

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)
24 September 2022
Meeting 24
13.30 – 15.30 at
Meeting Lane Community Centre
Minutes

Apologies

Jackie Cooling, Andrea Maguire, Sholto & Judith Douglas, Sarah Parry, Jennifer Rowlands, Margaret Purvis.

Present: Susan Morris, Mary Ross, Phillip Forshaw, Jane Love, Geraldine Snape, Derek Baker, Ian Frampton, Gwen Lightfoot.

Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

When we applied for funds from the Co-op we applied for funding for a projector and screen and craft materials but since then we have reviewed this and decided to buy some furniture for the children's library. This leaves money for craft session materials and for other things of benefit the community. It has been decided not to buy a projector for now, as it's judged a poor use of funds to purchase a high cost item for what is likely to be occasional use. However, a screen could be bought and a projector borrowed as needed.

It was noted we could apply again for Co-op funding. Mary commented about the complexity of the application process. Her original request was for £500 but we ended up with approximately £4000.

WW2 and WW1 Booklets 'In Remembrance of the Fallen'

Susan: In 2018 the friends group produced a booklet about the Fallen of the First World War who are shown on the Plaques on the Library Wall and in St Mary's Cemetery. These booklets were given to schools and local organisations for them to keep, some were sold.

Following on from that, Phillip has researched the Second World War Fallen. We have received funding from the Penketh Youth and Community Association to print the booklets and donate them to Schools, uniform groups and local organisations. There are approximately 50 WWII booklets to give to various organisations and and we've also produced a small print run of the

World War 1 booklet as well. Any that are left over we will sell at a cost of £3.50 each. Susan proposed when the free booklets have been donated that we set up a stall outside Spa to sell the booklets, the library being closed at the moment. The Co-op was also suggested as a place to sell booklets.

Jane L suggested that we make use of the sign company next door to the Co-op on Liverpool Road to produce a banner to promote FOPL (Impact Graphix & Signs Ltd).

Review of last events

Susan said that most of our events have been remote, as due to Covid restrictions and the library refurbishment, going to the library has not been possible. We've done very well considering. For the 'Memories of 70 Years of Penketh' we had feedback from the staff that it was very popular and created a lot of interest. The display is now housed in a folder in the local studies section.

The man who won the Coop Fair Trade pack competition was absolutely delighted. His picture was seen on Facebook even though he'd never been on it before.

Financial report

Acting Treasurer – Phillip

At the start of our financial year, 1 January 2022 we had: +£4361.57 (+£4248.47 in the bank account and +£21.49 petty cash)

Outgoings and Income:

Craft materials & 'Borrow a book' items -£224.56

Children's furniture -£2000

Easyfundraising +£75.58

Penketh Youth & Community Association +£324.00

Booklet pre-order +£10.00

Current balance at 22 Sep 2022 +£2526.59 (£2505.10 in the Bank account and +£21.49 petty cash)

Future expenditure: Booklet Printing -£324 (WW2) -£198 (WW1) figures TBC

Future income Booklet sales/donations TBC

FOPL has made a donation of £2000 towards the cost of new children's furniture for the library. In this way, we have been able to make a contribution to the refurbishment of our library.

Booklet sales were discussed. We have more pre-orders for the booklets. The Friends of St Mary's Cemetery have ordered some and individuals too, including a relative of somebody who featured in the First World War booklet.

The projector was discussed. Ian Frampton queried the proposed cost. He said Probus sourced one for £77 and he said he would get some details for it. Mary said she had a screen available. Derek said he thought he might know where one was and he would check what condition it was in.

It was suggested that we get onto the Amazon Charity donation list. Susan commented that we could not do that because we are not a charity, but if things were purchased through the easyfundraising route then we could benefit.

Phillip asked the attendees to have a look at the Easyfundraising website for how you can donate to FOPL. When you ordering online it won't cost you a penny. We have been able to do what we do because of people's generous giving.

Thanks were expressed for the PYCA for funding the WW2 booklet printing costs.

Library News

Susan mentioned the Library Partnership Board. Following on from the Save Warrington's Libraries campaign, the Library Partnership Board was set up, which has members of the friends groups on it, LiveWire staff and Warrington Borough Council staff. They have been dealing with the refurbishment of libraries and they also deal with library strategy. They meet regularly. There was an online meeting this week which Philip and Susan attended, and LiveWire said they had an aimed opening date for the library of the 7th of November.

The new library strategy was discussed in the Library Partnership Board meeting. This has been published and a copy is kept in the library.

The refurbishment of Penketh library was discussed, including window replacement, the accessible toilet and the Jane Forshaw community room.

The new library layout was discussed. The new desk will be smaller and the shelving in the middle will be movable. The computers will be moved onto the side wall and they will be fewer in number.

Geraldine asked about the patio area Susan said nothing had been planned for that. Geraldine suggested some plants and perhaps getting donations from a local nursery saying it was for Friends of Penketh Library. The plans for Culcheth Library, which is the next and last to be refurbished, were mentioned including their ideas for outside space. Further discussion followed on our patio area and the possibility of fundraising. Low-maintenance plants were discussed. Jane love suggested artificial grass but others rejected to this idea. Planters were suggested, also,

to cover the area with sand. Susan said the patio area does not currently involve any staff time. Wildflowers were discussed And Susan mentioned at Penketh Parish Council had paid for wild flowers and poppies to be planted in the past. These had self-seeded for a number of years but the numbers diminished. It was noted that wildflower seeds are expensive.

