

QUARTERLY REPORT

Blackfen Community Library

PREPARED BY
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APRIL - JUNE 2021



Relaunch 2021

The team have worked hard to reopen and meet the new needs arising in the community, whilst coming back from furlough and getting new volunteers trained and connected.

It was lovely to reopen our doors to the public on 13th May 2021 and to re open the Coffee House on the 18th May 2021.

Kerry, Chris and Kristina returned from furlough and Becky and Rhiannon have been furloughed part time for now.

The Coffee House has had some success in returning to normal but it remains a challenge to break even or make a profit.

We are pleased to have Kenny join the library team on a kickstart placement. She is doing a great job creating video footage and social media posts.

We have started many new groups and formed lots of new partnerships with other local organisations.

With the reopening of the Community Hub and Rooted Coffee House came the recruitment of new volunteers.

We have run training and volunteer events to help give our volunteers a great experience of being part of the team and have received some lovely feedback from many of them.



**"THIS IS THE BEST
THING I HAVE EVER
BEEN TO"**

VOLUNTEER QUOTE

Partnerships

Carers Support Bexley

Bexley Carers Hub

Bexley Moorings – CRISP

Healthwatch Bexley

PL Mulligan Family Funeral Directors

Parkinson's UK

Launchpad

Bexley Women's Aid

Act for Change

Team London Young Ambassadors

Explore Wellbeing

Bexley Voice

Counselling Matters

Glam Sci

BVSC

Bexley Council

New Generation Church

Hope Community School

Blackfen School for Girls

Sparkles

Shooters Hill Sixthform College

Digital Champions

Community Police

Lark in the Park

Blackfen Community Group

The library has proved to be a lovely venue to hold this group. There is plenty of space for people to enjoy being back out in the community and socialising once again after what has been a very long and isolated year for people suffering with Dementia and their carers'.

We have held one group so far which had 14 attendees and there was nonstop chatting for the whole 2 hours over a lovely cup of tea/coffee provided by the Rooted Coffee House (whose staff/volunteers are amazing)

Carers Support Bexley

WE ARE PASSIONATE
ABOUT OUR
COMMUNITY

Where we are at today

We have grown our partnerships and added new groups and restarted old ones.

We have supported our volunteers and seen old friends return.

We have increased our reach on social media and through our website.

We have updated policies, cleared paper work, streamlined our admin and reorganised the office.

We have purchased a jacket potato oven and have a new milkshake machine as a great addition to Rooted Coffee House.

"COFFEE, CAKE AND COMMUNITY - 1

COVID - 0"

Where we are going

Our priorities for the next quarter are:

- Promotion of the Coffee House
- Funding
- Navigate new events and groups to continue our reach and meeting the needs in the community

What We Have Delivered

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DELIVER A MIXTURE OF IN-PERSON AND TAKE HOME EVENTS

EVENTS

- Lego Building Blocks 27
- Cake Decorating 22
- Felt Craft 10
- Easter Craft 50
- Easter Puzzle Packs 100
- Easter Egg Hunt 75
- Easter Window Art 50
- Easter Bunny Giveaway 180
- Half Term Craft Packs 100
- Volunteer Training 18
- Volunteer Afternoon Tea 25
- Volunteer Brunch 31
- Healthwatch
- Father's Day Packs 60
- Parenting Sessions 15

We have:

- Distributed gifts to all the volunteers
- Happiness Tubes!
- Joined BVSC for a cook off with Rosemary Shrager
- Recorded an interview with Cuan Coerzee about his new book.





VOLUNTEER EVENTS



What We Have Delivered

GROUPS

Walk & Talk 15
Knit & Natter 10
Friendship Café 26
Lucy Library 52
Crisp Youth 34
Canasta 25
Colouring Group 7
Baby Sparkles 440
Stitch & Craft 22
Bexley Carers 65
Friday Coffee Morning 34
Bereavement Group 3
Scrabble 29
Memory Support 18
Digital Support 3
Groups 16

When we re-opened to the community we ran the Big Book Sale bringing our income from the library for April and May to £1,280 compared to £600 in 2019

