

## Mobile Library Friends



Promoting the  
Mobile Library  
Service

## Newsletter

Issue 18

December 2017

 Norfolk County Council

Wishing our Mobile Library Friends a very



# Happy Christmas!



Thank you for your support throughout 2017



### Mobile Library Friends flier

We have produced some new fliers to encourage more people to become Mobile Library Friends. If you know anyone who would like to help us to promote the service in their area, please ask them to contact us in the mobile library office.

We are currently posting on Facebook and Twitter to find more volunteers and have already had a few people come forward.

### We need your help!

If you are interested in distributing mobile library fliers or putting up posters in your area, please get in touch. We will provide you with all the necessary resources. Any help is very much appreciated!

## 'Behind the Scenes' on a mobile library



For Volunteer's Week earlier this year, we offered you all the opportunity of spending a half day on a mobile library to see 'behind the scenes'.

Volunteer Lorna Fish spent a day on the North Walsham mobile library in October with driver, Peter:

It was amazing to see how many people from different age groups use the service. There is a wide range of books and other items available, especially with the opportunity to request them from all over the county. It helped me to understand how important this service is to the local community, especially in rural settings, where travel to a town is often difficult.



I realise there are so many things that mobile library staff have to deal with during their working day:

- great skill was needed to negotiate our very rural roads with such a large vehicle
- a range of library transactions had to be processed, including issuing, discharging and reserving items
- customers were assisted with their books and bags, the lift was operated to enable those with disabilities to get on-board, queries were answered, and all in a very professional manner
- IT problems due to signal failure had to be dealt with, meaning it was 'back to basics' with paper and pen, then this information had to be dealt with later when the system was up and running again.

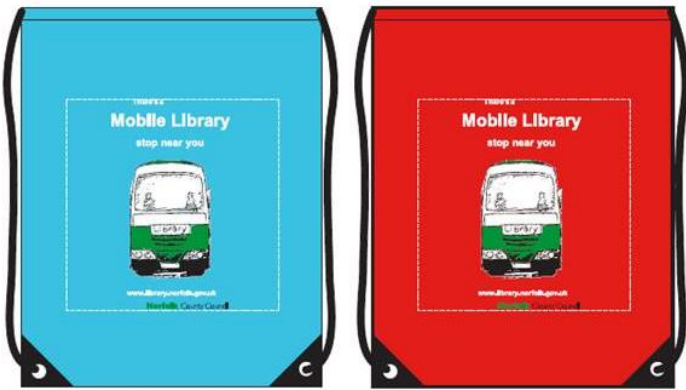
There is no doubt in my mind that this service must continue as it provides a lifeline for many people.

I thank the mobile library staff for this insight into the day to day running of this wonderful service.

**Lorna Fish**  
**Mobile Library Friend**

## 'Grab & Go' bags coming soon to mobile libraries

For a while and with great success, static libraries have been offering pre-prepared bags of books ready for customers to take. They seem to appeal to those who are in a bit of a hurry or who like a surprise!



Just grab the bag, let the driver record it and find out later what a splendid selection of books someone else has chosen!

We have a supply of bags showing our mobile library logo; red ones for children and blue for adults. The bags are labelled to show the different genres, i.e. crime, family stories, humour, etc...

Look out for the bags on your mobile library and give one a try! We would welcome any feedback from you in due course.

## BBC Microbits

Microbits are a fun and functional programmable system to help children learn about coding and computer programming. 500 of these pocket computers have been donated to Norfolk Libraries and can be borrowed free of charge from mobile libraries for a loan period of 8 weeks. They have:

- Pins that can be connected to motors, LEDs or other electrical components
- 25 LED lights that can be individually programmed
- A temperature sensor
- Motion detector
- Radio and Bluetooth capabilities



## Advertising on mobile libraries



We are keen to find organisations who are interested in advertising on the back of our mobile libraries. This generates a valuable income for the service.

We are currently publicising this via Facebook and Twitter, and have had some expressions of interest.

If you know of any organisations who might like to advertise on our mobile libraries, we would be very grateful if you could pass the mobile library office contact details to them.



## Goodbye and thank you!

I will be leaving the Mobile Library Service in a few days to become a postwoman, complete with little red van (but no cat) !!

Until a replacement member of staff has been recruited, please use the office contact details shown below for any queries, suggestions or requests.

Thank you for helping me to promote mobile libraries during the last two years.

Karen Mills



## Just for a laugh 😊

Saw my postwoman at the swimming pool, so I pushed her down the waterslide.

"Oi!" She said, "Don't chute the messenger!"

***If you no longer wish to be a 'Mobile Library Friend',  
please advise us  
and we will stop sending information to you.  
Many thanks***

## Contact Details

Mobile Library Service Office – Room 46  
Norfolk County Council  
County Hall, Martineau Lane  
Norwich, NR1 2UA  
Telephone: 01603 222267/222303  
E-mail: [central.mobiles.lib@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:central.mobiles.lib@norfolk.gov.uk)

