

# **Friends of Penketh Library (FOPL)**

**08 March 2025**

**Meeting 32**

**10.00 – 11.30**

**Minutes**

## **Apologies:**

Hazel Kelsall, Gwen Lightfoot, Jane Love

## **Attendees:**

Phil Forshaw, Susan Morris, Mary Ross, Ian Frampton, Karen Mitchell and one other.

## **Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:**

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

## **Review of events/initiatives:**

History Group - Janice Hayes talk 'Dating Photographs' (28 October 2024)

S.M. Janice's talk about dating photographs was really interesting.

M.R. There will be a £1 donation each meeting (to provide funds for speakers etc.) To be kept as petty cash, there are no plans for having a History Group bank account.

S.M. Asked for ideas for future talks.

S.M. Asked if we should advertise to get more people?

M.R. People, old members and new, thought they would be entertained by a speaker.

I.F. It's held in the week when some people are at work.

S.M. We could have a publicity poster.

P.F. Asked for some information to work with.

M.R. Next meeting to be rescheduled due to holidays. Also the plaque for Peter's bench should be ready soon.

S.M. Burtonwood Association Talk (on 5 November 2024).

We had the Halloween Baubles give-away.

Christmas Choir and Refreshments (on 14 December 2024), which was really good.

Valentine's 'Love Your Library' and craft session (on 8 February 2025)

S.P. The Craft Session had over 30 children taking part.

The Fire Engine was very popular.

I.F. Asked about refreshments at the event,

S.M. Said there were not enough tables

S.M. Prior notice for helpers tea/coffee would be helpful for planning.

I.F. Ask for helpers – friends neighbours etc.

S.M. We could post on Facebook asking for helpers to let us know if they will come along.

S.M. The Reading Group is still going and is fully subscribed. There is now a Writing Group. There are lots of groups that meet under the FOPL Banner.

P.F. The Mini Notebook Giveaway is now running. 50 given away already another 50 have been bought in.

### **Financial report:**

P.F. The History Group financial year coincides with the calendar year January to December, the same dates as the FOPL financial year.

In 2024 the History Group received £11.00 via Mary Ross in part payment for the Janice Hayes talk 'Dating Photographs'.

On 28 October FOPL paid Janice Hayes the remainder of the £45.00 for the talk fee, effectively lending the History Group £34.00

The Group ended 2024 owing FOPL £34.00

2025 has had additions of £65.80 via Eunice and £13.25 via Mary. (From the old group and keyring donations respectively.)

The meeting on 24 February added eight one pound subscriptions.

After repaying FOPL £34.00, the History Group has £53.15 held as petty cash.

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### **FOPL Financial Report**

PF: We currently have £2,176.42 in the bank and £106.09 petty cash, a total of £2,282.51

Recent income and expenses since our last meeting on 05 October 2024:

Overall since our last meeting our funds are down by -£35.03

### **Summary**

£233.04 income

£268.07 outgoing

### **Details**

In 2024

05 Oct -£14.86 GGT Expenses to Mary

13 Oct -£8.95 Xmas paper cups

14 Oct +£80.00 Burtonwood Association talk donations

22 Oct -£22.90 Halloween Baubles

28 Oct -£34.00 Janice Hayes fee 'Dating Photographs' loan

31 Oct -£9.12 FOPL website domain renewal

01 Nov +£30.00 Union Catholic Mothers St Joseph (Susan's talk)

07 Nov -£60.00 Burtonwood Assoc talk fee

14 Nov -£15.00 one hour room hire fee

02 Dec -£16.74 Flowers for the fallen/Friends of St Mary's Churchyard

06 Dec -£10.00 Mini Notebooks give-away 50

12 Dec -£40.75 Xmas Mince Pies & Chinese New Year Windmills give-away (£12.25/£28.50 resp)

14 Dec +£57.78 Xmas donations

15 Dec -£24.75 Easter Bunnies & Xmas milk (£23.16/£1.59)

In 2025

02 Feb +£0.01 a donation of (one penny)

11 Feb +£20.25 Easyfundraising

28 Feb +£34.00 FOPL History Group repaid for Janice's talk fee

Future Expenses

08 Mar -£10.00 Mini Notebooks give-away (top up 50) if approved

08 May -£40.00 Philip Jeffs talk 'A Basic History of Warrington Through Maps'

08 May - TBC Room hire at £15/hr (depends on duration of talk)

## **Library News:**

S.M. LW Fees go up from 1 March – A4 B&W 20→25p, A3 Colour 80p→£1.50, Talking Books, no charge.

S.M. WBC have to set a balanced budget. There has been a best value inspection. WBC have invested to create income and they have to set a balanced budget this year. They can only put up Council Tax a maximum of 5%. A possibility of a Section 114 notice. So they had to do something. There are proposals for cuts – proposed to cut the library budget by £270k. It will go out to consultation.

At the council meeting the Lib Dems were vocal about the proposals. Westbrook is owned by Homes England and leased by LW/WBC.

Also that volunteers were proposed at Stockton Heath and Lymm.

Penketh may be part of the consultation. There will be public consultation meetings.

There was a discussion about stand alone libraries.

Warrington Central Library possibly will open on Sundays

S.M. Book issues and People are counted. FOI request for usage numbers has been requested.

S.M. Representatives of our Friends Group will go to the networking meeting 31st March in Warrington Library.

M.R. The plans should come out in next month.

I.F. asked if the Cheshire reorganisation would affect our libraries.

S.M. Probably voluntary redundancies will be asked for. Staff could be redeployed.

### **Future events and sessions:**

S.M. Mini Notebook give-away

Philip Jeffs talk has been booked: A Basic History of Warrington Through Maps on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Probably not as popular as some general history talks.

Easter event. Last year we did children's crafts.

S.P. Could help if work hours are adjusted. And a board game session.

M.R. Relayed a Whatsapp message from J.L. 'Family commitments, but can help if free.'

School Holiday dates were mentioned and people's availability discussed.

5<sup>th</sup> April decided for the Easter Event

M.R. suggested items to make.

S.P. Offered to get materials.

S.P. Easter craft theme to be Easter Baskets with Chicks and Eggs. Baker Ross £4.95 for 12 baskets. S.M. Send a link, will get 24. Ask J.L for ideas.

M.R. Use Chocolate mini eggs.

S.M. 11<sup>th</sup> April suggested for board games.

S.M. It is decided not to have a Great Get Together event this year.

S.M. Easter Bunny give-away does not need FOPL to do this.

K.M. Asked if we could get things from the resource centre.

S.M. Patio bedding plants could be bought. Pebble drainage is in the planter, so a pot and statement plant can be bought to put in it.

### **AOB**

M.R. We need a Poster for the History Group.

### **Date for the next meeting:**

Date for next meeting was agreed as 7 June 2025

[ACTION on P.F. - Book Room]

The meeting was then closed.