

Bishopthorpe Explore Gateway Library Pen Portrait

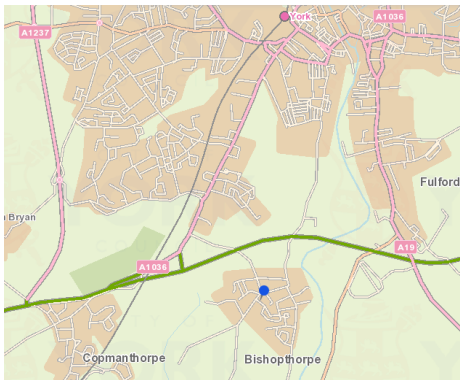
The Building

Bishopthorpe Library was opened in 1968 and has only had minor cosmetic changes since. The most recent was in 2017, with new front windows, planters and signage courtesy of Parish Council & Ward funding. A 2013 condition survey found that building maintenance costs over 20 years would be £67,601. The land and building is owned by CYC but the garden is leased back to the Parish Council, and is run as a sensory garden since 2006.



Bishopthorpe Library is well located in the centre of the village. There is a ramp and an automatic door to the front of the library, and a car park with 2 spaces. Regular bus services (numbers 11 and 21) stop near the library. The library is open for 21.5 hours per week, which is average for a community library, and this includes one evening until 7pm.

Community Assets



Bishopthorpe library uses the main body of the library for groups and events, and these can take place outside of opening hours if necessary. The library helps to combat social isolation through a varied programme of activities including a reading group, local history talks and flower arranging. Regular children's activities such as Fun Friday craft sessions, storytimes and stay and play mornings, along with the summer reading challenge contribute towards children's literacy, and there are computer workshops for beginners addressing adult digital literacy too, plus free PCs and Wi-Fi.

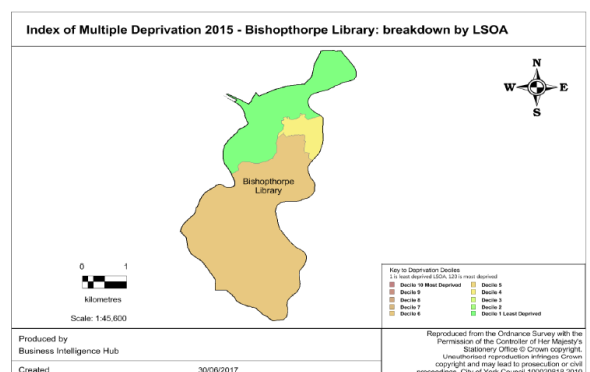
As well strengthening community resilience through a successful volunteering programme, Bishopthorpe Library also has an active Friends Group who supports the library by running events and making funding applications. The library has strong links with the Parish Council and with local schools. Bishopthorpe Library is well represented at village events, with a stall at the Gala and a scarecrow in the scarecrow festival.

Partners do offer activities from the building for example property marking from the police. Local community groups use the library for displays and residents can come to the library to take part in consultations, promoting active citizenship.

Also in the area, the Parish Council manage Vernon House Community Centre and Bishopthorpe Village Hall, the latter of which contains the Community Archive. Both Vernon House and the Village Hall host local groups and activities such as yoga, zumba and dance classes. Bishopthorpe Sports and Social Club has a focus on real ale, music and traditional pub sports. Brunswick Organic Nursery provide work experience and social activities to adults with a learning disability. St Andrews Church and Bishopthorpe Methodist Church both engage the local community in talks and groups too, including some WEA classes at St Andrews church.

