

Every summer at Didcot Library we look forward to a packed summer schedule with activities, storytimes and crafts to coincide with the Summer Reading Challenge, and 2018 was no exception.

This year the theme was Mischief Makers, and was launched to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the first copy of the Beano. To encourage children to visit the library to sign up for a library plus read 6 books during the summer, we once again held plenty of events during the Summer Holidays.

To be able to hold the number of activities we did, and to call on the help of some local entertainers to stage larger events, we were once again hugely indebted to Didcot Town Council and their kind Grand Aid donations which went towards funding these.

We started off strongly by hosting a magic show which was so popular it took over our entire first floor library space! The Simon Says Magic Show saw some of his very own mischief making puppets and characters performing some magic tricks with the children, and keeping both them and parents equally engrossed! It was very encouraging for me at the start to see practically every child's hand raised when I asked who was taking part in the challenge this year.

We also welcomed back local group Animal Edutainment, who brought along some weird and wonderful creatures that the children were able to interact and hold or stroke, and plenty of them had clearly been reading animal stories long before this event as their knowledge of books that contained the animals they were interacting with was high! Once again, a hugely successful and well attended event.

We were able to organise many events featuring a story followed by theme crafts, with some of the themes including Jokey Journals, Animal Antics, Daredevil Racing and Fiendishly Funny amongst others. We saw plenty of excellent crafts being taken away with vibrant paper planes, mini joke books, puzzle makers and masks aplenty.

We then concluded with a Medal Ceremony day on the last Saturday of the challenge, which saw children coming to the library to collect their certificate and medal for reading all six books, and while they were here taking part in a scavenger hunt around the library – using Dennis the Menace themed clues to look for the lost items from his rucksack and using the items found around the library and the letter attached to make up a mystery code word with a prize for one lucky winner!

Didcot Library always prides itself in the success of the Summer Reading Challenge and the part it plays in promoting reading amongst children in the town and surrounding areas. It cements our strength in providing an important community facility to support parents and schools in supporting literacy and learning, and the continued success of these events during the Reading Challenge is in no small part down to your Grant Aid donations, to which we are most thankful.

I have attached some photographs of the stand out events to show some of the things we were able to host because of the Grant Aid donation from you. We look forward to hopefully once again following this up for the 2019 Summer Reading Challenge next year!

Richard Pratt
Didcot Library Manager

