

Keeping costs down this winter.

Low Cost / No Cost activities and

Warm Spaces in West Essex

Winter 2022

Contents

- 3 Introduction
- 4 Keeping Costs Down
- 5 Cost of living advice
- 6 Cost of living event Harlow
- 7 Epping Forest low cost no cost events
- 8 Epping Forest low cost no cost events
- 9 Epping Forest warm places
- 10 Epping Forest warm places
- 11 Epping Forest warm places
- 12 Epping Forest warm places
- 13 Epping Forest warm places
- 14 Harlow low cost no cost events
- 15 Harlow low cost no cost events
- 16 Harlow homework clubs and lunch clubs
- 17 Harlow warm places
- 18 Harlow warm spaces and libraries
- 19 Uttlesford low cost no cost events
- 20 Uttlesford low cost no cost events including help with digital
- 21 Uttlesford low cost no cost events
- 22 Uttlesford warm places
- 23 Uttlesford warm places

Low cost / no cost activities and offers

As the cost of living continues to rise, we all need a little extra help this winter.

As well as hints and tips on how to help keep costs down, this booklet also contains some useful information on who you can contact in West Essex for help and advice.

To help keep families entertained and active this winter, you will also find information on the top low cost / no cost offers and activities running in West Essex.

Additional information can also be found by visiting

Home - The Essex Map

Keeping Costs Down

There are some simple changes you can make to help insulate your home:

- draught proofing
- loft and wall insulation
- radiator panels
- LED light bulbs
- water saving shower heads
- double or triple glazing
- solar panels
- hot water systems and lighting

The <u>Sustainable Warmth Scheme</u> issued by Essex County Council can help towards the cost of these improvements.

Did you know...

- A slow cooker uses 90% less energy than a conventional oven.
- LED bulbs are more expensive to buy but last longer and use far less energy, saving you
 money on your energy bills.
- · Using draught excluders and closing curtains and blinds in the evening keeps the heat in.
- You can save on your heating costs by only heating the rooms you are using and closing off those you don't.
- Keeping devices on standby uses power turn them off or put them on energy saving mode.
- A smart meter can help you keep a closer eye on your energy consumption and bills.

Meal Planning – make a meal plan for the week and only buy what you need. Check out:

www.moneysavingexpert.com for more helpful hints

Love Food Hate Waste – click on the link see how you could save by reducing your food waste

Free Food For You! – visit their website to find hubs near you.

Kids eat free or cheaply – Asda café / Ikea / Morrisons café / Tesco café / M&S café / Bella Italia / Café Rouge / Prezzo / Beefeater / Table / Brewers Fayre / Premier Inn / Whitbread Inns / Dunelm café / Hungry Horse / Dobbies / Yo!Sushi / The Real Greek / Sizzling Pubs / Angus Steakhouse / Toby Carvery / Harvester.

Tesco Vouchers – If you collect Tesco reward points you can use them to buy restaurant vouchers, £5 worth of points gets you £15 of vouchers.

Cost of Living Advice

gov.uk/cost-of-living

You can use the Government's Help for Households service to see what cost of living support you could be eligible for - visit helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk

Citizens Advice in West Essex offers free, confidential advice and can help with benefits checks and debt advice:

Epping Forest District Citizens Advice citizensadviceefd.org.uk call 0808 278 7855

Harlow Citizens Advice harlowcitizensadvice.org.uk call 01279 770 189

Uttlesford Citizens Advice uttlesfordca.org.uk call 01799 618 840.

Council Support

Your District and County Councils offer a range of support with cost of living and Council bills:

Epping Forest District Council <u>eppingforestdc.gov.uk</u> or call 01992 564000.

Harlow Council harlow.gov.uk/help-cost-living or call 01279 446655

Uttlesford Council uttlesford.gov.uk/cost-of-living or call 01799 510510

Essex County Council

Check what benefits and financial support you can get, find out about the Cost of Living Payment, apply for Universal Credit <u>essex.gov.uk/cost-of-living</u>

Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) provided to people on low incomes to help with Council Tax bill.

<u>Sustainable Warmth Grant</u> offers energy saving home improvements like insulation, renewable heating systems and double glazing. This could help you reduce your energy bills, make your home warmer and more comfortable, and lower your carbon emissions.