Population profile

The Bishopthorpe Ward is relatively affluent. One part of the village is ranked as one of England's least deprived 10% of lower super output areas according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015. This is reflected in a range of measures including level of education, child poverty and anti-social behaviour all of which are better in Bishopthorpe than in York as a whole. 39.5% residents have a level 4



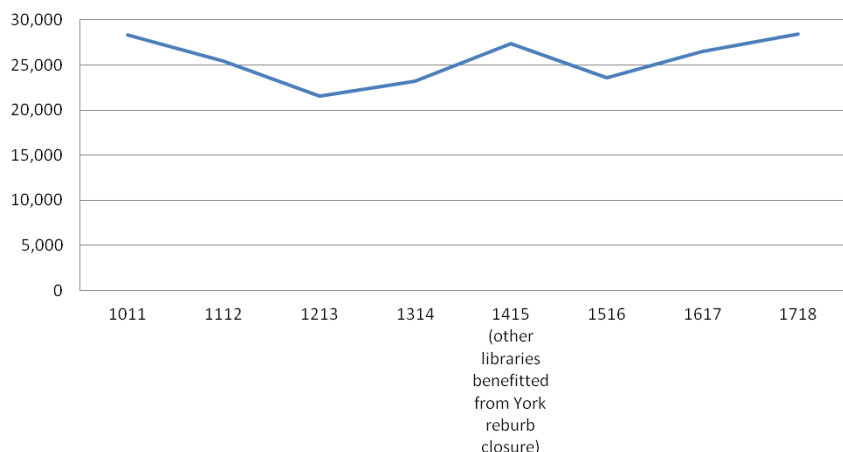
qualification and education is the largest employment sector.

Bishopthorpe residents were 96.5% White British at the 2011 census, so it has less ethnic diversity than elsewhere in York. The age profile is more skewed towards older people than elsewhere in York, with over half the population aged 50+ and very few students. With 16% of people being in their 60s, this library catchment area, along with those at Copmanthorpe and Haxby are likely to be areas which strongly feel the impact of an aging population over the next 20 years.

Community cohesion appears to be excellent, with 93% feeling that they “belong to their local area” and 100% feeling that “their local area is a good place for children and young people to grow up” in a CYC residents’ survey.

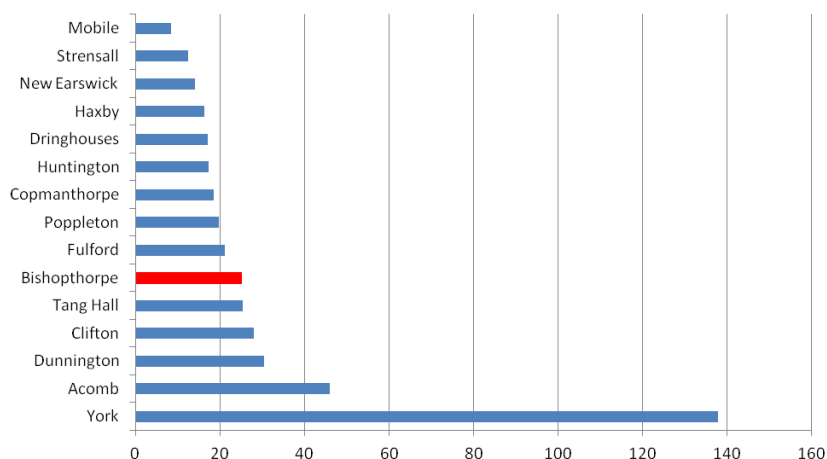
Current Usage

Physical Visits to Bishopthorpe Library over time



Visits including Reading Cafes		1718
1	York	426440
2	Acomb	109785
3	Rowntree Park	93253
4	Tang Hall	55352
5	Homestead Park	42693
6	Clifton	40212
7	Bishopthorpe	28397
8	Huntington	25734
9	Haxby	25337
10	Fulford	25322
11	New Earswick	24544
12	Copmanthorpe	23164
13	Poppleton	23137
14	Dringhouses	22924
15	Dunnington	20404
16	Mobile	14091
17	Strensall	13129
18	Sycamore House	255

Library visits per opening hour during half terms



(Used half term figures to exclude anomalies caused by classroom use of libraries at New Earswick and Fulford)

The user profile of Bishopthorpe library departs from the population profile most significantly in terms of having more women (72% of users, 52% of population) and more retired people (49% of users, 26% of population). However, these trends are fairly common in libraries, and Bishopthorpe Library's user profile is not too far from Explore's profile as a whole.