



## Friends of Honley Library

### Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016

**Present:** Joe Hodgson (Chair); Caroline Page; Jane Mellers; Margaret Waterworth; Nita Steel; Jenny Bagworth; Linda Sharpe; Jenny Lockwood; Stephen Duffton; Anne Broadbent; Carrie Birch; Judith Compton; Liz Colquhoun; Pat Thompson (minutes)

#### 1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Charles Greaves; Bridget Crabtree; Val Javin

Joe introduced Jane Mellers, who has taken over from Salma Dad as Area Manager. Jane has over 30 years experience in the Library Service.

#### 2. **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising:**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

**Sue Eaton, from Friends of Golcar Library**, attended the Summer Readaround. Anne said that she has a lot of her own ideas for events but was interested in the forthcoming 'Kirklees Curiosities' event and took Carol Hardy's contact details.

**Update re. Eaves and Spouts** - Caroline emailed Mark yet again re. the starting date for this work and copied Charles Greaves into it. Charles then contacted PRP. We heard within 24 hours that the work would start the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> September. Once this work has been completed, we will start campaigning to repair/upgrade the windows. This will be done through Neelam, who has now taken over from Mark. Jane suggested that we only use Charles to put pressure on PRP as a last resort as there is limited money in the budget, which has to cover all - community libraries. Thank you to Caroline and Mark for their persistence in this matter.

**Bookmarks and Information distribution** - Members of FOHL gave out bookmarks and information sheets re. the new opening times around Honley, Netherton, South Crosland, at the Junior School Summer Fayre and other local venues. There are not many bookmarks left and so we agreed that Jenny B. would order another 500 at a cost of £30 so that we have enough for upcoming events. Carrie said that the bookmarks are very useful as a lady arrived at the Babies into Books event who didn't know the Library was now closed on Thursdays. She was able to give the lady a bookmark with the new opening times.

#### 3. **Events**

**Pop-up Cafe** – These are going well, with the next one on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August. It will be run by Linda S, Margaret W and Femi. There is a Lego Club for children at the same time. FOHL have purchased 2 new fold-up tables to facilitate events. Pat T and Nita said that they would do the Pop-up Cafe on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

**The Summer Readaround** – was very successful, with 20 people in attendance. There was no charge for the event but £25 was raised through the raffle and donations. Raffle prizes were donated by 'Fish and Chicks', G6 Hairdressing and Liz Colquhoun. Questionnaires were available, asking whether the readarounds should be more often and 10 out of 12 people who responded said 'Yes'. 3 people were interested in daytime sessions.

**The Christmas Readaround** - will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December and will feature '8 in a Bar' from Honley Male Voice Choir. It is the Choir's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year as well as Honley Library so we can have a double celebration.

**Kirklees Curiosities** – Carol Hardy will present this amusing event on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. Anne has received a draft poster from Carol, which just needs to have FOHL added to it as it is not a Library Services event. We also need to confirm the cost and agree the price of tickets.

**McMillan Coffee Morning** - will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 10.00am to 12noon. There will be a Raffle and a Tombola. Any donations would be welcome and can be brought to the September meeting. Cakes may be dropped off at the Library on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Linda has got a McMillan fund raising pack and will adapt the poster, for distribution a couple of weeks before the event.

**Book Sale and Coffee Morning** – will be on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October from 10.00 to 12 noon at St Mary's Parish Rooms. Jenny L. said that the hall has been booked and paid for. Helpers will need to arrive at 9.00am. In addition to books, there will be a quality Bric a Brac stall. A charge will be made for tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits, which will be served in a smaller room. Paperback books will be 50p each and hardback books £1. Jenny said that she is able to store the books etc at the church so can take any donations immediately. Jenny also said that she has a large number of Christmas cards, picturing the Town Hall in the snow, which were printed for Huddersfield Choral Society. We could sell these for 10p each and share the proceeds equally with the HCS. Jenny B offered to help make the cards up into packs of 10.

**Honley High School Christmas Fayre** – Anne has confirmed that we will have a stall to promote the work of FOHL and Volunteers on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November from 12 noon to 4.00pm. It will be staffed by Friends and Volunteers. Anne will find out the cost of the stall and ideas for the stall will be discussed at the next Events meeting in September. Nita has a number of ideas, including selling signed copies of Caroline's book on Farnley Tyas. Anne also said that there is a possibility that musical pupils at the school would be to play at our future events.

**Library 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Caroline already has some material for a display and will start working on a display in September. She is able to borrow a display stand. We discussed having a celebration cake for the opening of the display in November and one for the Christmas Readaround. Jenny B and Margaret W offered to sort this out. Liz suggested asking if any local people remember the opening or have visited the library since it's early days. It would be good to have an octogenarian to open the display. Judith said that she would ask Louise if she knows of anyone and Linda will

put a piece in the Honley Flyer asking for anyone who is aged 80 this year to contact Caroline. Judith and Nita are happy to help Caroline with this.

