

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)
18 March 2023
Meeting 26
10.30 – 12.30
Minutes

Apologies: Derek Baker, Geraldine Snape, Jane Love, Andrea Maguire, Ian Frampton

Attendees: Susan Morris, Mary Ross, Sarah Parry, Gwen Lightfoot, Karen Mitchell, Phil Forshaw

Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

The minutes from the last meeting were posted on our website in draft form. Attendees were asked to read them and raise anything they did not agree with. As no objections have been received, the minutes have been taken as an accurate record.

Patio

Susan reported the patio has been cleaned of 55 years of dirt and the windows cleaned, new topsoil has been put in the plating areas. It was noted that the squares have rubble underneath and two of them smelled of turps as if it had been poured there recently, perhaps during the renovation. All the plants mentioned in the previous meeting have been bought. The bulk of the money was the £75 for the cleaning, with topsoil 7 bags at £7 a bag. The squares have been planted with lavender and a white hydrangea in the middle. Herbs, agapanthus and others into the planter. A sign was suggested 'Plants donated by FOPL'. Or a poster on the FOPL notice board.

Review of last events:

Gwen was thanked for the Fairtrade Goodies for the hamper.
Crafts had been Easter Rabbit kits, Valentine's Day and Mother's Day etc.

Financial report:

Phil: For the FOPL financial year 2023, (which runs from 1 Jan 2023 to 31 Dec 2023)
FOPL started the year with £2613.08 in the Bank and £13.99 Petty Cash
Jan 9th -£36.95 Year of the rabbit craft kits
Feb 18th +£7.00 Booklet sales
Feb 28 -£10.07 Jane Love Valentine's Day Items

Mar 9th The amount TBC for Mother's Day & Patio Plants (currently -£155.18 plus there will be some future additional items)

Mar 15th -£48.98 Coronation Crowns & Prizes Jane Love via Susan Morris

So we currently have £2510.09 in the Bank and £13.99 Petty Cash

Susan said she would send a final figure for her expenses.

Library News:

Mary: Penketh and Great Sankey Heritage Group previously met at Penketh High School, but then had no permanent base. They have agreed to become the Friends of Penketh Library Local History Group. This means they can meet here for free, (previously it had cost £20 for two hours at The Oaks). This has been agreed with LiveWire. The group is planning to meet on the last Monday of the month between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm. Susan said that it's really good we have this as a self-running group. Mary spoke to Hazel (group acting secretary) who thinks this new group is a good idea. Regarding the funds, there's not a lot. Most has been given to various charities and local good causes. There is a treasurer (Eunice), Hazel suggested £1 donation per meeting which could be used for paying visiting speakers. The question of FOPL buying The Warrington Guardian was also discussed.

Future events and sessions:

Susan: We have arranged a talk by Janice Hayes 'Celebrating Warrington' to be given on 17th May.

Susan suggested next year we do a plan of craft sessions for the whole year which would allow time for them to be publicised in advance. Also we could consider the approximate cost and decide if the session is affordable. A figure of £30 per session was suggested.

Numerous suggestions had been submitted by email and these were discussed.

Jane Love

'Here are some of my ideas.

- *Easter Crafts Session – Sat 1st April – 10:30am to 12 Noon. Make and decorate an Easter Basket, (photo attached). We have made these in the past, they are easy to prep for and make. We would need A3 pastel coloured card and then cut out strips before. The are then decorated with little chicks/shredded tissue paper and small foil wrapped chocolate Easter Eggs/chocolates. Decision:Yes.*
- *Easter Egg, borrow a book – Lucky Egg dip! I have lots of plastic refillable eggs, (pictured) we fill them with a small foil wrapped Easter Egg/chocolate (sized depending – Home Bargains is good for these). In 1 or 2 of the Eggs, there is a note to say “Winner!” of a big Easter Egg. I need to count how many I have and it would be great if someone had an old fashioned basket or something to have them in. Suggest that is runs from Sat 1st April to Sat 8th April, (whilst stocks last). Decision: Yes.*

