

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)

2 November 2019

Meeting 17

10.30 – 12.30

Minutes

Apologies:

Jane Love

Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Review of last events:

Scarecrow Event and fancy-dress competition (21 September)

Mary reported that the Scarecrow event was very good and well attended though not many children came in fancy dress. The children of Kelly (who organizes the Scarecrow fest) came in fancy dress and won the prize. Geoff Fellows donated gingerbread men, which went down very well. Our event tied in well with the scarecrow competition. There were 70 scarecrows around Penketh.

Borrow-a-Book Day (12 October)

Mary reported that Borrow-a-Book Day was quiet, apparently the two previous Saturdays which has nothing on were busier than normal. On Borrow-a-Book day the main library area had few people in but there were plenty of children doing craft activities. It was successful in getting families in. We had promoted craft activities but perhaps hadn't emphasized sufficiently that there were craft activities for adults too. These were located in the reference section which didn't help attract people in numbers.

Sainsbury Cards

This was a popular card swap held on Borrow-a-Book day. Karen reported that someone donated two full boxes of cards and another album, which was promptly snapped up by a doting grandparent together with some cards.

One Small Step talk by Bob Roach (1 October)

Mary reported that this wasn't particularly well attended but as the subject is recent history, we didn't expect a large audience but twelve people came along. The talk was very interesting and dealt with the events leading up to the first moon landing.

Lego/Duplo Donations

After the last meeting we asked for Lego and Duplo donations Lots of Duplo was generously donated, far more than we needed, so we have been able to donate some to St. Paul's (Joy Holmes' playgroup) and by *Neighbourhoods in Warrington Playgroups* in (via Nicky Attwood) where it was gratefully received. A small quantity of Lego was donated in the library. A friend of Mary's donated a large box of Lego which she washed and put into six boxes which are now in the library. Jane Love also loans some sets of Lego. The library had a Lego club last Wednesday for 22 children which was really successful. At a previous meeting, when buying Lego was discussed, David Keane said that as a voluntary group we could ask the parish council for a small grant. Mary contacted the parish clerk and asked for a donation. the parish council has given us a generous cheque for £100. Mary has used this to buy six Lego bases and some bricks for use in the library.

Financial report

Phil reported that with the generous cheque from Penketh Parish Council plus various other donations ticket donations for the One Small Step talk, FOPL currently has £703.70, of that, £530 is in the bank and £173.70 held as petty cash. It was noted that FOPL owes Karen and Jane some money for expenses for which receipts will be needed. Overall the finances are looking quite healthy. Mary reported on the Co-op funding application, saying she had applied for it without expecting success. Veronica Hudson (currently the Co-op Member Pioneer) had said we had made the shortlist of five which is then reduced to three. Following this, Mary had an email saying we were successfully on the list of three for this area. We will be on this until October

21st next year, Mary noted that friends of Padgate Library and Grappenhall have also secured funding from the Co-op.

Library News

Refurbishment of exterior of building by WBC. Susan Morris talked about the refurbishment saying that the windows and fascia boards would be replaced and the library painted. The survey has been done but timescale for the work is not yet known. Also, the lighting will be replaced with low energy replacements. A public access toilet is being considered. It is likely that the library will need to be closed while work is carried out.

Future events and sessions:

Christmas event

Mary said we plan to hold this on December 14th, she has booked the Phoenix choir to sing and asked Veronica Hudson if she could get us some mince pies before she leaves her member Pioneer post at the end of November. Phil said Veronica have been a great support to FOPL Mary said she had been a member Pioneer for several coop areas but had now stopped this but was continuing working at the Disability Centre in Evelyn Street.

Karen suggested a title for the Christmas event 'Oh Come All Ye Readers'. We will be serving tea, coffee, hot chocolate, drinks for children, mince pies and biscuits. Jane will be doing some craft sessions for children. Karen will bake some fairy cakes. It was suggested we buy gluten-free biscuits for those with special dietary requirements. Mary said one of her friends may be available for a demonstration of making Christmas decorations. She also noted it is difficult to attract adults into the library for example for craft activities. It was suggested that we could hold sessions on weekday afternoons possibly sewing or knitting sessions. Andrea suggested that a console games swap could be set up in time for Christmas. It was asked if we would be having the food bank again this year and we said that we would invite them during December. It was agreed we would have a Christmas quiz again this year. It was suggested we could have a hamper for a prize draw for adults and the children would have their Lucky Dip as usual

A discussion followed about how to attract more helpers to our events. Mary said she had been in touch with Codys with a view to asking them to perform at our future events, they are teenagers and this would hopefully attract teenagers into the library.

Talks by Janice Hayes and/or Philip Jeffs

As Janice Hayes has previously given a talk about Warrington History, we could invite her to talk about family history, in particular dating old photographs. This could be a daytime talk. People could bring their photographs in to be dated. Mark Olly was also suggested for giving a talk on history.

Mary has been in touch with Philip Jeffs to ask him to do a talk on the History of Warrington Through Maps, he also has a talk on getting to grips with census forms.

Ideas were discussed for new events aimed at adults – craft sessions, a men’s group etc. (like the Burtonwood Silver Foxes?)

Craft ideas for Chinese New Year (25th January, year of the rat) were discussed e.g. giving gifts in red envelopes, jam jar lanterns with battery tealights inside. Also discussed the Maplewood Restaurant are holding a Chinese New Year meal on 23rd of January. This could be a FOPL outing. In the restaurant there will be kung fu displays and a dragon dance. The dragon dancers could be invited to dance inside and outside of the library, possibly visiting Heathside.

Mary said that Jennifer Murray of Heathside had been invited to suggest ideas to involve their residents. One of the fathers Mr. Nunes at the Halloween craft session is Portuguese and may be able to offer Spanish sessions. Mary has a contact (Fresh Beginnings) who may be able to do food demonstrations. Mary noted there is now a defibrillator on the wall of the library and possibly we might organize a first aid course.

It was suggested we hold another multi-group event similar to the get to know your community which was held in our first year. It was also so noted we do not have a contact for the Gardening Society and New Roots since Judith moved.

AOB

A craft swap shop event was suggested for example swapping fabric or wool of comparable value

Encouraging new members by handing out leaflets at Christmas events was considered and possibly a leaflet drop around Penketh

It was agreed to leave the post of Chair vacant until the next AGM.

Date for the next meeting

It was decided to hold the next meeting on Jan 11th