

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)

11 January 2020

Meeting 18

10.30 – 12.30

Minutes

Apologies: David Grey

Introductions: Sylvia Haggett, Margaret Purvis, Jenny Rowlands, Diane Connor, Gwen Lightfoot (Member Pioneer for the Co-op), Karen Mitchell, Geraldine Snape, Mary Ross, Phillip Forshaw.

Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Borrow-a-Book Day: Susan commented that this was a successful event.

Review of last events:

Reading group report from Sylvia: Numbers are up and down but still continues to thrive, a solid group. They enjoyed a good Christmas lunch. They go to theatres and local exhibitions such as the artist Eric Tucker. Some members are also planning to go to the Galway Literary Festival in September. Sylvia said she knows the author Mandasue Heller and that she may be able to give a talk for FOPL. Sylvia also said the group is good for people's mental health. Geraldine asked if reading group events are put on Facebook. Jenny mentioned a different type of reading group: 'The Reader in Liverpool' where rather than people reading a book before the meeting, someone actually reads the book out to them. It was noted Warrington's library's read to relax was similar to this.

Craft activities report: Jane love could not attend so Mary had a report about craft activities. Jane will carry on with the Thursday after-school sessions. Every other week it's a read with craft activity associated with a book. The alternative Thursday's are craft-based (knitting crocheting felt etc.) There were 22 children last Thursday. Some more helpers would be useful, please contact Jane. The monthly Lego club was discussed. It was thought someone from FOPL should be there though this is not essential. Volunteers for a rota were requested. There are three big boxes of Lego. Mary will be buying some more bricks and bases with the money the council provided. We have had so much Duplo donated we've been able to donate some of it to the church lifetime group.

Christmas event

There was feedback from some members of the Phoenix Community Choir who are also FOPLs: they loved it especially when the children joined in too. There was a lovely atmosphere. In the craft activities, cakes and biscuits were iced and decorated. Karen reminded us that Geoff Fellows donated some mince pies. It was a very successful event.

Financial report

The FOPL financial year runs January to December so our financial year has just finished. We have a total of £517.83 funds, £445.05 in the bank, £72.78 in cash, which is quite healthy even after paying expenses. Through the year we had a very healthy donation from St. Joseph's pantomime fund, £200 from ASDA and £100 from the Parish Council. We didn't have any major expenditure except for the Lego base boards and for the Easter goods such as bonnets. For the Christmas event, Mary bought some mugs to serve tea and coffee. As of yesterday, FOPL had £270.25 allocated to us in the Co-op community fund. Mary noted that people further afield than Penketh could still nominate us and that we should encourage people to become members and do so.

Library News

There is a library partnership board meeting on Monday 2 to 4 p.m.

The refurbishment of Penketh library may affect some of the events that we have planned so it is possible that we may need to cancel, postpone or relocate some future events.

The possibility of installing a cash point machine locally was mentioned. This may be located in the library or in the pool building.

Future events and sessions:

Chinese New Year

Jane suggested doing craft activities for Chinese New Year on Thursday the 23rd and carrying on with these on the Saturday. Some ideas had been suggested, but could not go ahead: The Chinese Dragon dancers could not attend and a Chinese themed hamper was considered impractical. Also, the last hamper we had only about a dozen people put their names in for it. Putting gifts into Red Envelopes was discussed and decided we should not go ahead with this idea. The library also does not have many Chinese books so they could not put on a large book display. It was suggested that different cultures could be represented at The Great Get Together and these could include Chinese elements.

The Great Get Together

This was discussed and it was noted last year that other people were having events on the same day, such as Penketh Primary who have their Summer fair that day. The Olive Tree Shannon Bradshaw and Chapelford also have events. We could consider holding the event on a different weekend in order to avoid clashes with other events locally. Chinese culture could be included. Possibly Mr Nunes might be able to represent Portugal. If people have contacts with different cultures it was suggested they get in touch and invite them along to the great get together