- *Coronation Crown competition - Helen/Karen were going to chat to Donna about this to see if and how it could be done in the library. The basic idea is that we supply a White Card Crown template, (that is the same for everyone) and people then design/decorate themselves. We would then have them displayed around the library for people to come in and vote for their favourite. Suggested age ranges, preschool & reception, KS1 (infants) & KS2 (juniors). We could send 3 crown templates to each of the local primary schools to try and get them involved! (as spot of friendly rivalry).*
- *The cheapest way to do this would be to cut them out of A3 white card. The library would hand them out. Completed crowns to be displayed from Sat 29th April to Thursday 4th May, (as I assume that the library will be closed on Sat 6th May). To support this, I would put an after school “story and craft” session on Thursday 27th April. Quick correction to the Coronation Crown idea. After a quick test with some A3 card, it would be too small. A2 white card would be perfect.*
- *For maximum display purposes I think that we should aim to make 2 templates per sheet to allow for people creativity! Decision: Yes. We have bought the card. There are many schools, so if templates given to all, not many templates would be left for the library. A digital template was suggested. A preference was expressed not to directly involve the schools. It was suggested that we could advertise this and children could pick up a template from the library.*
- *Sunflower competition, as the quadrant has been cleaned and restored what about a Sunflower competition. We could get the library staff to sew a couple of sunflowers in the quadrant. And see if people can grow sunflowers taller than theirs? Potential for an associated Sunflower Craft session. Start April time? Decision: Yes. We could buy the seeds.*
- *Father’s Day Craft Gift Pack, Similar to the Mother’s Day one along with Father’s Day Card making box. 18 Jun 2023. See comments below.*
- *Bead Bracelet or Key Ring making Sessions. These are always popular and very easy for a potential Saturday morning session. Decision: Yes.*
- *The Library Rock painting of previous years was always popular, do a painting session in the library? Again a potential Saturday morning session in early summer. Decision: Yes. This could be expensive with the cost of paint. Where would we put them? Anti social behaviour was mentioned. It could be risky if stones were displayed near the library.*
- *The Summer Reading challenge is Sport based. With the library being closed last Summer it would be great to support them this year with some activities, not sure what yet. Perhaps, Warrington Wolves could donate tickets to raffle? The library will probably have something for this challenge also.*

- *Elmer Day – May time, craft for Pre-schoolers.* Decision: Yes.

Jane's suggestions were discussed at the meeting and the following comments were made. Generally, these are good ideas that we should go ahead with. However some comments were made:

- *Sunflower competition:* Yes to growing sunflowers at home, and a sunflower themed craft session. There won't be any spare room in the patio/quadrant, when it is planted.
- *Bead – Bracelet or Key Ring making Sessions.* Yes these are always popular.
- *Library Rock painting.* With several paint colours needed, it was thought this could be costly, also it was thought to be risky if stones were displayed near the library.
- *Father's Day Craft Gift Pack, Similar to the Mother's Day one along with Father's Day Card making box.* Father's day, Sunday, June 18, 2023, could be similar to mother's day, (though children of single parent families might feel left out).

Andrea Maguire suggested:

Easter egg collection with foodbank and also a normal foodbank collection (Tins, Packets) etc Also a raffle on the day for a food basket.

Outside to hang on the railings by the bike area. Wooden boxes for flowers. either 70 flowers for the Jubilee or 23 flowers for the kings coronation year.

2023 Grow Wild Community Programme.

Eurovision is in May maybe we could do a Eurovision activity. Does anyone know any singer or band? Food, Different flags around the library?

Food hamper something from a different country e.g. Paste Italy Chocolate Switzerland etc.

Andrea's suggestions were discussed at the meeting and the following decision(s) were made. The Easter Egg collection was tried last year and had a poor response, so we have decided not to repeat it this year.

Wooden boxes for flowers would be costly for a short-term display. We have already spent a sum on plants for the patio area.

2023 Grow Wild Community Programme We can't apply for this as safeguarding policies and public liability insurance are needed.

Eurovision. We have booked the Phoenix Choir to sing in the morning for this event, tea and coffee to be served.

It was decided not to go ahead with a Food hamper due to cost.

Ian Frampton suggested:

I have a suggestion for the "glass box" garden in the centre of the library. The middle bed needs, I believe, a statement plant. A trachycarpus fortunei (Chusan Palm in plain man's language) would fit the bill. It is the only palm that can resist the winters so far north. The palm is fairly slow growing but can reach a height of 10mts after many many years. It needs hardly any maintenance - just trimming a dead lower leaf each year. Once planted the tree will survive quite happily on its own.

Ian's suggestions were discussed at the meeting and the following decision(s) were made. The planting for the patio had been finalised by the time of the meeting, in line with suggestions at the previous meeting, and the plants already purchased. They are due to be planted soon.

Susan suggested when we have craft events that a collection tin is on the table.

Sarah knows an author, S. E. Moorhead (Sarah McGee), who has a new book out in September and another out in 2024. She writes futuristic crime fiction, lives in Liverpool and could do a talk if we cover travel expenses. Perhaps an evening in October? Decision: Yes.

Sarah may have more time next year to hold a monthly or quarterly craft activity. Such as make a mini book, take it home and fill it with: this month's theme or a graphic novel or other content as decided on the day. Perhaps a competition for the best. This could also appeal to older children. It was agreed this is a great idea. Sarah can show us an example. Decision: Yes.

AOB

Gwen: Through the Co-op store manager a grant can be applied for: £150 from their local donation fund. If you apply through two stores it's £300. e.g. Penketh and Great Sankey. Must fit under a heading (e.g. young people especially the mini book idea) or around mental health (which is appropriate for a lot of our activities). We would need to speak to the managers ourselves. The other thing is the Local Community Fund which is coming round again. We need to express an interest. It needs to be under one of the specific banners. (Mary did our first application and was surprised by some of the requirements on each successive page.) Sarah offered help in doing the application. Gwen will send a link for the application. It was noted Asda have stopped the green token scheme.

Date for the next meeting

20 May was suggested.