

What our customers say...

"As a wheelchair user, I find getting to venues for activities more challenging and time consuming. Being able to join a book chat group from my home really helps me to take part and share about the book i've read"

Customer, online book chat group

"Crafting can be very lonely - you are sitting and working on your own piece of work at home. When I come to this group I get to share what I'm doing and relax with friends while I craft. You learn about new crafts and share skills"

**Customer, Craft and chat
Lyme Regis Library**

"The iPad has been a great help in keeping up to date on jobs, accommodation, and just trying to get my life back on track"

Customer, borrow an iPad scheme



Health and wellbeing at libraries

We are thrilled to share the results of our recent library customer survey! Over 95% of customers reported feeling happier, more connected after visiting the library. 98% said the visit improved their mood and/or wellbeing.

Dorset libraries offer a wide range of free activities for all ages:

- for families with young children our sessions include: Rhyme time, Story time, Library gets lively and SENSational Story and Play.
- for older children, activities include Code Clubs, Chess, and Lego Clubs which help children pursue their passions and make new friends
- for adults: groups such as craft and chat, reading friends, and cuppa and company provide a welcoming space to learn new skills and connect with others

Find out more on our Dorset libraries website,

Check out our new Facebook pages

Find out about the latest news, events and activities by following:

[Gillingham Library](#), [Sherborne Library](#),
[Shaftesbury Library](#).





Summer Reading Challenge

We're excited to announce that the Summer Reading Challenge is back and this year's theme, Story Garden Adventures in nature and the great outdoors promises to be a hit!

Aimed at children aged 4 to 11, children joining 'Story Garden' can discover new books, participate in free activities at their local library, and explore the link between reading and the great outdoors, where nature and imagination come together.

Children can now join the challenge at their local library or parents/carers can easily sign them up online [via our webpage](#).



Did you know that our libraries have a dedicated selection of books available to provide help, guidance and advice on health and wellbeing for all ages?

The latest booklist Reading Well for families offers books to help families with mental health and wellbeing during pregnancy and early years, (from conception to age two).

Find out more about [Reading Well](#)



Ready for school – Library gets lively

This summer holidays, Dorset Library Service is thrilled to invite families with children starting in Reception class this Autumn, to five special ready for school – library gets lively' sessions. It's a story time full of interactive fun, stories, rhymes, crafts, designed to build children's confidence in group settings.

[Places need to be booked in advance](#)

Family fun in libraries this Summer



Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Sherborne Libraries are all looking forward to the Summer Reading Challenge. We've got free Summer Reading Challenge events on throughout the Summer holidays as well as all our regular events and activities.

Shaftesbury have themed Summer Reading Challenge events on Fridays between 11am and 12 noon. Gillingham have their events on Mondays between 10:30am and 11:30am, while Sherborne's events are on various days throughout the holidays.

[What's On in Dorset Libraries](#)