Valentine's Day

Our events usually have crafts, some have tea coffee cakes or mince pies. This is a successful formula and always brings children in but we need something to bring people in to borrow more books, so we could do something new to appeal to them. We have the defibrillator so we could get someone to demonstrate it or explain it. We could get the fire engine back. We could invite the PCSO and St John's Ambulance. So, the Valentines theme could be 'people who love the community'. Mary has contacted the Penketh Fire Service and St John's Ambulance. This would be a different angle on Valentine's Day 'love your community'. The event should be held on the 8th February. Jane would probably do some Valentines cards on the Thursday and carry on with this on the Saturday. It was decided to do tea and coffee for this event. The Phoenix Choir will be invited to sing romantic songs. Sylvia remarked she had spoken to somebody who found the songs particularly moving last year. It was noted we should be encouraging people to borrow books and join the library if they're not a member. The library staff always have a 'blind date with a book' (wrapped up so borrowers have a random surprise).

Easter

the Easter event will be held on the 4th of April. It was decided to plan the Easter event at our next meeting on the 14th of March. Also, to hold our AGM on the 14th.

Mr Nunes Spanish sessions

Mary mentioned Mr Nunes who is Portuguese but speaks Spanish. At October half term he said he would be happy to do Spanish lessons for children, perhaps after school time. He works shifts so it would be dependent on this. Mary said she would contact him to arrange times.

Other items on the agenda were discussed:

Multi-group event

This could be included in the Great Get Together or held as a separate event

Fresh Beginnings food demonstration

Mary said this is run by a former colleague. She demonstrates to lots of groups on how to use fruit and vegetables, for example, the use of a juicer.

First Aid Course

This may be covered as part of the Valentines event, for example, by the St John's Ambulance.

Talks by J Hayes and/or Philip Jeffs

Mary said nothing has been arranged yet but she has been in touch with Philip Jeffs.

Talk by Mark Olly

Mary said Mark is a historian and believes that he would charge for giving a talk.

Ideas for new events aimed at adults

Craft sessions etc. the reference section might be suitable as a place to hold these possibly a discussion group of some sort, 'knit and natter' for example. The idea of setting up a men's group was also discussed such as the Silver Foxes in Burtonwood. Mary noted that men do visit the library. Possibly the theme for this could be playing games. It was commented that the group would probably need to consist of like-minded people. Serving tea or coffee in return for borrowing a book may help attract people. It was suggested to increase computer usage, genealogy might be encouraged. Either researching it and or logging it so they can share it with family members. Sylvia will ask her friend to look in at Burtonwood Library and find out more about the group, how it was set up for example. This would be a fact-finding exercise to see if this would apply to the men of Penketh.

AOB

It was suggested that when we have an event, we try to link it with a book or books that are in the library. the library staff usually produce a display of books relevant to events.

Susan Morris commented on library usage and book borrowing figures and how our events such as Borrow A Book Day were successful in encouraging library usage. She mentioned the Library Partnership Board meetings and how there were plans for Penketh to be decorated, possibly an accessible toilet installed and layout changes. Susan commented that the monthly LEGO club was a good idea but didn't necessarily need somebody from FOPL there every time. The idea of craft and natter sessions was also discussed possibly a men's group similar to Burtonwood. Once started, these groups are generally self-running. Posters for events should be provided three weeks before, as they may be shared with other libraries. The possibility of inviting local authors was discussed either by FOPL contacting them directly or through the library. There are a group of librarians who have helped friends' groups to invite children's authors, typically these authors charge £300 to £350 for a half-day session. Susan mentioned future events that FOPL can be aware of. 'Time to Talk Day' is on the 6th of February. For this, the library will have a pledge wall for post-it notes with pledges to be put on. It's World Book Day on the 5th of March. Regarding starting a craft group, it's the Get Creative Festival on the 9th to 17th of May, so that might be a good time. For the first time this year, Warrington libraries are running a Literary Festival running from the 9th of May to the 15th. The theme is '100 Novels That Shaped the World'. FOPL could consider talks for VE 75 which is on the 8th of May to the 10th of May. Possibly the Burtonwood Association might be invited. The idea of a beer tasting session was considered.

It has been suggested that we collect Easter eggs for Warrington Food Bank. Another suggestion for the Food Bank is to have a collection during the summer perhaps to coincide with the Jo Cox event or the school summer holidays.

Date for the next meeting and date for AGM

This was decided as the 14th of March.