National Organisations

National Debtline 0800 808 4000 free and independent debt advice over the phone & online.

StepChange Debt Charity 0800 138 1111 expert debt advice and fee-free debt management.

Help with Utilities

If you're worried about utility bills, help is available from a number of organisations.

<u>Energy Bills Support Scheme Explainer (GOV.UK)</u> - all households with a domestic electricity connection in Great Britain are eligible for the £400 discount.

<u>Winter Fuel Payment</u> - if you were born on or before 25 September 1956, you could get between £250 and £600 to help pay your heating bills. If you receive the state pension and some other social security benefits you'll get this payment automatically.

<u>Boiler Upgrade Scheme</u> – Government grants of £5,000 are available for homeowners replacing fossil fuel boilers with efficient low-carbon heat pumps.

<u>UK Power Networks Priority Services Register</u> – if you rely on medical equipment, refrigerated medicines, or have children under five in your household you can register to ensure that you receive extra support when you experience a power cut.

<u>Support paying your water bill</u> - many water companies run hardship schemes or fund independent charitable trusts which can help you pay your bills.

<u>Cold weather payment 2022</u> – this scheme runs between 1 Nov 2022 and 31 March 2023. If you are eligible, you'll get a payment if the average temperature in your area is recorded or forecast to be 0°C (or below) over seven consecutive days. You'll get £25 for each seven-day period of very cold weather.

<u>Selectra</u> - helping customers save money on energy, broadband and mobile.



Epping Forest



West Essex ActivAte Bookings - Winter 2022 - Active Essex

School age Children

Funded through the Department for Education and Essex County Council to provide free places for school age children who are eligible for benefits based free school meals. You will be asked to provide a Wonde Evoucher when you book, you should have received a unique code via your school (this may come in the form of a email or text).

Support is also extended to a number of other low income families and young people who may otherwise experience inactivity or social isolation without access to this free support. This is decided on a case by case basis so please speak to the organisation running the club you are interested in to discuss if this is an option for you.

Booking for SEND Hubs and Secondary Clubs is available as a link from the central booking page. A free, nutritious meal is provided to all children attending these clubs. For more information and meal plans please contact the club directly. If you have any queries you can read through the FAQs on the central booking page, or message on Facebook - @EssexActivAte

Please refer to the link above or contact your School for more information.



Layout 1 (eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com

Epping Forest District Council has a wide range of activities available for all age groups. Please refer to above link for information. Most activities need to be booked in advance, unless otherwise indicated. For more information please follow links above or call 01992 564226 (Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm) for booking support. Activities include;

- boxing for children and young people (7-25yrs) with SEND, Debden
- · indoor bowls, Chigwell
- cycling for health, various locations
- community café digital workshops, Chigwell
- Children's M.A.D camp, Loughton
- exercise classes to help build strength and balance, Various areas 18+
- Wellbeing Wednesdays, Epping and Waltham Abbey.

Epping Forest

Essex Family and Wellbeing Service have a range of free activities Please check local sites for information

https://www.facebook.com/EppingForestChildFamilyWellbeing/



Redwings Ada Cole this sanctuary is home to 80 horses ponies and donkeys.

Age 5 and over Free/donation

Telephone 01508 505 246 9am to 4pm seven days a week. Situated on the B181, near Nazeing EN9 2DH.

Please follow the link above to book tickets.

Wassailing

Date: 14 January

Time: 3.30 - 5.30pm

Location: Waltham Abbey Gardens

Free for all ages

Join in this old English tradition to bless the apple trees ensuring a good harvest next year. Event includes bonfires, Morris dancing and traditional village fete games. A range of food and drink is available to buy (including mulled cider). Bring along pots, pans, whistles - anything to make a racket to drive bad spirits away from the trees and bless the heritage orchard.

This year includes a Best Decorated Hat Competition. Come with your best decorated hat and you

could be in with a chance to win a goodie bag.

