



THE FRIENDS OF COLYTON LIBRARY
Charity number EW39477

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016.

Introduction

The Friends of Colyton Library was established in 2007 and each year presents new challenges. This report will summarise the key issues and activities of 2016

Membership.

In 2016 there has been a substantial reduction in members, partly due to a cleaning up of the records. It is planned to reverse this in 2017.

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

The children's activities and events continue to be supported financially by FoCL

Financial Report

This is available and will be presented for discussion at the AGM.

Events

- Driving Safer for Longer event was well supported
- The Library was transformed in December to undertake Christmas activities as part of the Colyton Christmas fair.
- A successful day of events for children was held on July 16 to mark the Big Friendly Reading festival

The committee was strengthened in December by the addition of Sylvia Benton to the committee with responsibility for events.

Suggestions for events are always welcomed by Sylvia.

Transport can be arranged.

Regular Activities in the Library

- Book clubs – 2
- Book track – children's reading
- Play reading group
- Monthly coffee morning
- Shakespeare Group
- Knit and Natter , which expanded to include small crafts.

The Library service and usage.

The Library service has continued to enjoy a good working partnership with FoCL and Colyton is very well served by the team from Libraries Unlimited who are Diane Parker-Dennison and Christina Kendall as the regular staff, led by Pene Davis, Supervisor for Colyton and Seaton.

Like the majority of Devon libraries the usage of books has decreased whilst the use of the wi-fi service has increased and efforts are constantly made to reverse this.

The Volunteer Team

Volunteers are ably led by Roger Hutton. This large team have worked well together all year with great willingness, reliability and flexibility.

There are 3 main teams – Library Extra, Children and Saturday supporters.

The result of their work is that

- The Library Extra service means that the library is open an extra 2 ½ hours a week for borrowing books and computer use.
- Children are able to take part in Book Track (a reading scheme) and other events organised by the Children's team and the staff.
- Saturday helpers assist the librarian when the library is very busy.
- A volunteer regularly attends the local playgroup.

There remain some tasks that volunteers cannot undertake and this is frustrating for the public and volunteers. These are linked to volunteer access to the main computer and LU are continuing to work to resolve this.

Progress in 2016

The transfer of the library building to Colyton Parish Council is taking much longer than expected due to the various legal arrangements that have to be made and is not yet complete.

2016 has therefore been a frustrating year for the committee and Colyton Parish Council.

This transfer is being undertaken in order to reduce the cost of the library service by working to transfer the ownership of the building to Colyton Parish Council. This enables FoCL to have opportunities to gain access to other funds and any money raised locally is guaranteed to be used for Colyton Library.

It will not affect the daily running of the service by Libraries Unlimited.

Communication.

The Library is well supported by the local press and there has been regular coverage. The Parish magazine the Coly Times, is used as a way of communicating and had a library page every month.

FoCL has its own website, thanks to Adrian West who created it and maintains it.

www.friendsofcolytonlibrary.co.uk

Plans for 2017.

- Having an active programme of events.
- Arranging a special Children's day in July to launch the Summer reading Challenge.
- Working in partnership with DCC and Libraries Unlimited and Colyton Parish Council to achieve the transfer of the building and secure the future of Colyton Library.
- Continuing to raise the profile of the Library and to broaden its use by the use of social media.

- Following the achievement of the above relaunch FoCL ,with its new responsibilities and opportunities.
- Increase the size and diversity of the membership, especially by encouraging a wider age mix.
- Create a programme of featured authors/topics for adults to encourage book lending.
- Identify fundraising target and implement a fundraising plan
- Once transfer is achieved to implement plans for installation of photovoltaic cells on to roof of building to reduce electricity bills
- Continue to contribute to and learn from the meetings of the Devon Libraries Friends Groups

The 2016 – 2017 Committee.

It is with great sadness that we have to report that our treasurer Jackie Monomeric died in November 2016.

The members have been: Jane Dauncey – Chair, Jan Uden – minutes secretary, Roger Hutton –Treasurer and volunteer co-ordinator, Roger Moore, Sue Wilson, Mark Mann – Parish Council rep, Diane Dean, Christine Gregson-Watkins , membership secretary and Sylvia Benton from December 2016.

Summary.

2016-17 has been a busy year for the committee , working to achieve the exciting changes to come in 2017 for Colyton and Colyford residents.

FoCL are looking forward to continuing a good working partnership with Libraries Unlimited in 2017 .

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