

Harrogate Library – Library of the Year Award

(Article from the Harrogate Advertiser. Date : 18 July 2019)

Community: Harrogate library named the best in the country

'Powerhouse' library scoops national award

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It's official - Harrogate library has been named the best in the UK, in a prestigious national contest which saw judges praising it as a 'powerhouse' of our community.

The library of the year title awarded by The Bookseller in partnership with The Reading Agency, is testament to all of the hard work poured in all year round by the library's dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

Harrogate and Craven area librarian Hazel Smith said she sees the accolade as being down to the library's willingness to try new things, and plough energy into raising its profile as a community space. She said: "People think of Harrogate as being quite an affluent area, but there are pockets of deprivation, and you can't assume that everybody has the money to buy books, or knows how to use the library. There are lots of things libraries can help with, and it's really important to get the message out there."

Hazel said Harrogate has the busiest library in North Yorkshire, with visitor numbers steadily rising. The library is achieving its goal of increasing under-fives membership, with numbers attending the weekly Bookstart Bear Club up by 15 per cent last year.

And the positive findings don't stop there - the popular Storytime sessions regularly attract audiences of 50 children to the dedicated children's library, and the library hosts author visits, supports 40 book clubs, and has developed strong links with writer group Promoting Yorkshire Authors, to cite just a few of the impressive achievements.



Well-deserved recognition: Just some of the hard-working team at Harrogate library.

(Article from the Harrogate Advertiser. Date : 25 July 2019)

Library of the year

Volunteers and staff at Harrogate Library gathered to receive their national trophy as the Library of the Year in The Bookseller magazine's annual awards. Harrogate Library is the busiest in North Yorkshire, with visitor numbers rising, and was recognised by the judges for its strong programme of events, which appeal to all readers.