Best Decorated Hat competition judging at 17:10

Blessing at 17:15

*Car parking charges apply



Epping Forest

Warm Places



Warm Places - Epping Forest District Council (eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living

Abridge Evangelical Church, 27 London Road, Abridge RM4 1XA (starts January 2023)

Wednesday 3pm to 8pm

Website www.abridgevillagechurch.org

Refreshments

Activities

Wifi available

Buckhurst Hill Library, 165 Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill IG9 5AZ

Monday 9.30am to 5pm / Tuesday 9am to 7pm / Wednesday 9.30am to 5pm / Thursday 9am to 1pm / Saturday 9am to 5pm.

Email buckhursthill.library@essex.gov.uk

Activities – Baby & Toddler Rhymtime Tuesday am Wifi available

Noah's Ark Community Hub, Saint Elisabeths Church Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Buckhurst Hill IG9 6EP

Tuesday 10am to 4pm

Call 020 8252 3273 / Email julie@noahspreschool.org

Refreshments – free bowl of soup and hot buttered toast between 12 noon and 2pm Activities – jigsaws / knitting / adult colouring / lending library / community pantry Wifi available

Limes Farm Community Café, Limes Centre, Limes Avenue, Chigwell IG7 5LP

Monday 9am to 10.30am

Refreshments

Activities

Chigwell Library, Hainault Road, Chigwell IG7 6QX

Monday 9am to 1pm / Wednesday 9am to 5.30pm / Friday 9am to 5.30pm / Saturday 9am to 5pm

Email Chigwell.library@essex.gov.uk

Activities – Baby & Toddler Rhymtime Saturday am

Wifi available

Chigwell Parish Council, Chigwell Community Hall, Hainault Road, Chigwell IG7 6QZ

Thursday 10am to 3pm

Call 07933 822572 / Email karen.kuderovitch@chigwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Refreshments

Activities – Games / knit & natter / various other activities

Civic Hub, Civic Offices, 323 High Street, Epping CM16 4BZ

Monday & Tuesday 10am to 4pm

Call 01992 910701

Refreshments

Activities

Wifi available

Epping Library, St Johns Road, Epping CM16 5DN

Monday 9am to 5.30pm / Tuesday 9am to 5.30pm / Wednesday 9am to 5.30pm / Thursday 9am to 5.30pm / Friday 9am to 5.30pm / Saturday 9am to 5pm

Email Epping.Library@essex.gov.uk

Activities – Baby & Toddler Rhymtime – Wednesday am / Therapy Dogs – last Saturday of the Month

Wifi available

Epping Sports Centre, 25 Hemnall Street, Epping CM16 4LU

Call 01992 565670 / Email enquiries@eppingsportscentre.org

Every day 11am to 2pm

Refreshments – vending machines available

Debden Library, Epping Forest College, Borders Lane, Loughton IG10 3SA

Tuesday 2pm to 5pm / Thursday 2pm to 5pm / Friday 9am to 1pm / Saturday 9am to 1pm Email debden.library@essex.gov.uk

Activities - Stay & Play Friday am

Wifi available

Loughton Library, Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD

Call 01992 565670 / Email loughton.library@essex.gov.uk

Monday 9am to 7pm / Tuesday 9am to 5.30pm / Wednesday 9am to 5.30pm / Thursday 9am to

5.30pm / Friday 9am to 5.30pm / Saturday 9am to 5pm

Activities – Baby & Toddler Rhymtime Tuesday am / Stay & Play Wednesday am / Sensory

