



THE FRIENDS OF COLYTON LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014.

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 2014

Membership.

In 2014 around 90 adults were members. The annual fee was reduced to £3.00 per person as the refurbishment was completed.

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

Financial Report

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

Events

- In July, the Town Hall was packed out by people who had come to hear Ann Widdecombe speak very amusingly about her life and times as a politician and writer. The event raised the magnificent sum of £1306.48.
- The Library was transformed in December to become Santa's grotto. This was part of the Colyton Christmas fair.
- The AGM was well attended with an active debate about DCC proposals led by Cllr Roger Croad and Ciara Eastell. It was enhanced by local talent – with the very amusing and apt poetry of David Clark.

Suggestions for events are welcomed by the committee.

Transport can be arranged.

Activities in the Library.

The following is a list of the activities that are taking place.

- Book clubs – 2
- Book track – children's reading
- Bounce and Rhythm was tried but as a similar group already occurs in Colyton it was not successful
- Summer Reading Challenge took place and an activity day occurred.
- Shakespeare Group
- Creative writing group is being established
- At the planning stage is the establishment of a Memory Cafe in the Library

The Library service and usage.

The service has been rather disrupted this year due to the prolonged vacancy of the paid member of staff from February until July 2014. Throughout this time the library was kept open at all the advertised hours by a mixture of relief staff and volunteers. Great thanks are given to Roger Hutton who ensured there was always a volunteer

when needed and to the volunteers themselves. This period identified things that volunteers cannot do and the importance of having a paid member of staff with the responsibility for Colyton Library. The statistics for usage at that time are reduced and improved as soon as a member of staff was in position.

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 basic needs.
- Children are able to take part in Book Track (a reading scheme) and other events organised by the Children's team.
- Saturday helpers assist the librarian when the library is very busy.

There are 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 DLS are working to resolve them.

Becoming a Community Library.

Following the publishing and outcome of DCC's Devon Libraries consultation paper, much of the committee's activity has been focussed on producing Colyton's application to become one of the pilot sites, which was successful.

The application focussed on

- a. Maintaining, at a minimum, the current level of service from DLS with a paid member of staff.
- b. Identifying how the cost of the service could be reduced by the ownership of the building transferring to a Colyton organisation. This enables access to other funds and any money raised locally is guaranteed to be used for Colyton Library.
- c. Encouraging wider use of the facilities to benefit the local community and by installation of Wi – Fi

Detailed work started in January 2015 and is to be completed by March 2016.

Communication.

The Library is well supported by the local press and there has been regular coverage.

The Parish magazine is used as a way of communicating.

The newsletter is produced regularly for all friends and volunteers

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

www.friendsofcolytonlibrary.co.uk

Delivery of books to people who are housebound

This service continues in a limited manner due to difficulties at Royal Voluntary Services which they are working to resolve. There is capacity for more people to receive this service.

Plans for 2015.

- Rejuvenating a programme of events.
- Working in partnership with DLS to achieve the objectives of the pilot and secure the future of Colyton Library.
- Continuing to raise the profile of the Library and to broaden its use.

- Establishment of a Memory Cafe in the Library.
- Installation of public access Wi-Fi

The 2014 – 2015 Committee.

The members have been: Jane Dauncey – Chair, Allan Kekwick- Treasurer, Jenny Fielding, membership secretary, Jan Uden – minutes secretary, Roger Hutton – volunteer co-ordinator, Roger Moore, Sue Wilson, Mark Mann – Parish Council rep and Diane Dean.

Summary.

2014-15 has been a busy year with much change and anxiety for Colyton and Colyford residents.

FoCL with Devon Library Services will strive to make 2015 a year of improvement and development for Colyton Library.

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