



Friends of Honley Library

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 11th October 2016

Present: Joe Hodgson (Chair); Caroline Page; Margaret Waterworth; Nita Steel; Jenny Bagworth; Linda Sharpe; Carrie Birch; Anne Broadbent; Stephen Dufton; Pat Thompson (minutes); Charles Greaves

1. **Apologies:**

Jenny Lockwood; Judith Compton; Val Javin; Stephen Baggot; Neelam Randhawa; Nicola Boundy

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

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

Children's Summer Activities – Carrie presented her evaluation of the Summer Book Festival for Children (see attached). The overall aim of the Festival was to raise the profile of the Library when opening hours were being reduced. The evaluation sheets, which participants completed, showed that the events were very successful in encouraging people to use the library more and also in getting new people to join the library. All felt that there was a welcoming, friendly atmosphere.

Although the events were held at different venues around Honley, it was made clear that they were tied in with Library services through FOHL and Volunteers. Another author visit is being planned for half term and will possibly take place at Hope Bank so that more people can attend. All the events were free, with donations being optional, however less than £35 was raised across the six events. Jenny B suggested that a small charge per child should be made to help pay for materials.

A huge thank you to Helen, Emily and Carrie for organising the events, and to everyone else who helped to make them so successful.

Carrie has a lot of photos and written comments from children about the events and has permission to use them to form a display in the library. She will ask others with creative skills to help with this. We could also probably use the display at the Honley High School Fayre.

At present, we have a gap of provision for young people aged 11 – 18 years so we need to consider this when planning future events. There is an opportunity to ask students and teachers at the HHS Christmas Fayre what sort of activities would encourage this age group to visit the library.

Advert in Honley Feast Programme – Thanks to Pat T for arranging this. All programmes were sold so it was a good advert for FOHL, as well as giving our

support to the Business Association. Joe and Pat will pay the £30 at the YBS tomorrow.

Library Windows – Caroline wrote to Neelam just before the inspection to say that the windows are blowing open and therefore there is a security issue. Robert Crosland inspected the windows on 30th September and will send a report to Library Services. Neelam thinks that he will recommend repairs rather than replacement. The back door is also waiting to be repaired or replaced.

Heritage Walk – A number of 'Friends' went on this walk, led by Peter Marshall, and found it very enjoyable and interesting. Caroline said that she will ask Peter, next spring, if he will lead a walk for FOHL.

3. Website Group

The order of the agenda was rearranged as Steve Dufton had to leave the meeting early.

Steve presented a draft of a new Home Page for the website, which was discussed and various suggestions were given around the sections for 'What's on' and 'Get involved'. Steve will now do some more work on this before the next meeting. When we are happy with it, he will discuss the changes and costs with Jon.

The discussion about activities in the library led to Carrie explaining that we are now recruiting volunteers. We will be in a better position to move forward with plans for the class visits when the Junior School are able to take up the opportunity. We will try to encourage people to become volunteers at future events. It may be possible for young people to fit this work in with the 'Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme'

4. Events

Kirklees Curiosities – Carol Hardy from Library Services gave this interesting talk, with a slideshow presentation, on vanishing local history. She would not take a fee but was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a small amount for travel expenses. This was our first afternoon session on a day when the library is now closed and 13 people attended. We made £26. Carol said that she would be willing to do an evening session if we wished.

McMillan Coffee Morning - This was very well attended and £183.28 was raised for the charity. Thank you to all those who donated items for the tombola, baked delicious cakes, helped during the morning and lastly to those who attended and gave generously.

Book Sale and Coffee Morning – will be on Saturday 29th October from 10.00 to 12 noon at St Mary's Parish Rooms. Books or bric-a-brac can be dropped off at Jenny's house or at the Library (ask Val to ring Jenny to collect them). Please could volunteers arrive at the Parish Rooms at 9.00am to help set up. If anyone is available to help transport goods from Jenny's on Friday evening 28th Oct. this would be appreciated. I'll let you know the time later.

