

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)

17th November 2018

Meeting 12

10.30 am in the Study Area

Minutes

Apologies

David, Ian, Jane L, Judith, Lynne, Margaret, Sholto and Steve.

Matters arising from Minutes of last Meeting.

Jane F still to contact Adrian, about funding for craft materials etc. Sarah to email contact details for funding opportunities.

Review of last Events – Reading Group talk by Jacqueline Grima on 26th September (when Jacqueline discussed her first novel “Only in Whispers”), National Poetry Day Event on 29th September, Children’s Chatty Crafters, ongoing WW1 Events – Making and painting Ceramic Poppies 6th October/3rd November, Dementia Awareness on 9th October, “Borrow a Book Day” on 13th October, “700 Years Crossing the Mersey” on 16th October, 50th Birthday Celebrations on 24th October, “Charity in WW1 Warrington” on 6th November etc.

Sylvia reported that the Reading Group continues to grow with a few new members recently joining, Jacqueline Grima’s talk was very informative from the angle of a newly published author, a varied programme is planned for the future including a talk by Sylvia Hetherington about life in Windsor Castle. National Poetry Day was more popular with the children than adults. Ideas for next year’s event were discussed e.g. promote the theme, adults’ poetry competition. Children’s Chatty Crafters continues to flourish with a good number of volunteers, sessions loved by both adults and children. After school story and craft session has a regular group of 10-20 children. Lego cards were a massive success bringing in non-Library users who rediscovered the Library. Ceramic poppies proved a hit with a mixed age range and people asked if we could continue this next year, thanks again to Alan and Geraldine for hosting at the Potters House. Dementia Awareness session by Liz Cotterill attracted 15 people which were an ideal number for the Study Area, thanks to her for her continued support for FOPL and her informative talk. “Borrow a Book Day” saw a big increase in both footfall and Library issues – Penketh topped the charts that day. Bob Roach’s talk had an audience of 30 and all enjoyed the history of the River Mersey, thanks again to him for his energy and enthusiasm. 50th Birthday Celebrations were a great success

with the children's crafts especially popular, all the cake got eaten, thanks again to Karen for her beautifully decorated and delicious cake and to everyone that helped with crafts and refreshments.

Overall we all decided that the ongoing WW1 project was hard work but worth the effort to bring the Soldiers on the Library wall plaque and memorial in St Mary's Cemetery "to life" with their backgrounds and family history. The WW1 Children's Poetry Competition was very successful with 189 young people submitting their poems, thanks to Geraldine and Mary for reading through them all and choosing the 2 winners. Philip Jeff's talk was a good culmination of the activities, enjoyed by 29 people, we learned about the effort of Warrington residents to help the Soldiers fighting abroad, who would have believed that sending a fresh egg through the postal system, actually arrived at "the Front"! Thanks again to Philip from Culture Warrington, always a popular speaker at Penketh Library.

Financial report - FOPL bank account.

Phillip confirmed that FOPL now has a bank account, Mary and Karen have kindly agreed to be signatories. Mary has also been named as Acting Treasurer in the absence of Steve due to illness. A reminder was given that receipts are needed when materials are purchased so that records can be kept.

Phillip read from the accounts spreadsheet to show the up to date financial situation, £129.68 is the current total, recent expenses included a 50th birthday cake, sponsoring a British Legion poppy etc., - monies raised from guest speaker talks and donations.

Library News – Strategy Workshop on 6th September, Partnership Board 11th September, Working Group 19th September etc.

Geraldine, Jane F, Jane L and Sylvia attended the Strategy Workshop representing FOPL, we enjoyed the chance to debate the future of the Libraries and make suggestions. Jane F brought along the Minutes from the Partnership Board, the new Working Group was mentioned as forming to look at a business case for Penketh Library due to the Master Plan not materialising. Working Group Meeting was attended by some Parish and a Borough Councillor and there were some good ideas for partnerships with local businesses.

Future Events and Sessions – Christmas Event on 15th December, planning for January 2019 etc.

The Christmas Event was discussed in detail; Jane L had some great ideas and has already contacted the Phoenix Choir who are going to sing carols at 11am. Mary is going to finalise details with her contact for a craft activity for Adults. Children's activities to include Christmas lanterns, card making, festive cupcakes, and tree decorating craft. Mary is going to contact the Co-op representative and the Store Manager about getting some mince pies. Also, Mary is going to design a quiz based on a carol theme with missing letters and Phillip is going to produce a poster. The consensus was the theme "Deck the Library with boughs of holly" was a good title.

Jane L also suggested a "Lucky Dip" which a free entry is given by borrowing a book or donating 50p to FOPL for 2 chances. Jane F to contact the Food Bank to come back to the Library from 3rd December to 18th December.

Jane L would like a few more jam jars and because the Event is very labour intensive we need as many of you to come along as possible – crafts, mince pie and refreshments etc.

Saturday 9th February 2019 was put forward as a date for our Valentine's/Chinese New Year Event.

AOB

Refreshments – it was suggested that in future we buy “one cup” tea bags. Jane L and Mary met with Liz Cotterill, an Asda Community Colleague and FOPL have been recommended for participation in the Green token scheme at Westbrook Library, application sent to Asda Foundation for approval.

Date of next Meeting.

Saturday January 12th 2019 from 10.30 am in the Study Area.