

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)
21 October 2023
Meeting 28
10.00 – 11.30
Minutes

Apologies:

Lorraine Parker, Margaret Purvis, Geraldine Snape, Jane Love

Attendees:

Committee: Susan Morris (Chair), Mary Ross (Community Outreach Officer), Phil Forshaw (Secretary and Acting Treasurer), FOPL members Ian Frampton, Gwen Lightfoot, Karen Mitchell, Sarah Parry, Hazel Kelsall

Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

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

Review of events/initiatives:

Author talk Sarah Moorhead and Rob Parker - The Treatment

SP's friend and author Sarah Moorhead discussed her latest book "The Treatment" with another author Rob Parker. Rob lives in Croft he has a number of books published. three of which are in LiveWire libraries, one is set in Warrington.

There has been some feedback about evening events saying that some people would like to come along but they don't go out after dark.

Green Libraries Week 2 - 8 October / The Great Cardboard Challenge / Green Libraries Quiz

SM We've had a fantastic green libraries week Because of the things SP has suggested.

SP suggested the Great Cardboard Challenge craft session for children, the challenge was to make fun items from recycled cardboard.

SP devised a green libraries quiz, the winners of which were pictured on our Facebook page.

We printed out 40 quiz sheets and had about 20 returned, a good result.

Postcards for care home residents

Following from a suggestion from Andrea, children wrote postcards telling of their holiday or staycation. We delivered the cards to the Meadow View Care Home where they were well received by the residents.

Board games session

We bought various board games from FOPL funds and held a board games session which was very popular. We have these board games to use in future so we can offer more of game sessions through the year.

Beads and bracelet craft session

JL held a beads and bracelets craft session which was very popular, so our thanks go to Jane for doing that.

Patio

SM has emptied all of the soil out of the patio planter as this had become water-logged. The question was asked what to do with it now. A customer who was an ex-engineer from Northwest Water gave advice: he said the planter had a soak-away, not a drain. He suggested putting in a layer of gravel and placing pots on top of that. The snag with that is if it doesn't work the gravel then would need removing. We still have pots in the atrium and SM has just bought some tulip bulbs. One suggestion was to cover the Atrium area (with a roof) but our funds would not stretch to that. Mary mentioned White Moss garden centre who give plants away. A discussion followed about other Warrington libraries and how they managed their spaces.

Financial report

Coop Local Causes Update

SM Our bid team put together a really good application for funding, but we have recently been informed we have been unsuccessful. The Co-op received over 11,000 applications for the Co-op Local Community Fund, so there was a lot of competition. There is no reason we can't apply again. We have received funding as a Good Cause previously and we are grateful for this and for the many other ways the Co-op have supported us. We do not know who was successful. IF asked how it is decided. GL introduced herself as member pioneer for the co-op in Penketh, Great Sankey and Burtonwood. GL said the number of groups has been cut down from three to two. Once a year applications go in during April. They go to Head Office for checking, also if meeting the criteria, then to the store for a decision supported by the Member Pioneer. So if you are known by the store, it helps. GL said she didn't know the number of local entries or who has applied. She would like to know who has applied so she can make contact with them and offer support in future applications.

SM and PF are applying for the local donation fund on Monday, MR is invited too. SM noted that David the Manager was very helpful. SM asked if it needed to be for some specific thing or if it could be a series of events throughout the year.

GL: Either, the same criteria apply. FOPL could apply in more than one store e.g in Sankey also. The local donation fund is managed by the store managers and she explained the application process.

SM thanked SP for her support in the application process. SP said in the future application we could target a specific group that we could help, rather than a more general approach. This could enable us to show how we are meeting the criteria the Co-op has set. SM said the problem we have as a Friends Group is getting people to enable us to deliver these things. SM said it would be really nice if anyone had the time they could come along and help with these events it was discussed how we could get helpers. One suggestion is so people don't feel they have to commit to a full session is to set up a system where they could just donate a set amount of time as the helper, for example if they just had a spare hour. MR: We all get an email when an event is coming up. SM: Using social media may not reach everyone as Penketh has an older demographic so may not use Facebook. SM: We email our members and ask if anyone is available for making drinks at a particular event. MR: Stockton Heath have lots of helpers but they have their own dedicated notice board. A discussion about our notice board arrangements followed

Finances

PF: We currently have £2114.46 in the bank, £21.90 petty cash a total of £2136.36

Recent expenses since our last meeting on 15 July (2023)

Craft materials £43.83

Prizes £13.49

Games £79.51

Refreshments £8.10 (Hot drinks, biscuits etc for events)

Guest Speakers Sarah Moorhead & Rob Parker £12.00 (Flowers & Wine)

Future expenses:

Philip Jeffs £40

Xmas refreshments £TBC

Future Income/Expenditure

SM: There are still 11 first world war booklets available.

PF: Excluding one-off items (e.g. games as just mentioned), we are spending approximately £400 a year on our regular events. Allowing for some inflation and with no further income we have about four years funds going forward if we just hold regular events. While this is very healthy, it would be good to see some income. e.g. the ASDA Green Token Scheme

PF Asked people to look at our Easyfundraising website page and explained how it worked. MR said she had problems logging on to easy fundraising. SM said they have had some special offers and that's how she was able to make some big donations.

Warrington Charities Trust was mentioned who make donations of 500 pounds. Being a charity isn't a requirement and applications are made two times a year.

PF mentioned the NatWest had sent an email suggesting interest bearing accounts Susan did some calculations there are different accounts with different notice periods for example with £1500 in, the instant access account would pay £21.90 per annum, the 35 day

notice account would be £48.75 per annum, the 95 day £63 75. With £1500 earning interest it would leave about six hundred pounds In the instant current account. We would have to think ahead with our spending but that's amount should be sufficient for a year. MR noted that interest rates have gone up. Susan suggested the 95 day account a show of hands agreed unanimously to go ahead A discussion of how the account would operate followed. PF said as he was the admin for the bank account he would investigate what would be involved to operate the account.

It was asked if we were aware of the Warrington Community Lottery which, once set up generates money. SM said we didn't feel we had a large enough base of people who would to take part.

Library News

SM: The library being taken under Council control was discussed and that the actual date for this isn't finalised. The suggestion another company could run it was mentioned and SM said that the council was going to investigate that possibility.

Future events and sessions

Halloween Craft Packs

We have some Halloween craft packs to give away

SM also mentioned that Baker Ross had a special offer on Halloween packs and asked if we should buy some for next year. It was agreed that we should.

Warrington Home Front WWI – Philip Jeffs

It's on November 8th 7.00pm it's £2.50 per ticket, the fee of £40 pounds will be donated by Philip to Culture Warrington.

Christmas Event with the Phoenix Choir

Christmas event to be held on the 16th of December. The Phoenix choir have been invited to sing, JL will do a craft session. Tea and coffee (donated by the Co-op) served from 10 30am, the choir to sing at 11.00am.

Gwen mentioned using the community notice board in the co-op for publicity.

After Christmas SM asked what we would be doing

SP offered her help during half term or a Saturday

HK suggested a Beetle Drive. SM said she didn't remember how to play it but HK will be willing to run one. It just requires paper, pencil and a dice.

It was suggested when we Have a FOPL event such as craft or games that we asked if people would like to volunteer to help us

Susan asked if do we do Mother's Day and Father's Day crafts. It was decided not to do these.

Other future events:

'Love Your Library' for Valentines Day

Easter

Possibly, for parents 'How to help your child revise'.

AOB

None

Date for the next meeting

To be decided later.