Friends of Ryhall Library

Bulletin – March 2026

Since our last bulletin, we have been informed by the Charities Commission that our application to be a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) could take up to 23 weeks. This is frustrating as means we cannot apply for grants and fundraise, but we can use the time wisely to continue preparing for the future and working with RCC (Rutland County Council).

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this bulletin, the library's temporary closure for renovation work will have ended. Do go and have a look at the newly-painted walls, new desk and new kitchen in the back room! Our sincere thanks go to Ryhall Methodist Church for hosting some of the community groups who would have otherwise not taken place during closure, and St John's Church for hosting the book lending/returning trolley.

Two of our Trustees met with staff late last month to discuss how we can work together to improve the library. Here are most of the issues that we discussed:

- The allocated Arts Council funding is still being used in full for Ryhall Library.
- The planned works include: lighting and access for the back room; a new kiosk for book lending/returns; an IT uplift; a wooden frame for the children's area; a finger plate for access to the front door. We also asked for some tea towel hooks, and a change so that the children's area swaps with the table and chairs - RCC are going to look into the feasibility of this.
- Someone from the library service is putting together "treasure baskets" for the children.
- Each library in Rutland has had to take on some of the storage – so Ryhall now has all of the Christmas books for Rutland.
- We have requested some additional furniture i.e. trestle tables and chairs, but first they want to look into safe storage of these. They'd also consider nicer storage for puzzles and a coffee table for the other corner's soft red chair area.
- There will be adult IT sessions offered in future e.g. how to access NHS app.
- They are aware that the RCC website is out of date regarding our library, and are working on this.
- They are happy to share our sessions on their Rutland Libraries Facebook page and have given us the contact details to arrange this.
- We asked what steps we could take to reassure RCC about maintaining a community garden. They are going to look into this for us.

If you would like to be on our mailing list for updates such as this bulletin, please email: info@friendsofryhalllibrary.co.uk.

You can also find us on Facebook as we have a new community page – please follow us and share the link with your friends and neighbours: www.facebook.com/FriendsOfRyhallLibrary