Stay & Play Tuesday pm and Thursday am

Wifi available

New City College, Epping Forest Campus, Borders Lane, Loughton IG10 3SA

Tuesday and Thursday 5.15pm to 8.45pm

Call 020 8508 8701 / Email Summer.north@ncclondon.ac.uk

Refreshments

Activities – computer skills / healthy living / budgeting

Wifi available

Oakwood Hill Community Centre, Longcroft Rise, Loughton IG10 3NB

Thursday 9.30am to 1pm

Call 07898 856846 / Email Jo.mackey@restorecommunity.org.uk

Advice from Peabody Outreach Support and EFDC Housing Services

Refreshments

Activities - Board games / Books

Wifi available

St Mary's Church, 201 High Road, Loughton IG10 1BB

Monday to Friday 3.30pm to 6pm

Website www.stmarysloughton.com

Refreshments including soup and simple food

Activities – Board games / knitting / cafe with open 9.15am to 2.45pm every day

Wifi available

St Michael's Church, Roding Road, Loughton IG10 3EJ

Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 2pm

Call 020 8418 7944 / Email stmichaelsloughton@gmail.com

Refreshments including simple food

Activities including stay and play

Wifi available

Trinity Methodist Church, Mannock Drive, Debden, Loughton IG10 2JD

Saturday 10am to 12pm

Call 020 8508 1834 / Mobile 07961 897445

Refreshments

Activities

Wifi available

North Weald Library, 138 High Road, North Weald CM16 6BZ

Tuesday 9am to 1pm / Thursday 2pm to 5.30pm / Saturday 9am to 5pm

Email northweald.library@essex.gov.uk

Activities – Baby & Toddler Rhymtime Saturday am / knit & natter Thursday pm

Wifi available

Chipping Ongar Library, The Pleasance, High Street, Chipping Ongar CM5 9AB

Tuesday 9am to 1pm / Wednesday 9am to 7pm / Friday 9am to 5.30pm / Saturday 9am to 5pm

Email chippingongar.library@essex.gov.uk

Activities – Baby & Toddler Rhymtime Wednesday am

Wifi available

St James' Church, St James' Avenue, Marden Ash, Ongar CM5 9EL

Monday 1pm to 5pm / Thursday 9am to 12pm

Call 01277 366047 or 07507 274872

Refreshments

Activities - Board games / Kinitting

Ongar Sports Centre, The Gables, Fyfield Road, Chipping Ongar CM5 0GA

Every day 11am to 2pm

Call 01277 363969 / Email enquiries@ongarleisurecentre.org

Refreshments – vending machine

The Abbey Church, Highbridge Street, Waltham Abbey EN9 1DG

Wednesday 11.30am to 3.30pm / Friday 10.30am to 3.30pm / Saturday 10.30am to 3.30pm

Call 01992 767897

Refreshments

Activities

Epping Forest District Museum Community Café, 39 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey EN9 1EL

Wednesday 12.00 to 1.45pm

Call 01992 716882

Refreshments

Activities

Waltham Abbey Library, 37 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey EN9 1EL

Monday 9am to 5.30pm / Tuesday 9am to 5.30pm / Wednesday 9am to 1pm / Friday 9am to 7pm / Saturday 9am to 5pm

Email walthamabbey.library@essex.gov.uk

Activities – Baby & Toddler Rhymtime Friday am / knitting Wednesday am

Wifi available

Waltham Abbey Leisure Centre, Hillhouse, Waltham Abbey EN9 3EL

Monday to Friday 7am to 3.30pm

Call 01992 716733 / Email enquiries@walthamabbeyleisurecentre.org

Refreshments – available from Café

Harlow



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Please refer to the link above or contact your School for more information.



What's On - Harlow Museum & Walled Gardens

Suitable activities for all age groups Entry Free, please check website

Muskham Rd, Harlow CM20 2LF. 01279 446222

Opening times: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9:30am – 3:30pm

Museum visit and Family trails (all ages).

December - Museum Mischief – see if you can spot the mischievous elves hiding in the museum. Visit the study and research room and exhibitions. Find out about Harlow's influential people, uncover the amazing finds from Harlow's Roman Temple site (age 12 upwards).

There are activities during February half term (14th and 16th February 2023) contact as above for details (age 6 to 15).



Pets' Corner. Town Park, Harlow Essex, CM20 2QG

Opening times Monday – Sunday 12.00pm to 3:40pm.

Pets' Corner is closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Suitable for all age groups Entry free/donation

Opened in 1966, Pets' Corner is a small, friendly farm located in Harlow Town Park.

It has a large selection of traditional farm animals such as rabbits, chickens and ducks, more exotic animals such as reindeer, Ilamas and alpacas as well as a number of <u>rare breeds</u> including Middle White and Tamworth pigs.



Harlow Library Harlow Library (essex.gov.uk)

Central Library, Cross Street CM20 1HA

Opening times Monday – Friday 9am – 5:30pm. Saturday 9am – 5pm.

CLOSED Bank holidays, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Activities for all age groups.

Please see website as some activities may have a small charge.

