

INFORMATION SHEET

LEIGHTON BUZZARD LIBRARY THEATRE:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/81/leisure_and_countryside/435/leighton_buzzard_library_theatre/5

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Additional information requested:

1. How well utilised the facilities are and how many rooms etc are available?
2. What enquiries does the library have to turn away because it cannot meet the requirements?
3. Costs and revenue?

INTRODUCTION

Below is a basic list of the offer at Leighton Buzzard Centre (library and theatre). Please note that the list is in addition to the normal offer around lending books.

General accessibility: automatic doors, internal lift, easy access to public parking, ramp, toilets

Library

- Select and Collect – currently running and available to all
- Home Library Service – criteria extended to accommodate those who do not wish to visit a public space or building at this time to (e.g. customers can select up to 10 items to be delivered to their home by a volunteer)
- Fun Palace (annual event led by the community and local businesses, available to all)
- PC access (free internet access, free access to software)
- Free Wi-Fi
- Document print facilities (Microfilm and fiche prints. Photocopier)
- Meeting room hire
- Adult Learning Room (use by Adult Education)
- Registration Service use space within the library too (first floor)
- Children
 - Micro:bits
 - Junior makers (creative making opportunities by young people, be it craft workshops or sessions that use K'Nex etc)
 - Ad hoc themed craft sessions
 - Lego club (weekly)
 - Chatter books
 - Homework club/space
 - Summer Reading Challenge

- Annual children's theatre in the children's area
- Adults
 - Colouring club
 - Knit and natter club
 - Reading clubs/groups
 - Ad hoc craft sessions
 - Ancestry Library
 - Resource Library
- Parents and babies
 - Rhyme Time (weekly)
 - Story Time (weekly)
- Librarian Theatre – theatre among the bookshelves (sometime for adults and sometimes for children)

Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre:

- Receives over 24.5k visitors/customers per year
- Majority of visitors are from a variety of locations across the UK and a small number are international
- Theatre Programme consists of:
 - Live productions (varied mix for a varied age range)
 - Event cinema - live streamed and recorded live broadcasts from Royal Opera House, Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre Live.
 - Cinema/film – x6 seasons per year, films obtained for screening within 6 weeks of its release date, general screenings, family friendly screening, club/member screenings such as parent and baby or movies for the more mature.
 - Comedy nights (monthly)
 - Venue hire – live productions, private screenings, charity screenings, charity productions
 - Venue facilities which are hired - meeting room/green room (if a production is on), dressing rooms (x2), auditorium (capacity is 170 to 200 depending on the use of seating or flat floor. Space is hired for productions, meetings, Q&A sessions, tea dances, etc) and theatre lounge/bar (also hired out for meetings)
- Accessibility to the theatre – customer lift, two wheelchair spaces within the auditorium (if seats are out).

Cultural development projects were introduced prior to Covid-19, embedding will take place post Covid-19. Work to date (that will be expanded on):

- Strategic touring partnership – established relationships with local primary schools
- Next steps partnership – enhanced and encourage use of the theatre from primary schools
- Pioneering Partnerships – develop relationships with wider reach of schools to use arts and culture to deliver part of the education/school curriculum in a creative way e.g. science through the medium of dance.
- Arts and Culture project (delivered by 4YP) – work commissioned (and continued during lockdown) to support middle school aged children with SEN, low self-esteem, low confidence etc.

This will hopefully give you a flavour of some of the activities happening at the centre.