

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)
15 July 2023
Meeting 27
10.00 – 11.30
Minutes

Apologies: Hazel Kelsall, Margaret Purvis, Andrea Maguire

Attendees: Committee: Susan Morris, Mary Ross, Phil Forshaw and eight other FOPL members

Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

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

Review of last events:

We have been quite busy since our last meeting, May was particularly busy

We have had four Craft Sessions with another one using Bunny Masks, our thanks to Gwen from the Co-op for donating them.

There was a great response for the Coronation Crowns competition, especially on social media. The children who won were really pleased. Thanks to Jane for organising this and the other craft sessions.

Janice Hayes talk: Celebrating Warrington – it was a sell out, we had lots of positive feedback. We used the main library making use of the movable shelves to open the area up.

Eurovision event: Thanks to Phoenix choir who came and sang and thanks to Gwen Lightfoot from the Co-op for her support and bringing supplies.

May was Local and Community History Month, FOPL had a display of WW2 items for Penketh and Sankey for the Local and Community History Month.

FOPL have applied to Co-op Local Community Fund. We need to wait to see if we have been accepted for next year. We wouldn't have been able to do it without Sarah Parry's help.

Local History Group

There was a display Exploring Penketh and Great Sankey through the years at the group's meeting, followed by a display of photographs.

They meet on the last Monday of the month, 2 – 4pm, all are welcome.

Mary added the next meeting will July 31st tea and coffee to be served. Theme: Memories of Penketh since 1907, a new project.

Facebook

Susan, asked 'Should we post other groups events and publicity on our Facebook page?'

The reason for asking this is we need a policy to support a refusal of any requests.

Reasons for not posting them: The Page is to promote FOPL, library and reading.

This will open the floodgates and our messages will get lost.

There are lots of local community Facebook pages for general community posts which have a greater reach than FOPL's 1.7k followers.

Great Sankey, Penketh, Westbrook, Callands have 13.5k members, Penketh Community 9.7k, Chapelford Mums 3.5k.

The page admin (Jane) has been asked and they agree.

It was agreed to have a policy which limits posts to FOPL, library and reading items only.

Financial Report

Phil

Currently we have £2262.79 in the bank, £25.62 held as petty cash

Recent transactions:

Patio expenses total -£243.12

-£5.00 book prize 5 th May

-£25.11 Eurovision refreshments 16 May

The Janice Hayes talk Celebrating Warrington was held on 17 May. After paying her fee of £45, we had +£32.50 to pay into our bank account.

+£11.63 donations added to petty cash 13 May

Easyfundraising paid +£26.93 into our bank on 16th May.

Phil asked:

Please have a look at the Easyfundraising website for how you can donate to FOPL. It's free and easy when you order goods and services online and it won't cost you a penny extra. So far £119.80 has been raised which is great, except this is mostly due to just two people. Take a moment to look at Easyfundraising and consider making Friends of Penketh Library your cause. We can get free money, and it costs you nothing!

Library News

Susan said 'It's been in the news about LiveWire being taken back into council control. The BBC have an excellent report which sums it up.'

She read the report to the meeting:

'The authority will take over control by summer 2024.

LiveWire was set up by the council as a community interest company in 2012 to manage leisure, library and some wellbeing services in the borough. The company has faced issues following the pandemic and increases in energy and staffing costs.

The council agreed to provide a grant to support the services in January, but following advice from the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), it said there was "no lawful way" to provide financial assistance for LiveWire in its present form.

Russ Bowden said the decision to take it back under council control gave "the best chance of safeguarding those services" and protecting "the jobs of those people who work for LiveWire".

He said the council still needed to work out the full costs and go through formal processes such as arranging for staff to be transferred. However, he said something had to be done, as it was currently "costing the council millions extra on top of the management fees to keep those services running" "I'm absolutely confident that the decision we've made is the right one," he added.

The transfer is expected to be completed by June 2024

Also a soft marketing exercise will be conducted to see if there is another commercial provider.'

Future events and sessions

The Summer Reading Challenge has started, the theme this year is sports and games, *Ready, Set, Read* (the games could be board games). A date of 7 August 2 to 4 pm was booked for the board games.

Libraries Week 2 to 8 October is an annual showcase and celebration of the best libraries have to offer. This year it's called Green Libraries Week, focus is on sustainability and climate change.

An Author Talk by Sarah's friend, Sarah Moorhead. Her book comes out in September, so we could hopefully book her for October. She has been waiting for us to suggest a date, a Thursday would be best. Her genre is futuristic crime fiction. 5 October at 7 pm was settled on.

Mary mentioned a local author who could do a talk about Warrington, possibly this would be a talk for the History Group.

Susan: **Archivist talk, Philip Jeffs,:** *Warrington Home Front in WW1* talk, arranged for Wednesday 8 November at 7pm.

Philip also has other talks, possibly we could use in the future, all £40 fee to Culture Warrington:

Periodically Interesting: A look at some of the magazines in Warrington Archives.

The Robberies Register: A look at one of the Petty Crime Registers in Warrington Archives, 1909 - 1916.

Warrington Women: An Historical A-Z: A look at a project in Warrington Archives to better represent women's history.

A Short History of Parr's Bank.

