fun atmosphere, with children's laughter. People are obviously comfortable enough to come and stay and I like the fact they feel so welcome.

The atmosphere I try and create, comes from my own life experiences – in a library, I instantly feel relaxed and at home, even if I don't talk to anybody, or know what I went in for! On a recent visit to Minehead library with the family, we went in for their books, however, I literally came out with 6 gardening books, which I just couldn't leave without taking! That's what libraries can do – give you what you need, even though you don't know what you want!

My Dad has been part of why I love libraries so much. He is quite an inspiration, having achieved a lot in his life. He came from Millbrook, growing up in a large family on a poor estate with no books in the house. There were maps in the house, however, which sparked a thirst for knowledge and he found the public library and this was life changing. Through the knowledge and learning he found there, he went to Grammar School and became a teacher. Both my parents changed their lives through learning and libraries played a big part in this – as they have for my wider family. When you have little money, free books and access to knowledge are invaluable.

I see a library as a central pivotable place that everything radiates out from, with almost a churchlike quality. If in doubt – where can you go for information? Try your local library."

Things to do in the library

- Storytime – Mondays 11.00 - 11.30 (term-time only) – lots of stories and rhymes
- Lego club – Saturdays 10.00 - 13.00
- Printing, photocopying (small charge per sheet)
- Public computer (library members only – joining is free)
- Free wi-fi (library members only – joining is free)

- For children - a trail of pictures to track down, with a little treat for finding them all. Also colouring, Lego, Duplo and toys.

Opening hours:

- Monday 10 – 4 Wednesday 10 – 4 Friday 10 – 4 Saturday 10 – 1

Volunteering - if you are interested in volunteering at Bishops Lydeard Community Library, please telephone Iain Hunter on 01823 433016 or email iain.hunter@btinternet.com