

*Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of Colyton Library*  
**held on Thursday April 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 by Zoom.**

There were 20 attendees - 17 members and 3 LU staff.

1. **Welcome and Introductions: Jane Dauncey** (Chair) welcomed participants and detailed “housekeeping”. **Emily Macaulay** (LU Service Delivery Manager for Exeter, East Devon and Teignbridge ) was especially welcomed and introduced.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** received from **Noelle** and **David Ingham, Pam McClenegen, Sue Pither , Bob Whitell.**
3. **Minutes of meeting of 2020 – meeting cancelled because of Coronavirus pandemic:** so no minutes available
4. **Annual Report for 2020 and plans for 2021:** Copies had been circulated, JD highlighted some points:
  - **Library Service** – thanks were reiterated to **Di** and **Richard** and to LU for keeping Colyton Library going, a big effort appreciated by many.
  - **Communication: Jaq Moore** is doing great work for the Coly Times (of which she is currently editor ) maintaining the Library page, and keeping the website up to date.
  - **Plans for 2021** - in addition to the Wish List, the Library Garden is to be replanted. It is currently a mess, having been vandalised recently; the culprit has been identified and dealt with.
  - **Training and Recruitment of volunteers** – SB – At present nothing is happening. When volunteering is allowed, all volunteers will be e-mailed to see if they wish to remain on the list. RO’M will provide appropriate training. It is hoped that numbers will remain stable.
  - **Membership Drive** – SW – to be included in Item 6
  - **Annual Quiz** – SB and RB are already working towards it, for October or November ( subject to restrictions at that time )
  - **Simon Armitage** – JB is keeping tabs on the website
  - **Annual Outing** – SB – not appropriate in 2021
  - **Fundraising** – SW – to be discussed in Item 5
  - **Children’s Activities** – JD – have always been supported (mainly from coffee morning donations )

There being no additions or comments, the Annual Report was unanimously accepted.

5. **Treasurer’s Report and Receipts and Payments Account for the period ending 31.12. 2020 :** SW – copies had been circulated.
  - There is a healthy but necessary balance
  - The 2 most costly items are Cleaning and Electricity. The heating must be investigated, as the underfloor system (installed by DCC) is not appropriate for the 10 + hours of opening.
  - There was only one fundraising event – Lady Katharine in February.
  - Membership fees – there were only 39 paid up members , partly rectified by donations.

- Solar panel payment was delayed (because of Covid-related problems)
- No water bill was received.
- Easy Fundraising continues to trickle in small amounts.

**Oliver Simon** queried the instructions given for paying subs, which were clarified – can be delivered to the Library, (addressed to **Sue Wilson** or FoCL,) or given to JD or any committee member.

There being no further questions, the Account was unanimously accepted.

**6. Membership Secretary's Report.** SW – Membership in 2020 was 39, compared to 82 in 2019. So far there are slightly more for 2021 and there have been generous donations. There is a need to recover – appeals have been placed in the Coly Times and the local newsletter, but there is little more that can be done until the Library is more open. JD explained that subs are normally collected at the AGM, so 2020's cancellation (and 2021's virtual format) had a direct effect. JS pointed out that the AGM and the Quiz are the main social events, at which subs are frequently collected.

**7. Emily Macaulay from Libraries Unlimited:**

- **Emily Macaulay** introduced herself and echoed the favourable comments re frontline staff Richard, Di and the team. She thanked the Friends for their support of the library and of LU, and emphasised how valued their contribution is.
- It is LU's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, so still a new charity but with over 100 years of legacy and experience of library service.
- In the past year, income from room hire and fines/fees has ceased, in part offset by one-off pandemic recovery grants. As income streams will not be fully recovered for some time, continued effort and attention to finances will be needed for the next year or so.
- LU AGM will be on October 12<sup>th</sup> 2021, 4-5pm, via Zoom.  
In summer 2021 there will be a Community Trustee recruitment and election, as Andrew Prince's tenure ends.
- During the first lockdown, the Board of Trustees, Executive Team and Leadership Team agreed a Recovery Strategy, comprising 5 work streams, enabling the best possible impact on communities in Devon and Torbay:

1. LU will provide support to people who have been affected by Covid-19 and/or by lockdown, to support positive mental health. This included Click and Collect book services, limited access to computers, and phone calls by staff to vulnerable customers.

2. LU will support disadvantaged children and families to reduce educational inequalities resulting from the pandemic. This included numerous virtual school visits, weekly online Bounce and Rhyme and Storytime sessions, and gifts of books to children at Christmas.

3. LU will support the unemployed and those starting small businesses to help the economy recover, through the Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) based in Exeter and Barnstaple, and expanding to Seaton, Okehampton and Paignton, funded by a 3 year partnership with the British Library. Work clubs support job seekers with CVs and interview skills.

4. Libraries are hubs for community development and regeneration. Tablet devices have been gifted to individuals isolated through their caring responsibilities, in partnership with Devon Carers. Books surplus to stock have been provided to St Petrock's homeless charity.

5. LU will establish itself as a trusted source of information. "If you want a million answers, ask Google. If you want the right answer, ask a librarian". Fake news and misinformation makes this a growing area. LU has shared fact-checked information about vaccination and Covid-19.

JD thanked Emily and invited questions.

JS commented on how amazed she was re the number of things happening, redefining the role of the library. Could LU support Friends groups in being more dynamic re their communities? EM answered that she would be happy to chat about that. The future of libraries is changing. Staff are embedded in their communities.

**Katie Darby** said she was pleased to hear of tablets being given to isolates, especially so they could see people on Zoom. EM replied that it was a lovely comment. Folk were supported to build confidence round technology.

**Oliver Simon** echoed what JS said, it was extraordinarily stimulating. When confinement was first established, his book club members were anti-Zoom. He had enjoyed being able to access reference material online, but queried why Which was not available. EM explained that making links to online resources is within the control of the organisation; Which had declined and was unlikely to change.

There were no further questions / comments. JD thanked EM.

#### 8. Election of Committee members

- a. **Chairman:** JD stood down. She was willing to stand again. SB proposed, **Katie Darby** seconded her re-election and there was unanimous acceptance. JD returned to the Chair.
- b. **Treasurer:** SW was proposed by JD, seconded by JB and unanimously reelected.
- c. **New role – Junior committee member:** JD asked Di Parker-Dennison to comment on **Morgan Watkins**, proposed as the new Junior committee member. Di described him as incredibly enthusiastic and ,supportive, keen to help, a lively young guy, good to have on board. JD proposed and SW seconded Morgan's acceptance.
- d. **Committee Members:** JD proposed re-election of the committee enbloc, seconded by **Shirley Robinson**.

8. **Any Other Business:** none had been notified.

The meeting was then entertained by **David Clarke** reading a selection of his witty poetry, including "Lockdown" and "Mobile Phone". JD thanked him.