Warrington Home Front in WW1

A Basic History of Warrington through Maps (needs people to be able to see the screen well)

A Macmillan Coffee Morning has been suggested for Thursday 28 or Saturday 30 September, however it was decided to hold this event over until next year.

Borrow-a-Book can coincide with Green Libraries Week.

Sarah suggested the **Cardboard Challenge** – make something useful out of the cardboard that is available. A date of Saturday 7 October 10am to 12pm was decided.

Sarah had suggestions:

An author detective game was suggested 'Dewey Decimal' system or alphabetical filing find-an-author game

A reading dog event or session was suggested. Perhaps for younger readers or pre-readers. (LiveWire has done this previously.)

International Bingo – name of country called, the flag to be coloured in on the 'bingo' card.

Teenagers make your own trading cards. Susan commented that teenagers are a 'lost generation'.

Board games session in the summer holidays.

Mary suggested book recommendations on the notice board.

Mary plans to publicise **Thirty Reasons To Use The Library**, not just about books. Posted on Facebook, Susan suggested doing this in Libraries Week.

Mary mentioned a teddy bear in a garage at Derwent Water. People send the teddy letters from all over the country. We could have a teddy in the library. We could ask for **Postcards to be sent to the care home residents** – Meadowview. Sarah suggested taking photos of the people getting the postcards. Either do this as an in-library session or for children to do in their own time and bring the postcards back.

The question of enough personnel to deliver event sessions was raised and some sessions may have to be held over if there are not enough people available.

Suggestions had been submitted by email from Andrea Maguire and these were discussed as follows.

September

Stall in the library from local business/people selling items which can be brought as Christmas presents. This already exists, there is a glass cabinet which local businesses can use to display items for sale.

Emilio in the Square: Ask if he can give us a voucher or a free meal as a prize. We have no competitions to give a prize for at the moment but will enquire about this if we need a prize or prizes.

Write a story about your holidays over summer. We have adapted this to young people writing postcards telling about their summer holidays or staycations and sending these to the residents of the Meadowview Care Home. They have asked for postcards for their residents.

Make Halloween figures early (So they are pre done) to hang in the square to decorate from post to post. As this is external to the library, we would need to seek permission to do this. Possibly this might be from the landowner and/or local Council.

Decorate the planters also with cobwebs etc. We could consider this or do other Halloween themed decorations or activities in the Library.

October

Winter wars donate biscuits, Mince pies. We could consider doing this if the warm spaces are repeated. LiveWire did provide hot drinks during the 2022-23 Warm Spaces days.

Spar and Tesco have community pots (Money). These would usually be tied to a specific project or specific aims.

Spar's applications window for 2023 closed on 15th March 2023.

It seems we would not qualify for funding from Tesco:

From Tesco's website - <https://tescocommunitygrants.org.uk/tesco-stronger-starts-news/>
'Tesco is introducing a £5m grant programme, in partnership with Groundwork UK, to give children across the UK a stronger start in life. The grants will help schools and children's groups provide nutritious food and healthy activities that support young people's physical health and mental wellbeing, such as breakfast clubs or snacks, and equipment for healthy activities.'

The scheme, supported by UK community charity Groundwork, will replace the current Tesco Community Grants funding programme.'

We have applied for Co-op funding this year as a local cause.

Create a label to put on a balloon so that you can release it furthest wins. This would be mainly outside the library. We want to encourage library use. Also, we might be criticised on environmental grounds.

Swop and sell noticeboard. We are aware that LiveWire have introduced a noticeboard policy which would be unlikely to allow this.

November

Christmas foodbank. Yes, we aim to do this annually.

Hamper raffle (Take 10 books out get a ticket) For Halloween and Christmas we have money or each member could donate a food item. Yes, we could consider this, Christmas would be the better option. In fact we did something similar, in connection with the Co-op's Fairtrade Fortnight, which was very popular.

A Summary of the planned events

Postcards for Meadowview- from Saturday 29 July

Board Games (Summer Reading Challenge) - Monday 7 August 2 to 4pm

Green Libraries Week - 2 to 8 October (ages 5-7 and 8-11)

Borrow-a-Book Day - 2 to 8 October

Thirty Reasons To Use The Library (FB Posts) - 2 to 8 October

Sarah Moorhead Author Talk - Thursday 5 October at 7 pm

Cardboard Challenge - Saturday 7 October 10am to 12pm

Philip Jeffs, talk - *Warrington Home Front in WW1* - Wednesday 8 November 7pm

AOB

The patio planter's poor drainage was mentioned, Susan has emptied it of water twice. Most of the original plants have died except for the Agapanthus. Susan suggested the solution is something which does not involve soil. The drainage hole was cleared out when planted but there is too much water to cope with. Perhaps we could put some gravel in the bottom to raise the height and put a plant on the top of that in a plant pot. A pipe and dip stick has been installed to monitor the water level and a hand pump used but it was not successful. Susan noted it took twelve bags of top soil to fill it. For next summer it could be emptied of soil and filled with gravel, with plants in pots on top. Perhaps a tray or large plant pot could be used. The water level could be monitored over the winter. Derek Baker suggested using water tolerant plants.

A statue was suggested instead of a plant. Or wind chimes, which would fit in with a sensory garden. It was agreed to empty the planter and think about options.

Date for the next meeting

Saturday 21 October was agreed.