



THE FRIENDS OF COLYTON LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020.

Introduction

The Friends of Colyton Library was established in 2007 and each year has presented new challenges but nothing in any way like the Coronavirus Pandemic. In 2020 life for the whole world changed dramatically and the Libraries Unlimited library service had to react according to government guidance as did FoCL.

AGM 2019

This had to be cancelled suddenly at the start of the first lockdown. All papers had been already circulated and no feedback was received. The FoCL committee elected in 2018 therefore continued for the year 2020.

Membership.

Membership fees are mostly collected at the AGM and by standing order and therefore the numbers in 2020 are substantially reduced.

39 people were paid up members of Friends of Colyton Library in 2020, compared with 82 in 2019 but 89 people remain on the membership list.

The annual fee remained at £5.00 per person for those over 16 years.

Financial Report

This is available and will be presented for discussion at the AGM. The main points are :-

- The loss of income due the pandemic which led to reduction in membership fees and cessation of all fundraising activities
- The need to maintain the building during closure , thereby incurring costs and therefore the resulting need to use some of the reserves to enable balancing of the books.
- The large amount of the electricity bill.

Events and activities

There was one event pre pandemic. It was a very enjoyable and stimulating event put on by 'Lady Katherine'.

All other face to face events and activities had to be cancelled.

However thanks go to Sylvia Benton , committee member and her husband Richard, for providing us with quizzes to stretch our brains at home.

Regular Activities in the Library

All had to be cancelled

The Library service and usage.

FoCL has continued to enjoy a good working partnership with the Library service and to financially support the activities for children. Colyton is very well served by the

team from Libraries Unlimited - Diane Parker-Dennison and Ida Nolemo as the regular staff - led by Richard O'Mahoney, Supervisor for Colyton and Seaton. They have worked unstintingly and cheerfully throughout the year providing whatever kind of service was suitable and safe either online or in the Library. There was always some sort of service available and we are extremely grateful to them all.

The Volunteer Team

Volunteers continued to receive LU communications .

Communication.

The Parish magazine is used as a way of communicating and had a library page every month. This has continued.

FoCL has its own website, thanks to Adrian West who created it and maintains it. It is now kept up to date due to the dedication of committee member Jaq Moore.

www.friendsofcolytonlibrary.co.uk

Fundraising activities 2020

FoCL is responsible for the building running costs, estimated to be £4,000.00 pa, of which Libraries Unlimited pay £2000.00. The annual amount required by FoCL to cover this is therefore £2,000.00 pa.

Only one activity pre lockdown1 was held which raised £101.00

Plans for 2021 (Wish List)

Obviously this will be governed by the state of the pandemic in UK.

- Training and recruitment of volunteers
- Membership drive
- Annual quiz
- Invitation to Poet Laureate Simon Armitage to visit (He originally planned to visit libraries in places beginning with C in 2020)
- Annual outing
- Fundraising drive to improve depleted reserve
- Continue to support the activities for children.

The 2020 – 2021 Committee.

The members have been: Jane Dauncey – Chair, Sue Wilson Treasurer and membership secretary, Jan Uden – minutes secretary, Roger Moore, Sylvia Benton - Events organiser and Volunteer co-ordinator, Mark Mann- Building boss, Jenny Brinkler, Juliana Slobodian. Co-opted member Richard O'Mahoney– Library Supervisor. Jaq Moore, co-opted member for communications and proposed new role – Junior representative, Morgan Watkins.

Summary.

This has been a completely unexpected year which has affected everyone in all manner of ways .

We think especially of those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic and ask everyone to stay safe and help us all to adjust to the new normal.

FoCL will work hard to play their part in the community life of Colyton and the Coly valley.