

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)
24 February 2024
Meeting 29
10.00 – 11.30
Minutes

Apologies:

Margaret Sefton

Attendees:

Susan Morris, Mary Ross, Phillip Forshaw, Gwen Lightfoot, Sarah Parry, Ian Frampton, Karen Mitchell, Gayle Shaw.

Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

Review of events/initiatives:

SM the October half term Board Games and Lego session, was a great success, with more people coming to this event.

Warrington Home Front in WW1 talk by Philip Jeffs, this was really popular. Philip donated his fee to Culture Warrington. We more than covered our costs.

When Promoting FOPL in Penketh Co-op we had an enjoyable morning with GL, promoting FOPL. Gwen said we were welcome any time.

We invited Warrington Foodbank to the library again this year on the run-up to Christmas, once again people gave generously.

At Christmas we had the FOPL Festive Celebration, with the Phoenix Choir and for the children we held Christmas Crafts: making Pine Cone Christmas Trees.

There was a Children's Christmas draw.

In January Chinese Dragon craft packs were given out for borrowing a book to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

In February we had another Board Games and Lego session, with even more coming this time.

SM thanked everyone who helped in all of these events. It had been a busy time.

The FOPL Local History Group's meeting was mentioned and that it was being held on the following Monday. People were invited to the meeting which would start at 2.15pm. The Group meets usually on the last Monday of the month. Gary Slater was scheduled to talk about the history of Penketh High School at the meeting. A good attendance of sixteen for the previous meeting was noted. A discussion about the History Group followed.

Financial report:

PF again, we are grateful to the Coop for their support, this time in the form of the local donation fund. We have been fortunate to be awarded £150. Thanks to Gwen for her help with this.'

Finances

PF we currently have £2222.31 in the bank, £110.70 petty cash a total of £2333.01
This is more than was reported at our last meeting £2136.36, a good result.

Recent income and expenses since our last meeting on 21 October 2023

Co-op Manager's Donation +£150.00

Donation tin +£29.33

Booklet sales +£8.50, +£7.00, +£14.00, +£7.50 = +£37.00

Ticket sales P.Jeffs +£67.50

Halloween items for next year on discount -£22.80

Website domain renewal -£9.53

Talk Fee P.Jeffs -£30.00

Sundries, milk, Blu tack -£5.50

Chinese New Year Dragon Mobiles -£19.35

PF future expenses: A talk by Janice Hayes is planned later in the year.

Suggestions for future income would be welcome and it was asked if anyone would like to help with this.

PF I have just changed my broadband provider and raised £25 for FOPL by using Easyfundraising. It was easy, on visiting the website, the browser add-on popped up, and I clicked on it. It didn't cost a penny extra and FOPL gets free money. We have only seven supporters. It would be great to have some more.

PF having investigated the Interest bearing accounts at Natwest, the administration of the accounts has to all be done in-branch. While it is possible to view the accounts on line, any transactions require a visit to the bank. This has put me off pursuing this any further for the time being. It's very old-fashioned!

IF noted that Probus had problems with their bank and had changed to Lloyds. GL mentioned the credit union in Warrington, they give not interest but a dividend, paid about now [February], based on the amount in the account in September. It's done online and twice a week a staff member is in Golden Square.

GL said we could put in for another £150 of funding from the Co-op.

SM said after multiple print runs, the WW1 booklets were all sold. Also that she would be going to Flanders in April and could visit twenty-one of the graves or memorials. FOPL

intended to buy crosses from RBL/Friends of St Mary's Cemetery, but they have donated them free of charge. There was an enquiry by a library visitor about combining the booklets into one book, but it was thought not worth doing.

Library News:

SM said LiveWire are going back under WBC control on 1 March. The WBC cabinet meeting for December discussed this, for more details refer about the minutes of the WBC meeting..

MR mentioned the Valentine's inspired 'things to love your library' a series of posts which will be on Facebook.

Future events and sessions:

SM will talk to the group at St Paul's Church and promote FOPL. Also she has agreed to a social group at St Joseph's on October 31st just before Remembrance Sunday.