Susan asked if we wanted to come up with a plan which could go through LiveWire to Warrington Borough Council. Jane love suggested could we use volunteers to do the work. Susan commented about health and safety considerations and if the work had to meet certain standards. It was said we need to come up with a costed plan.

Susan suggested a community bench to the left to the library entrance and to plant some herbs there for people to enjoy.

Mary suggested a design competition that anyone could enter to produce a design for the Courtyard area. Susan said LiveWire should first be informed and approve of the idea.

Susan said it wasn't a good idea to have a competition without mentioning it first to the building owners and the building operators, (Warrington Borough Council and LiveWire).

P.F. was asked what have been discussed at the refurbishment meetings regarding the patio. P.F. said it had been decided the refurbishment budget would be spent elsewhere and not on the patio.

It was suggested the competition could be posted it on Facebook, the wording was still to be decided.

It was decided Mary would post on Facebook when the library was open again. Susan suggested we look at the ideas, then we approach Livewire to ask if we raise the money would it be possible to to do something for the patio area, which we would maintain and water as required.

Jane Love commented since the friends group was started there are more young families now in Penketh, but they probably don't know about us. Geraldine commented there lots of young people and children now, in Heath Road, compared with 6 years ago, when the friends group started.

Future events and sessions

Susan asked about holding a Christmas event. It was decided to offer hot drinks and biscuits invite the Phoenix Choir and have a craft session for children.

Susan mentioned about the men's group at Burtonwood and how that was working well, and what we need is people who are willing to to run groups under the FOPL banner. We've been approached by Jennifer Rowlands who wants to investigate the possibility of running an evening book club. Susan said that whatever we do has to support use of the library. Also, there are logistics about getting books, but we could work around this. Susan will contact Donna,

supervisor of Penketh Library, to have a chat about how this could work. This would be separate from the FOPL reading group run by Sylvia.

We could have more groups set up. Mary mentioned a Heritage Local History Group. Susan said she would contact a lady at Padgate whose group meet on Thursdays, the first Thursday of every month. Next meeting is at the 6th of October so Mary could go along and have a chat.

PF commented there's no reason why we shouldn't have more than one group book group and that Sylvia's is currently full. Susan commented that if a book becomes popular, the various book groups around Warrington all want it.

Susan said it is fortunate in having a member of staff who is willing to co-ordinate multiple books for the reading group. However, for an evening Book Group a way needs to be found for books to be borrowed that would be needed out of hours.

AOB

We were emailed some ideas for future events by Andrea

Reopening party of Tea and cake on the library 1st Saturday.

It was agreed we would have a coffee morning when the library opens again. Hot drinks and a biscuit could be offered and the public could see what the renovated library has to offer. Mary suggested repeating borrow-a-book day.

Collection of Tins, Jars, Bottles etc for the foodbank. (Even if we did it after Christmas then we can put any unwanted items in it).

From Andrea's email, Jane Love asked if we were going to invite the Food Bank this year and Susan replied yes, we would be doing that for two weeks in December

Tesco blue tokens and Asda green tokens.

Susan asked Jane Love if she could contact ASDA and Tesco about the green and blue token schemes.

A4 monthly newsletter telling people about events at the library and about events going on in Penketh. Carboot sale, School events, Tips on how to save money (Any printable vouchers).

The newsletter idea was discussed but this would require someone willing to take the work on.

Kindness board in the library. People could put helpful tips, Say thank you for any help given to them. Lost and found.

This was considered to be a good idea, but would need additional notice board space which would need to be negotiated with Livewire, also who would maintain the content?

Rugby world cup tickets can we get any for a raffle? As Warrington and Leigh are hosting it.

The rugby world cup ticket raffle is a great idea but to do anything about this would not be possible due to time scale. It would need to be started sooner. The opening date for the library is just too late for this. However, if anything similar comes up in the future, we could look to get tickets to raffle. The regulations about selling tickets and holding prize draws would need to be observed for this.

Susan asked for any more ideas regarding running groups under the FOPL banner

Mary mentioned about the possibility of a Penketh History group and that she was having a meeting with the current history group. She said many of the items they have are being sold. What is left are mainly photographs, maps and paper documents. Mary has been in touch with Donna regarding having these in the library and displaying them in the local studies area.

Jane mentioned about an influx of people from Hong Kong and asked what we could do to involve them in the library. Geraldine mentioned that the Hongkongers meet at the Oaks on a Saturday afternoon. Susan said she would go to the Oaks when the library opens with some leaflets to promote the library and see if there are any books on in Cantonese at the library.

Geraldine mentioned some people who meet on a Tuesday morning i.e. the forget-me-not group run by Andrew Hetherington, who would be interested in first world war and second world war topics. Susan enquired about a telephone number for this. Geraldine suggested getting in touch with Karen, the centre manager at the Oaks, to arrange this. Jane said she still had a first world war display board that could be used: Thomas Hayes.

Susan asked if we need to arrange a date for the AGM. It was noted that the post of treasurer is vacant and it was asked if anyone wanted to volunteer for this. The procedure is Nominations are invited, a seconder needed and vote at the AGM.

Other Committee Posts are available for people who wish to become involved with the running of FOPL.

The date for the AGM was discussed and January was suggested as a good time to have it.

The cost for the hire of the community hall was discussed and I said it should be £40, £20 of this being the caretaker fee but it's only £20 as PF has collected the keys.

Susan closed the meeting.