

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)
22 January 2022
Meeting 22
10.30 – 12.30 Online (Jitsi)
Minutes

Apologies:

Jo Butler (Guest Speaker, digital support for groups – Get Connected.)

Attending:

Susan Morris (Treasurer), Sylvia Haggett (Treasurer), Mary Ross (Community Engagement Officer), Sarah Parry, Phillip Forshaw (Secretary), Gwen Lightfoot (Coop Member Pioneer)

Guest speakers:

Gemma Peers - the new Library Engagement Co-ordinator at LiveWire.

Gemma introduced herself and described her role regarding library volunteers e.g. home library service, and friends groups such as ours. Susan outlined our groups activities, and how we have had to change our operations due to Covid. Sylvia discussed how the reading group operated and could be publicised by LiveWire.

Mary mentioned that we had a Twitter page which she managed. It was said it has 6000 followers. Susan said we have an Instagram account, Mary said Jane was running the Instagram page, but there wasn't a lot of photographs to post lately.

Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

Phil discussed the projector and suggested the Epson EF-12 3LCD or Epson EH-TW650 Projector/screen suggestions were invited. Sylvia had researched via a technician at the college and said any Epson in that price range would be good and also suggested a screen we could consider.

Review of last events:

Susan reviewed the Design a Christmas Card Competition run by FOPL in conjunction with Penketh and Cuerdley Residents Association. She said we could publicise each other's events.

The Foodbank Trolley response was fantastic and well supported by local residents, it was really worthwhile.

'Borrow a book and get a chocolate' was popular. The Christmas quiz was mentioned, which everybody enjoyed, the staff took photographs of the winners which were posted on Facebook. A lot of people engaged with the posts and these had lots of likes.

Financial report:

Sylvia: We spent 165.09 on these events with a balance of £4290.00 suggest a reserve of say £800 to pay for the projector and screen, with about £3500 to spend when things pick up. plus £63 from easyfundraising in the pipeline. Susan said it's thanks to the Coop, which should fund crafts for years. Gwen said she had small budget she can tap into, also the store has money that can be accessed. Susan said easyfundraising only had a few people had signed up, but schools do well as they have a loyalty base. Tesco only counts initial items in your order, and Sainsbury's also do this. It is still worth doing. Gwen uses it for homestart. Adblockers may block donations, as do some browsers. Mary raised 5p, but reports some snags.

Library News:

Phil has had an email with Matt Parker to say that he is arranging a meeting with staff to inform them about the library refurbishment. Sylvia mentioned a Guardian article stating that LW is on the at-risk register. Sylvia quoted from the article.

Future events and sessions:

It's Harry Potter Book Night soon, there is a competition, the prize, bought by Gwen, a beautiful illustrated copy of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. Jane will be doing some craft packs for Harry Potter Book Night. Susan has put together some craft packs to celebrate Chinese New Year. Ideas were invited for remote activities. Accessing the Library was discussed regarding Covid risk. A Lego half-term session was suggested with Sylvia and Mary. Phil noted that the library are starting to encourage people in, so we could look to follow their example. A Family History Helpdesk was suggested, say once a month.

Sarah is available at half-term. She teaches English to Chinese children, so could help with a translation of the New Year poster for the library.

Mary suggested a Whatsapp group to keep in touch. Mary volunteered to set this up.

Gwen mentioned Fairtrade Fortnight and how the Coop could help, Mary to look at this.

Phil mentioned Karen's suggestion we promote history walks e.g. the library has two, Mary has a walk, also. The friends of friends meeting will be held soon, one person per group, Phil volunteered to represent FOPL.

Mary: The Platinum Jubilee history project we could ask people for their memories and photographs of the last 70 years. These could be displayed, and later put in a folder for later reference. Peter, of the History Group, would like to give us their resources, we could have items e.g. Penketh photographs, maps etc. for an exhibition in the library. It was discussed to have Philip Jeffs to do a map talk, perhaps on Saturday afternoon after the library closes.

Susan suggested getting children to write about their lives now. Sarah said perhaps we could have a template. Mary said her history walks were about the Tannery and Schools, we could print some off or email them. Also Penketh House. An oral history has been done previously, but could be this could be repeated. Susan said to do this when Covid is at a low level. Sarah mentioned the empathy museum, doing projects e.g. 'walking in my shoes'. Some ideas could be used for community recordings. Mary to email Donna with our proposals e.g. the

memory project. The tabletop display could be used. The Peter Rutherford DVD could be on display.

Gwen asked if anything is funded by the Coop, let her know as she can publicise this. If anything needs judging, ask the Coop manager (Mark) or the staff. There is plenty of space in the store for displays or promotions. Sylvia said the competition age ranges may be too restrictive and all entries could get something for entering e.g. free items from the Coop? e.g. a certificate or similar. Examples of ages ranges were discussed.

AOB

Projector/screen choice Epson EF-LCD12.3 or Epson EH-TW650

Website – suggestions Committee names/pictures on website? People were generally in favour. Joining form on website? P.F. said the website has been re written.

Date for the next meeting: to be decided.