We have suggestions from Andrea [Maguire], the Paris Olympics are this year, we could do an Olympic themed quiz for children with prizes*. SP suggested books as prizes. GL suggested including the Paralympics as part of the quiz. The Olympics starts in July and Paralympics starts 28 August SP will do quizzes for two age groups, 4-7 & 8-11. SM to see what books will be published as prizes. GL said she would see if the Coop are doing anything for this, possibly they may distribute some colouring-in sheets. SM asked about a craft activity, possibly on the theme of flags.

It was decided not to go ahead with Andrea's suggestion of 'Egg & Spoon' and 'finding prizes in a big red sack'. The 'story about meeting someone famous' - we may use this in future.

[ACTION ON PF: Inform Andrea we are using the Olympics idea and the 'story about meeting someone famous' - we may use this in future.

SP suggested events to promote the library just for children in the library, a summer FOPL celebration day with different activities.

SM we have done the Great Get Together (GGT). We could have a community day, we have done one in the past, with different organisations who could promote themselves, e.g. the Women's Institute [WI].

SP said we could do activities on a Saturday, people could engage with rather than look at a stand.

MR said in 2020 for Valentine's we had 'people who love us', e.g. the Fire Brigade and St John's Ambulance. The last GGT we had clashed with Stock Lane's Summer Fair.

SM commented that it [a community event] takes a lot of organising.

MR said one of the most successful things was the first 'borrow a book day'.

SP the WI could do a demonstration e.g. cooking or crochet.

GL groups could be identified to link in with sections of the library.

KM mentioned the display case

GS asked about the groups that use the library, to do something - the book group, read to relax, family history,

SP people who crochet might also borrow pattern books so there are potential new users

GS asked if this library has a craft group

SM said we tried a knit and natter when the library re-opened, Penketh has so many community places. We asked the police museum to visit, FOPL did a craft session and a PCSO gave the talk. We need to promote the groups that use the library.

GL asked What groups take place in here?

SM there's the History Group

MR read to Relax, Storytime, Penketh Reading Group (which was at the WI) FOPL Reading Group

SM noted that Reading Groups need multiple copies of books which limits the size of the group to the number of copies available. If anyone wants to set up a new reading group, the room is available free of charge and the library staff can organise sets of books. An out-of hours key can be available.

SP suggested a writing group. She could consider running a group, perhaps in the autumn.

SM asked MR if she would contact Janice (Hayes) about giving a talk. Possibly Secret Warrington. A Thursday night would be preferred for room setup.

GL donated some Coop craft items. As some were dated, they may need modifying.

SP suggested a tie-in using some of these with the Olympics.

SP suggested a give-away for borrowing a book

SM asked if MR could contact Jane Love about a craft session for easter

MR asked Jane. Jane could do 16th March or even the 23rd.

MR said 23rd March for the craft session was settled on.

SP suggested covering an egg to look like an easter egg

SM said the library could give out the coop items – in return for borrowing a book

SM said a lady did a session for Chinese New Year the library gave us a poster which we posted on Facebook. Some feedback received was that the poster should be in English. Sm asked if we should ask for a translation in future? It was agreed that a translation should be asked for. A discussion followed about Chinese language book availability.

[ACTION ON PF: Update relevant FOPL policy.]

SP said she taught English as a foreign language. Good quality picture books can help children who were learning English.

SM discussed the use of pronouns, which apparently started in MMU where the use is voluntary. SP knows of a company where that use is compulsory.

It was decided the use should be voluntarily for outgoing FOPL emails and that we should respect the preferred pronouns when they are used for incoming emails.

[ACTION ON PF: Update relevant FOPL policy.]

AOB

IF asked about speakers and said Probus has had Jeff Scargill who has three talks, one about the Nazi occupation of the Channel Islands, and another the first week of the war, he doesn't charge but gives the donations he receives to Christies. Other speakers are Bob Roach, Terry Caffrey (WBC poet in residence) and John Miller who talks about life at the BBC as a producer and director. There's also Gary Conley, a comedian who worked at Bold Colliery, he does charge a fee.

Date for the next meeting:

SM said we need to have our AGM soon, it was agreed to hold it on 27 April.

The meeting was then closed.