Registrations 143

Footfall 10959

Visits to groups and events 1478



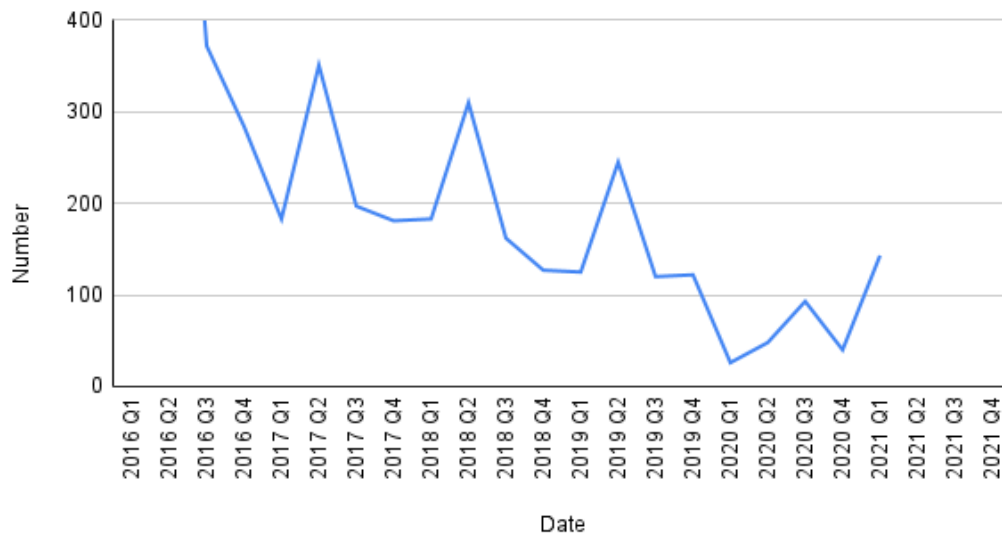
Looking back

Comparing the years 2016-2021

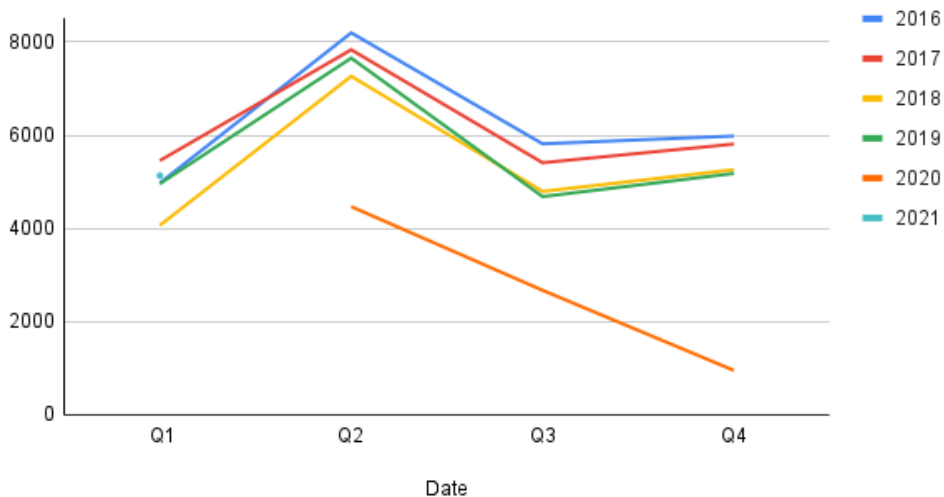
Despite a pandemic and 18 months of restrictions we have remained active in the community.

Our membership is still steadily growing. Our book issues for this quarter have hit 5,000 which is a great achievement considering it was predicted reading would go online!

New Membership Numbers



Year On Comparisons - Book Iss



A young boy with glasses is smiling and holding a large, colorful LEGO structure. The structure is built on a green base and features various colored bricks (red, yellow, blue, black, white) and a small white figure with a yellow hat. The background is a blurred library setting with bookshelves.

Looking Forward

Our programme of events for the summer is looking really good.

We have the Summer Reading Challenge with treats and prizes and many family events.

We have Rooted Pop Up at Lark in the Park as well as a stall booked at the BexFest.

We will be delivering these in partnership with our new Coffee Providers Herbert and Ward.

Lots of our volunteers will be attending the Mayors Afternoon Garden Tea Party to celebrate and recognise all they have given during the pandemic.

Thankyou

Thank you to our great team of volunteers who have worked hard to reopen our Library, Coffee House and Community Hub.

Thank you to the local businesses that have continued to support us and for the community who have donated so many books that we were able to have a 'BIG BOOK SALE.' Also for their ongoing support of the library

Thank you to Arnold Clark for £500 grant and BVSC for a £9,500 grant to deliver our family project.

A VOICE TO BE TRUSTED IN DIFFICULT TIMES