

Solomon Wright Public Library  
Director's Report  
**October 8th, 2024**

**Goal for the third quarter:** Emily and the volunteer staff will continue to reacquaint the community with library resources and services through patron visits, social media, e-newsletter, and Front Porch Forum. We will continue to connect with community groups, use outreach, and host events to increase the visibility of the library.

**Events that we hosted from mid-July through September:**

July 19<sup>th</sup> – Block Party

August 16<sup>th</sup> – Block Party

September 13<sup>th</sup> – Community Health Event with Council on Aging

September 21<sup>st</sup> – reception for Historical Society 30th Anniversary after Witches' Walk

October 4<sup>th</sup> – Bike Hub workshop

**Outreach events:**

Celebrate Pownal Day – handed out bookmarks with coupon for a small prize, did have some redeemed

Sunrise Family Resource Center – I presented at their lunchtime monthly networking event, met organizers for other local services for children

**Upcoming:**

- Memory Café with Council on Aging
- Two visits from Pownal Head Start are scheduled (one will include a bagpipe performance from Doreen Forney!)

- Informational session from Berkshire Community College
- Halloween party for kids
- Pownal Elementary students are scheduled to have an art school here in November/December, along with an opening for parents and kids.
- Working with PES on library as a Pownal Express stop for holidays

### **Networking is really helping!**

We have forged a partnership with the Council on Aging that will include future caregiver support groups, including a monthly Memory Café that is starting on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

We also have a monthly lecture series with the Pownal Historical Society through the winter.

Sunrise Family Center is running the playgroups.

Faith Church was a great partner for our block parties!

### **Other Thoughts:**

Hours are working well. Our largest demographic is still retirees.

Inter library loan is getting more use by patrons, and other VT libraries are borrowing books from us since we've been active. We are waiting to see if SAM registration goes through for courier grant.

Snack fridge has been well received! Kids who come into the library after school or on Saturdays have enjoyed being able to grab something to eat. Sunrise helps to stock when playgroup leader is in.

Lucy Room is getting use from local organizations as a meeting place.

## **What I'm Working On:**

- Updating policies
- Planning for 2025
- Annual library report (in November)
- Streamlining our processes, organizing, training volunteers
- Acquiring books for our collection (new and holes in existing)

## **Good News!**

New Patrons / Total Monthly Patron Visits in 2024 / Monthly Visits in 2023:

July: 13 / **309** (45 at events) / 196

August: 11 / **311** (61 at events) / 246

September: 7 / **329** (93 at events) / 114

\*\*Total in 2023: **1714**

\*\*January - September 2024: **2150 (up 436 people already!)**

## **How the Board Can Help:**

- At the volunteer thank you get together, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 7pm  
Be present, make or donate food/wine

## **Planning for Next Year:**

- Switch over to Koha system for streamlining purposes
- Look for grants/funding to make entrances ADA compliant
- Fundraising event (examples of events other libraries are doing)
- Strengthening the partnerships that we've forged this year with additional events/programming
- Calendar of events, building on what has worked so far
- Work on a strategic plan for the next few years