

New Dollar Community Library opens its doors

When Clackmannanshire council announced last Spring that they would be closing Dollar Civic Centre, one of the most frequent questions was “but what about our library?” Sadly, that question was answered on 28th September, when the last book was handed back and the council closed the library and moved out of the Civic Centre, leasing the building to Dollar Community Development Trust to run. The Trust offered the use of our Volunteer Driver Scheme to take people to Tillicoultry Library but we knew this was not going to be the best solution long term. One Dollar resident summed up the mood of the community when they told us “We’ve already lost our hotel and our bank, now we have to lose our library too?”

In response, the Trust set up a Library Volunteers Group to explore the possibility of opening a Community Library and over the summer, this group has worked hard to research and design an independent library which could be staffed by volunteers and run on a shoe-string budget.

The council left behind a stock of books and some shelving, but no computers, so we decided to go “retro” and used some of our generous award from Dollar Co-op’s community fund to set up a simple system of library tickets and date stamps – remember those? With nearly 4000 books to convert to our retro system, our volunteers rolled their sleeves up and got busy!

Opening times

We set ourselves the challenge of opening Dollar Community Library on Saturday 27th October, aiming to open twice a week to start with, as follows:

Saturdays 10:00am – 1pm

Wednesdays 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Future plans

We will aim to increase our opening hours if there is demand for the service and we have sufficient volunteers, so let us know what you would like. We are also very keen to develop the library so that it becomes a real community asset.

As well as encouraging a love of reading in our little ones, we also want to provide a warm, welcoming and inclusive space for people of all ages. People have also suggested Story time for children, talks or book signings from local authors, book clubs, creative writing groups, homework study groups etc. We would love to hear from you if you could help us set up and run any of these activities. If you just fancy helping out with shelving and book stamping that would also be much appreciated – come and have a chat with our friendly team of volunteers.

Membership

To use our library, all you have to do is pop in when we are open and join up! Membership is free and you will receive your very own library ticket which you can use to borrow up to three books at a time. You can of course still keep your membership of Clackmannanshire Library service so you can continue to use their libraries at Alloa and Tillicoultry as well, but please note that the books are not interchangeable.

If you need help getting to and from the library, the Volunteer Driver Service is happy to help, just phone **0756 571 2131** between 9am and noon on Sundays to arrange a lift.

Donations

Many people have asked if we are interested in book donations and the answer is “yes, but not yet”!! We need a little more time to find our feet but as soon as we are ready to accept donations we will publicise details on the website and in the library.

The council have also removed all the computers, printing and photocopying facilities as well as the Wifi, so we are unable to provide free community access to these services at present. The Trust is working to organise Wifi but if anyone is able to donate any second hand IT equipment to start us off, please get in touch.

Contact us

You can find out the latest news about the library from our web page on the Trust website at www.dollarcdt.com or you can email us at dollar.library@gmail.com or just pop in and see us whenever the library is open. We promise we won't be telling anyone to “SHHHHHHH” !!