Golden Oldies sing along Monday 19th December 2-3pm.

Volunteer Pop Up, 2nd January 10am-1pm (Every 1st Monday of the month).

Community Hub pop up every Thursday 12-2pm.

Baby and Toddler Rhymetime every Thursday (under 5s).

Please visit website for a full schedule of activities.



Redwings Ada Cole this sanctuary is home to 80 horses ponies and donkeys.

Age 5 and over Free/donation

Telephone 01508 505 246 9am to 4pm seven days a week.

Situated on the B181, near Nazeing EN9 2DH.

Please follow the link above to book tickets.

Essex Family and Wellbeing Service have a range of free activities. Please check local sites for information https://www.facebook.com/HarlowChildFamilyWellbeing/

Harlow

School age children

FREE Family Homework Club starting this Wednesday @ 3.30pm in Harlow Town Library. It is a bookable service that will support you and your child with homework based on the curriculum for their age. You will then sit and have food together. See attached link to book using the QR code.

afterschool homework club_14.12.pdf (mcusercontent.com)

Families

Harlow Holiday Lunch Clubs - must book in advance for catering purposes.

St Paul's church - 21st and 28th December.

St Mary at Latton church and St Stephen's - 29th December.

Book at <u>Harlow Holiday Lunch Clubs Home (harlowlunch.org.uk)</u> or call Jokey on 07954 855154.

All ages

St Stephens Church

Every Wednesday

Free drink and light lunch

12pm - 2pm



Harlow

Warm Places

We understand that with rising energy costs, keeping yourself and your family warm this winter can be difficult. However, there are warm spaces in Harlow you can visit throughout December 2022 and January 2023.

Harlow Central Library, The High

Monday to Friday (9am to 5.30pm) and Saturday (9am to 5pm)

Streets 2 Homes, 2a Wych Elm

Monday to Friday (9am to 2pm) Teas and coffees are available (50p donation, fees not applicable to homeless)

St Paul's Church, CM20 1LP (Maybury Drop-in Centre)

Tuesdays (11am to 3.30pm) Fridays (11am to 3.30pm)

PATAAC, Unity Church, CM20 3DY

10am-5pm during the Christmas break Mondays and Thursdays only from 19th Dec to 5 Jan.

Harlow Playhouse Harlow Playhouse offers a warm welcome this winter | Harlow Council

Date	Time	Location
2 December	11am to 3pm	Café Gallery
5 December	1.30pm to 5pm	Café Gallery
9 December	12pm to 5pm	Studio 2
12 December	1.30pm to 5pm	Café Gallery
16 December	12pm to 5pm	Studio 2
19 December	12pm to 5pm	Studio 2
23 December	12pm to 5pm	Studio 2
26 December	1pm to 6pm	Studio 2
30 December	12pm to 3pm	Studio

Harlow Playhouse <u>Harlow Playhouse offers a warm welcome this winter | Harlow Council</u>

Date	Time	Location
2 January	12pm to 3pm	Studio 2
6 January	12pm to 5pm	Studio 2
9 January	12.30pm to 5pm	Café Gallery
13 January	12.30pm to 5pm	Café Gallery
16 January	12.30pm to 5pm	Café Gallery
20 January	12.30pm to 5pm	Café Gallery
23 January	12.30pm to 5pm	Café Gallery
27 January	12.30pm to 5pm	Café Gallery
30 January	12.30pm to 5pm	Café Gallery

St Mary's Church, Churchgate Street, Old Harlow

Open as a community warm space during the week:

Coffee Shop serving hot drinks on Tuesdays 10:00-12:00 (from 10th January 2023)

Starfishes for parents/carers with babies and preschool age children on Thursdays 10:00-11:30 (from 12th January 2023)

Also open on Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 (from 4th January 2023)

Facilities include toilets and WiFi.

Directions here https://www.stmaryschgate.org.uk

Harlow libraries

Libraries are open year round for residents. However, Essex County Council's <u>Warm Welcomes</u> scheme is offering extra opportunities for residents to visit to keep warm, get advice and information and stay connected with others this winter.

Opening times and locations of Harlow libraries:

- Great Parndon Library
- Harlow Library
- Mark Hall Library
- Old Harlow Library
- Tye Green Library

All libraries closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.



