

Friends of Whittlesey Library
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Tuesday October 9th 2018
7pm at Whittlesey Library

Present

Marilyn George Chairman
Jackie Bullen Secretary
Jean Goodman Treasurer
Pat Butcher
Maggie Maddiss
Isabel Boon

Eileen George
Cambs Libraries
Pauline Finney
Jakki Racey
Louise Aldridge

Apologies:

Roy Gerstner – sent an email that was read out
Peter Davies

Minutes of 2017 AGMS. Agreed and signed as correct.

Treasurer's Report

Jean Goodman gave everyone a copy of Year End account. Funds stand at **£2000+** in Lloyds Bank.

Joint Chair and Secretary Report

Sadly this will be the last joint Chair & Secretary Report - and AGM - of this generation of the committee of The Friends.

Unfortunately, but understandably, none of the committee members could commit to taking on the role of Secretary when Jackie recently stepped down from the committee – which led us to discuss the future of the Friends as it stands.

Not only are we getting older and not able to physically do the necessary moving of shelving, tables and chairs for events - but some of us have family commitments that have to take priority. Without new people joining the committee, the sad fact is it cannot continue in its present form.

Our Friends group started in 2010 and we have achieved all we set out to do and have enough funds to continue – for the time being – to purchase extra items for the library.....so the bank account will remain open.

We have decided that the Friends would not continue after the Mosaic workshop and Mambo Jambo events in November. Those of us who can, will continue, when possible, to support the events held in the library. Jackie is happy to run the Facebook page and post information on the local FB pages of library events. I am sure Roy will also upload info to his website.

It is hoped there will be quarterly meetings of supporters to bring things up to date. However.....we haven't been idle over the past year. As usual we decorated a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival and will continue to do this in future.

We held a coffee morning on Straw Bear Day and the evening with Pointless was very much enjoyed - while Alice in the Cuckoo Nest produced mixed reactions! The Friends also hosted the evening when Alison Bruce gave a very interesting talk about her life as an author. Vikki Mason's workshop for the children was, as always, a huge success. Maybe our funds will enable Vikki to do more workshops in the future.

The Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper was very successful – and thanks go to Roy for putting the quiz sheets together. It took some time to do it and we appreciate his hard work. Thank you, also, to Peter for his raffle ticket selling – and for chauffeuring the fish and chips with Jean!

The Friends made further purchases for the library this year.

- This included a colourful set of chairs and tables.
- Wiggle Giggle Parachute.
- Lego.
- Board games for library use,
- 2 sets of Read It Again Books for local schools,
- A prize for Book Bingo
- And – when they arrive – trestle tables for use by the library. Some went missing when the refurb took place and although we ordered and paid for new ones a few months ago ...they seem to be missing too!!! But Maggie is on the case and I'm sure they will be here soon.

No Re-election of Officers and Committee Members

The Friends of Whittlesey Library is no longer active

The Library Service

Pauline Finney spoke about the enormous cuts in funding that have to be met by the Library Service and the concern about the future of some of the 33 libraries in Cambridgeshire.

Pauline also spoke about a pilot scheme that Whittlesey Library had been selected to take part in – when the libraries would listen to the community and tailor their services to the area's needs. It was pointed out by the committee that Whittlesey is very fortunate as there are numerous social clubs/groups and many activities taking place within the community - and the turn out to the two recent Library Presents Selection Parties was evidence, they felt, that it is unlikely the community will get further involved in choosing what goes on in the library.

Pauline asked if the Friends would continue if a new Secretary joined the committee – the response was that, unfortunately, the committee would not as most were having to cope with health issues, increasing age and family commitments. Requests for volunteers to join the committee and to help at events had been made repeatedly over the years, with no offers being made to join the committee or to physically help at events. Fortunately kind husbands of some of the committee had helped but could not continue for numerous reasons. The committee felt the Friends, over the last 8 years, had met all the targets they hoped to. It was a decision made with sadness but it was not reversible.

Quest Speaker

Maureen Watson

History of Market Street and the Square