Honley High School Christmas Fayre – Saturday 26th November. Please note the change of time which is now from 11.00am to 2.00pm. Planning is ongoing but we will provide information about the library eg. bookmarks, leaflets, events, details of writers of teenage books; Caroline will take copies of her book on the history of Farnley Tyas and sign them for purchasers and we will have a small number of books if any are left over from the book sale. Due to time constraints, the Treasure Hunt will now be planned for a later event. We will have 2 tables (£5 per table) and will donate a gift for the raffle. We will need 4 people to run the stall at all times and volunteers to set up from 10.00am

The Christmas Readaround - will be on Monday 5th December, 7.00 - 9.00pm and display will feature '8 in a Bar' from Honley Male Voice Choir. Tickets will be £2.50 and we will give a donation to Honley Male Voice Choir. The Group are happy to stay for the whole event and will finish off the evening with a couple of Carols. They have generously offered one of their CD's for a raffle prize. Anne will organise a cake to celebrate the Choir and the Library's 80th Anniversary.

Library 80th Anniversary – Caroline said that the display is almost ready. Invitations have been sent out and the Mayor will attend to open the event and unveil the display. Linda has produced the posters, which were given out for distribution to our usual places in the locality for display. We agreed that we would need two Celebration cakes to ensure that there would be enough for all visitors.

The next Events Meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd November at 10.00am at the Gallery Cafe.

5. Treasurers report

Joe reported that we have at present a total of £510 – 82 in the bank, £150 of which is linked to future children's activities. He also has £43 – 52 in petty cash.

From this money, £30 will be paid for the Honley Feast Brochure Advert; £10 for the Honley High School Christmas Fayre and there will be the purchase of the Celebration cakes for the 80th Anniversary and Christmas Readaround.

6. Joint Development Plan

The initial meeting of the Development Group was very productive and clarified the issues that we need to work on in order to draw up a Development Plan.

It was proposed that there should be a united group of 'Friends' and Library Volunteers, which will be known as 'Friends of Honley Library'. In effect, all the active members of the Friends are volunteers and it will make things easier when applying for grant funding to continue with the current brand (FOHL) as it is established and used by Kirklees Library Services. We will update our Constitution to reflect the work of volunteers alongside library staff and modify the Aims and Objectives as necessary.

We discussed the refurbishment of the office, kitchen and toilet facilities. Felix Eaton, has agreed to refurbish the kitchen/workroom and a new toilet, washbasin and tiles have already been obtained. A bid has gone in to the Common Good Trust to request funds to fit the new sanitary ware and to tile the walls and also the floor. Also a new water heater will need to be installed. The estimated cost is £650 for this work.

The group recognised the importance of research into the needs and wishes of the local community and will design a questionnaire for circulation in the library and at events.

We agreed that, although FOHL have productive relationships with some local groups, it would be beneficial to build stronger links with the Business Association, The Village Trust etc.

A clear 'Funding Approach' is needed to ensure that proposed activities are affordable and sustainable. We will agree funding principles and an overall pricing approach for events and activities.

Further work is ongoing on these proposals and the next meeting of the group will be on Tuesday 25th October, 9.30am – 12.30pm at Judith's house.

7. AOB

Reading Friends Training – Carrie informed the meeting that the infant school has invited those involved with the Library to attend training to become a 'Reading Friend', to support children with their reading, either at the school or in the Library. The training, which is free, consists of 3 x 3 hour sessions. No dates have been set yet. This is also a brilliant way of supporting and encouraging your own children/grandchildren with reading. Please let Carrie or Bridget Crabtree know if you are interested in this training.

Kirklees Libraries Awards – Please see email attached, which invites 2 representatives from FOHL to attend the award ceremony on Wednesday 16th November at Huddersfield Library, from 6.00 – 8.00pm. It also gives details of how to nominate individuals or groups for an award. Please let Pat T know if you are interested in attending.

Funding – We have received information from the 'One Community Fund' and also from Stephen Baggott re. Parish Council Grants. The Development Group will discuss these funding opportunities at the next meeting.

Training re. Mental Health – See attached

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st November at 6.00pm at Honley Library.