

Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)

27 April 2024

Meeting 30

10.00 – 11.30

Minutes

Apologies:

David Grey, Margaret Sefton, Ian Frampton, Sarah Perry, Jane Love

Attendees:

Susan Morris, Mary Ross, Phillip Forshaw, Gwen Lightfoot, Karen Mitchell, Hazel Kelsall.
As the number of attending members was less than a quorum (a minimum of seven members required), the AGM was not held. The AGM will be re-scheduled, the ordinary meeting went ahead.

Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

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

Review of events/initiatives:

Love your Library in February: Mary produced 'reasons to love your library' posted on Facebook every day through February – what you can do in the library besides books. It created a lot of interest.

Facebook page engagement – stats for our page: 81.80% are women 18.20% men; 1.8k engagements including U.K., 1.5k in Warrington and surrounding areas, also small numbers in Canada, Australia, India, Ireland Malaysia, New Zealand. It's difficult to get teenagers and 20's to engage, the most active are women with young children.

Easter Crafts was discussed and decided it was very popular.

The Sir Humphrey Davy notebooks project in association with Lancaster University
SM: Commented it was really good and could be carried on at home. (Annotations were added to the completed transcriptions.)

Earth Day Litter Pick

It was noted that a lot of cigarette ends were collected together with other litter.

Co-op colouring sheets

MR: These were very popular and some of these sheets were made into puppets.

Financial report:

Finances

PF: We currently have £2222.31 in the bank and £91.77 petty cash, a total of £2314.08

Recent income and expenses since our last meeting on 24 February 2024:

No income was received.

On 22 March 2024: -£18.93 was paid from petty cash for Easter Crafts expenses

Future expenses: A talk by Janice Hayes is planned for 23 May. The cost of such talks is usually covered by ticket sales.

Suggestions for future income were requested.

GL: The Co-op local donation fund is now £250 or staff could volunteer hours. Claim these via the local donation fund. The local cause fund is due to re-launch May/June. Dave (manager) and Cath are contacts.

PF: We now have eight supporters on Easyfundraising with only three recently active. There have been a number of recent donations, currently £4.16 is available and £59.25 pending. Thanks to all who donated, it hasn't cost them a penny extra and FOPL will get some free money.

Library News:

LiveWire is now fully integrated into Warrington Borough Council (WBC)

The LitFest (book festival) is happening this June, there will be a ballet event in Penketh Library. Other libraries have other events planned.

Future events and sessions:

Planned events:

Janice Hayes talk 'A_Z of Warrington' 23 May 7pm

PF: suggested Janice's talk Dating Photographs as she recently did this at The Oaks.

It was suggested Janice could do a talk at the History Group. A discussion of History Group finances followed. SM suggested 50p or £1 'subs' from History Group meetings from which FOPL could replenish tea/coffee supplies.

Great Get-Together / Teddy Bears Picnic to be held on 22 June

SM: Said she would not be available for this. She asked who would take the lead to make sure everything is in the right place? e.g. who buys the milk.

MR: Community morning Mary contacted Audrey of the Women's Institute (WI) asking for help serving tea/coffee. Possibly also make cakes? Mary has booked the (Phoenix) choir

MR: There will be a least me (MR), Jane, Geoff

GL: It's a perfect opportunity to put in a bid for some Co-op staff. SM: Even just one person. Who will be point of contact? MR: I am happy to do that, but am restricted for doing

shopping, and for liaising with Dave (Co-op manager), having met him. PF: Said I'm OK for transporting shopping.

ACTION ON MR to be point of contact for the Great Get Together.

ACTION ON PF to assist with transport of items from Co-op.

SM: Asked about children's drinks? MR: Children could bring their own food, we buy biscuits and drinks in boxes e.g. from the Co-op.

MR: Asked about floor coverings for the picnic and where would it be held? SM: There's no disabled access to patio so this area can't be used.

SM: We need to register on the website

ACTION on PF to register our event.

SM: Suggested a display facing the car park

SM: Suggested hand massages e.g. from LW spa / local beauty salon, for perhaps just an hour.

MR: Suggested story time (at the teddy bear's picnic) SM: If you can get a volunteer to tell stories. Jane Love could do this.

SM: It's Libraries Week in October It's an ideal time to get local groups to show what they offer – table displays etc.

SM: Sarah will do a competition for the Olympics (date TBC), SM to get books for the prizes.

ACTION on SM to get prizes.

SM/MR discussed holding an event 'People who look after / care for you' last held on Valentine's Day 2020. e.g St John's Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Police PCSO

The availability of PCSOs was discussed.

GL: Mentioned that Council Community Centre staff will hold 'Safe and Well' events in various community centres – Housing, Benefits Padgate Westy. They may hold one in Penketh in the future.

SM: said we need more people to come out and help. People want to help but in reality, life takes over. It's disappointing, the number of people who say they are members but not actively.

MR: For people with a small child, it limited what they can do.

SM: There are older people in Penketh, retired who have got time.

HK: Asked about the GGT - what was needed.

MR: The Choir are self contained, teddy bear's picnic, story telling,
HK: Liz Appleton is a good storyteller, she read at the Humphrey Davy event.
MR: I could ask her if she is available

SM: In the summer we could have a board game or Lego when people have availability.
That's not definite but it's tended to happen. In summer we could think about what to do for
Library Week in October with Community Groups.

GL: for the GGT let me know what is needed, and I'll help out on the day as well.
MR: Is happy to ask Dave (Coop manager.) for GGT items.

PF: Suggested a Janice Hayes talk 'Dating Photographs'

AOB

Publicity for other Library Friends Group events was discussed:

HK: asked if we/the library could publicise other library's events. SM thought there may not
be space for more posters. There's Padgate, Culcheth and Stockton Heath. SH are really
active. The notice boards are controlled by LW; it's their call which notices to display.

HK: Said we could send info to other libraries about our events. SM: Said we are limited to
numbers and should serve local people first.

MR: Swish have a website, Culcheth don't but use Twitter and Padgate don't but use Twitter
and FaceBook. SM: We have sold all the tickets where the speakers charge within this
community.

MR: We could get more than 30 in the space but don't have the chairs.

MR: Mentioned a speaker from Daresbury in SH. SM: Said this was less relevant here, as
Penketh is less connected with Daresbury. MR: Also there's board games at Stockton Heath.

KM: Asked about Parish Council chairs. SM: Said it needs people willing to carry chairs
there and back. MR: Suggested folding chairs.

Date for the next meeting:

The date for the next meeting and AGM TBC

ACTION on PF to send an email to inform about the lack of a quorum.

The meeting was then closed.