

# Dringhouses Explore Gateway Library Pen Portrait

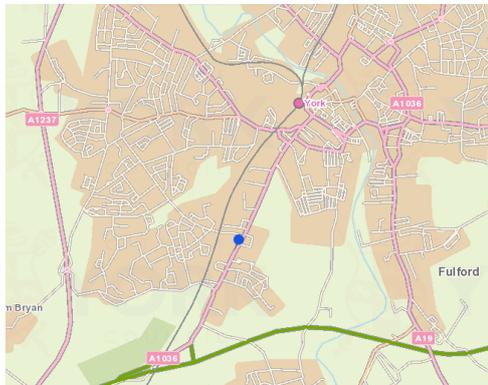
## The Building

Dringhouses Library was constructed as a school hall in 1849 and has a blue plaque from York Civic Trust commemorating its gifting to the council by Mr Wilkinson in the 1940s. The gift requires the building to be used for cultural purposes. The high ceiling gives it a spacious feel, but the floorspace itself is only average for a community library. The land & building is owned by CYC. A 2013 condition survey found that building maintenance costs over 20 years would be £149,979.



There is very limited parking, but good public transport links. Dringhouses library has an accessible toilet, and the accessibility of the building is relatively good. It is open 24 hours per week which is slightly longer than other small libraries, but this does not include any evenings.

## Community Assets



Dringhouses library runs a range of activities from the main body of the library, and latterly from the patio area outside, which was transformed by their Friends group. The library helps to combat social isolation through a varied programme of activities including a reading group and knit & natter group. Regular children's activities such as the summer reading challenge contribute towards children's literacy, and there are computer workshops for beginners addressing adult digital literacy too, along with free PCs and wifi.

As well strengthening community resilience through a successful volunteering programme, Dringhouses Library also has an active Friends Group who support the library by running events, and going

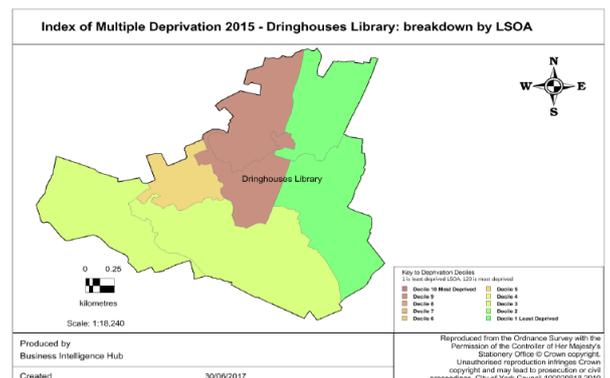
out to events like the summer fair. The library has strong links with the Parish Council and with local schools and nurseries.

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

The nearest community venue to the library is the community hall & cafe at St Edward the Confessor Church across the road, which is the base for numerous local groups. A twenty minute walk to the west of Dringhouses Library, just outside the Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward, is Foxwood community centre which offers craft groups, slimming groups, housing advice, singing & dancing. The Foxwood Residents Association meet here. Woodthorpe Community Group are a group of volunteers in the local area putting on events such as quizzes and fairs but without their own premises. Another church in the area with an events programme is St James the Deacon in Woodthorpe. Finally, the Hob Moor Children's Centre offers support for families.

## Population profile

The Dringhouses and Woodthorpe ward includes a range of neighbourhoods with difference characteristics: around the Tadcaster Road there are areas which fall within Englands least deprived 10% on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, whereas Woodthorpe to the west has higher deprivation scores. Due to this mix, the ward as a whole has relatively good scores on measures such as child poverty, anti-social behaviour and premature mortality, but to quote these overall ward figures would be to lose sight of the pocket of more significant need on the



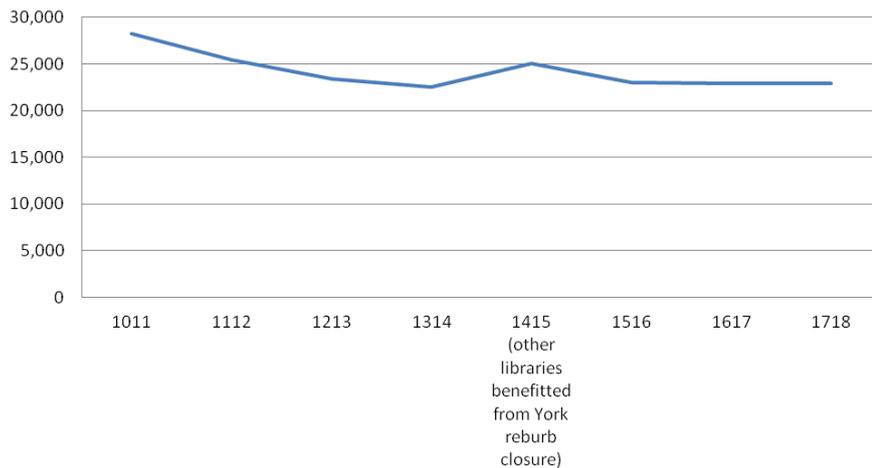
west. Age UK’s risk of loneliness for people aged 65+ heat map, which looks at a combination of factors some of which co-incide with deprivation, identifies a high risk of loneliness in the Woodthorpe area.

Dringhouses & Woodthorpe has less ethnic diversity than York as a whole, with 95% of ward residents being White British in the 2011 census. The age profile is more skewed towards older people than elsewhere in York, and not as many 20 to 24 year olds as you see nearer the universities.

Community cohesion; 67% feel that they “belong to their local area” and also 67% feeling that theirs is an area “where people of different backgrounds get on well together” in a CYC residents’ survey.

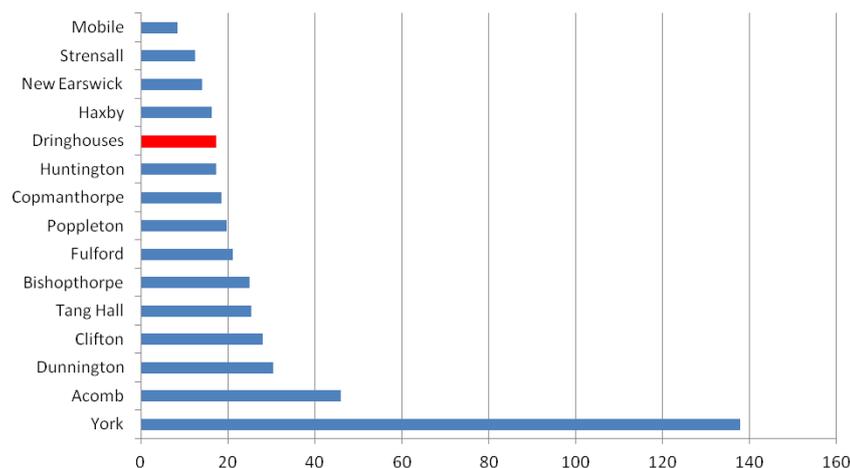
## Current Usage

### Physical Visits to Dringhouses 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 Dringhouses departs from the population profile most significantly in terms of having more women (65% of users, 52% of population) and more retired people (47% of users, 18% of population). However, these trends are fairly common in libraries, and Dringhouses' profile is not far from Explore's profile as a whole.