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Please refer to the link above or contact your School for more information.

Essex Family and Wellbeing Service have a range of free activities. Please check local sites for information.

https://www.facebook.com/UttlesfordChildFamilyWellbeing/

All age groups



Hatfield Forest Takeley, CM22 6NE

Hatfield Forest is a 403.2 hectare biological Site of Special Scientific Interest in Essex, three miles east of Bishop's Stortford. Please see website for details of activities.

Entry to the forest is free but there is a parking charge unless you are a member of the National Trust.

Days out with kids | Hatfield Forest | National Trust

Green Spaces in Great Dunmow

The Doctor's Pond is a great place to relax and while away the time feeding the ducks or trying your hand at angling. The pond acquired its name as the supposed breeding place for leeches used by doctors who lived in North Street, next to the pond. Read more about the Doctors Pond here.

Take a walk along the River Chelmer or along the Flitch Way to take in the lovely Essex countryside.

For families the recreation ground has play equipment and a skate park to keep the younger members of the family entertained.

Free parking this Christmas and New Year - Discover Uttlesford

Digital

Digital Share can help people be better connected by giving access to Sim cards, training, tech advice and much more. Please follow link for more advice digitalshare.org

Families

Thaxted

https://www.discoveruttlesford.co.uk/christmas-in-thaxted/



All ages

Elsenham

Visit Daisy May's Farm for some Festive Fun at the Farm this December.

Each weekend the farm will be celebrating Christmas with the animals and a guest appearance from Santa, his elves and Santa's sleigh train! There is a gift for all children, they get to meet the animals with free animal food, join in with festive arts and crafts, enjoy a Christmas story around the fire with hot chocolate and cookies and a walk through the woodland wonderland, with a candy cane hunt with sweetie prizes!

Pre-booked tickets only

2 hour time slots help us with limited all weather parking. Don't worry though, you wont be asked to leave if you over stay!

Daisy May's Farm Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN



Warm Spaces

Hatfield Heath's Warm Space

Stortford Road Bishop's Stortford, England, CM22, United Kingdom

Venue Type: Community Centre/Hall

Opening Hours: 11am-3pm

Location Features: Free Wi-Fi, Device Charging, People to chat to, Wheelchair Accessible, Toilets, Accessible Toilet,

Parking, Child Friendly

SAFFRON WALDEN

Working in conjunction with Churches Together in Saffron Walden, the Town Council is pleased to offer a FREE Warm Welcome Hub.

Mondays between 10.00am -3.00pm in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden. Please enter via the back door, facing Starbucks.

The Warm Welcome will be closed on Monday 26th December and Monday 2nd January – recommencing on Monday 9th January 2023, again from 10.00 – 15:00 every Monday.

Refreshments: tea, coffee, biscuits throughout the day, along with soup and a roll from 12.00–14.00.

There will also be FREE Wi-Fi, games, cards and provision for phone charging.

Everyone is welcome to attend and no booking is required.

A list of Warm Welcome Hubs in Saffron Walden can be found here



Warm Spaces

Great Dunmow

Dunmow Library (essex.gov.uk)

Rowena Davey Day Centre

Location Get Directions

Parking available at Chequers Lane Car Park, Chequers Lane, Great Dunmow, Dunmow CM6 1ΕΩ

01371 872874

dunmowdc@gmail.com

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/5382/Day-centres

Conveniently located in central Dunmow, the Rowena Davey Centre offers a spacious and comfortable environment in which to have a coffee and homemade cake or to stay for a freshly cooked hot two-course lunch. This centre is fully accessible for users with disabilities.

For the latest menu and to book in for a lunch, please call the centre on the above phone number. Booking is required by 10:30am on the day. Lunches are served at 12:30pm and cost £5.00 for two courses. Special diets can be catered for.

Uttlesford Community Hub

45, Stortford Rd, Dunmow, CM6 1DQ. Telephone 01371 876641

Open to all

This relaxing community hub is open every week-day 9:30am-4pm.

The space is free for all the community to come in and read, colour, chat or chill.

Bring your own drinks (soft or hot) and snacks to truly feel at home.