**Year Planner** – Judith suggested that we need a Year Planner on display in the library to ensure that FOHL and Volunteers do not arrange events on the same date and can spread events over the year. Library Services events could also be put on the planner. A name and contact number could be put against each entry so that further information could be obtained if necessary. Jane Mellers agreed that this was a good idea and said that it could be displayed in the office/kitchen area. Steve said that he would order a planner off the Web.

**The next Events Meeting will be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 10.00am at the Gallery Cafe.**

#### **4. Honley Feast**

We agreed to pay £30 to have an advert in the programme of events for Honley Feast on 17<sup>th</sup> September. This will promote the FOHL and Volunteers as well as support the Business Association, whose members have been very supportive towards the Friends. Once we know the date that the advert needs to be submitted, a few of us need to get together to design the advert.

#### **5. Treasurers report**

We have recently purchased 2 fold-up tables, Bookmarks, a story sack and committed £20 towards the children's summer activities. We now have a total of £450.82 in the bank and £45.29 petty cash.

#### **6. Website Group**

The website group were tasked with producing a Book Review page and this has now been completed and information sent out to FOHL, Volunteers and members of the Book Groups. The Wednesday Group and the Evening Book Group are now adding reviews and anyone with the password can add one. If you do not have the password, please contact Steve D, Linda S or Pat T. In addition, anyone in the world can comment on the reviews but these will not be posted until Linda has agreed them. No costs were involved in this project.

The group has now moved on to looking at the design of the website, to make forthcoming events more visible. Steve has put some information on this together and would like to circulate the outline to everyone and ask for feedback. This work will entail a cost but we will need to sort out what we want first and then, if necessary, look at what we can afford.

#### **7. Children's Summer Activities**

In response to the cut in opening hours, the Volunteers have organised a Children's Book Festival to encourage people to come into the Library during the holidays. This had to be done very quickly but posters are on display in the Library and Carrie gave thanks to Linda for publicising the events at short notice on Facebook and Twitter.

Thanks are also given to Helen and Emily for organising the events and to Library staff for their support.

Originally two authors' visits were planned but unfortunately, due to lack of funding, one had to be dropped. Library Services were unable to contribute any funds for these activities. Carrie knows the children's author Alan Gibbons, who agreed to do a workshop at Honley Library on 11<sup>th</sup> August at a reduced rate. To reduce costs further, he will stay with Carrie. The event will be free but donations from participants will be welcomed.

Carrie did a sponsored swim and raised £354 plus £50 that Joe collected from book group members and other contacts.

Events so far have been very popular; there were 25 children and 27 adults at the Babies into Books session and Carrie signed up 11 new Library members; At the 'Shark in the Park' event, 41 children attended with their parents. Participants are asked to 'sign in' and follow up work is done to check out whether they are library members. It is hoped that if people enjoy the activities, it will encourage non-members to join. Carrie said that she saw the Library as the 'glue in the Community'.

Carrie made a proposal that FOHL donate £100 towards the £200 cost of the Alan Gibbons workshop. This would then leave £304 of the money that Carrie raised, which would be put into the FOHL Bank account to be ring fenced for future children's authors' visits. These visits could attract different age ranges and would help to put Honley Library 'on the map'. There was unanimous agreement for the proposal.

Caroline asked if there was space for FOHL members to attend the Alan Gibbons workshop. Carrie said that she would welcome support at 9.00am to set up and clear away after the workshop and friends would be welcome to stay if numbers allowed. There is a limit to 50 people due to fire regulations. Carrie, Tiffany and Jean Kent will support Alan during the workshop.

## **8. Joint Development Plan**

It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a joint development plan to help with forward planning. Judith has already done some work on a strategy and development plan on behalf of the volunteers and FOHL have a Constitution and have used development plans when applying for grants to fund projects, such as the moveable shelves.

Caroline stressed that it is important, when looking at future improvements and developments, not to jeopardise our position with Library Services. We do not wish to give them the impression that we intend to take on full responsibility for running and maintaining the library.

A small Development Group was proposed, to work on a joint strategy and plan for the future. Members will be Judith, Carrie, Joe, Caroline, Pat and possibly Steve Dufton. Judith will email dates when she is available, with a view to meeting up in the next few weeks.

## **9. AOB**

It was reported that correspondence has been received from 'Honley in Bloom', expressing concern about the maintenance of the Library tubs. Action will be taken by FOHL to implement any necessary improvements. Margaret said that she did not mind taking responsibility for watering and maintaining the tubs and will attend the next meeting of the Business Association.

Unfortunately, the tubs have recently been the target of vandals, who uproot and damage the plants.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 6.00pm at Honley Library.