

THE FRIENDS OF STREET LIBRARY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FOR THE YEAR 6 APRIL 2021 TO 5 APRIL 2022

WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2022

4.45 PM IN STREET LIBRARY
6 Leigh Road, Street, BA16 0HA

**Present:: S Ivory, Acting Chair, P J Fry (Treasurer), A C Southern (Secretary)
A Coals, C Axten, B Fry, N Copleston, D Drew, J Duval, M Fletcher, A Knight
(Speaker), M Lewis, L Markham, K Midgley, Sue Monaghan, J Adams, J Sinclair, P &
L Wilson.**

1. Apologies: W J Hawker, J Hillman, K & S Lawton, J Lewis, N Swift

2. Welcome:

Acting Chair Sarah Ivory welcomed everyone to the 2021 – 2022 Annual General meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report for the year had been circulated in advance of the meeting, It had been another odd year as we emerged from two years of pandemic in which numerous changes and challenges had been met and been dealt with. Our monthly members' meetings had been held via Zoom, and two trustees' meetings' had also been held - in October 2021 and January 2022 There had also been meetings with Library staff to share ideas for the library and for events going forward and meetings with our Community Library Partnership colleagues. Sadly two events had had to be cancelled, the Children's Bedtime Stories event just before Christmas and Alison Knight's author talk which had originally been scheduled for mid January. Alison would be giving the eagerly anticipated talk after the business of the AGM had been concluded.

The format of the 2021 Summer Reading Challenge had also been different in 2021 but library staff and participants had risen to the challenge and enjoyed a successful season. No figures for Street were available due to changes in Somerset County Council's organisation of the 6 week event and visits to schools did not take place for safety reasons. We look forward to a 'new normality' in 2022 and hope that our members will be willing and able to volunteer to help sign up our young participants and enthuse them during the challenge period from the end of July to early September.

In early September 2021 the Friends participated once again in the Merriman Park Fun Day on a stunning summer's day. £58 was raised on the day from second hand books sales, but the main focus of the day was to involve children and families and raise the public profile of Street Library. We have already been approached by the organisers of the 2022 Merriman Park Fun Day and with the approval of the members, and hopefully some volunteers from the membership, intend to once again be part of the day on 3 September 2022. Our first Children and Families Craft event for the 2022-2023 year will be the Jubilee themed morning on 14 May in the Library. Offers of help during the morning would be gratefully received. FoStL also provides volunteers for activities organised by library staff such as the Digital Den sessions and Lego Club on Saturdays. We are lucky enough to have some students who lend their IT experience to library users on Mondays and Thursdays and also help to design flyers to promote our activities.

As already reported to members, Claire Axten who has been our chair for approximately 4 years decided to resign as chair and also as a trustee of the Friends of Street Library. Claire was instrumental in helping to ensure the future of the library in Street and orchestrating the move from the historic 1924 building and the refurbishment of the Parish Council's building, for which we are all very grateful. She also lent us her considerable skills in many other ways, not least, in organising craft events and coming up with ideas for fun activities. Another major contribution was co-ordinating the library volunteers who are essential to the continuing survival of Street Library. The mantle of volunteer co-ordinator has now fallen onto the capable shoulders of Marilyn Fletcher and our thanks go to Marilyn for her seamless transition into the role and her success in recruiting and training new volunteers.

As we go forward into the next year we look forward to Street Library continuing to be a central focus of Street.

4. Treasurer's Report and approval of the accounts

The Treasurer's Report had also been prepared and circulated in advance of the meeting. It reflected a true and fair statement of the financial position of the Friends of Street Library, the means by which funds have been raised and how those funds have been spent. The accounts have been scrutinised for accuracy by Julie Hillman who was unfortunately unable to be present at the AGM. Opportunities for fund raising had been restricted during the year due to COVID but we still had a surplus of income over expenditure of £320. The principal part of our income came from membership drive, which started just before the 2021 AGM. In the previous year there had been little fund raising activity and therefore we had contacted all those who had come forward during the period of the campaign to save Street Library as well as those who had continued their support after the campaign. We also reached out to those who had been our most loyal and continuing supporters. The result was a membership of 67 whose subscriptions provided £1200, which with Gift Aid, reached £1400. We have continued to raise funds through the quizzes designed by Liza Markham, which raised over £100 in the year. FoStL also provides consumables in the library. In 2021-2022 we spent £635, £400 of which was a contribution to blinds for the library space, which are particularly beneficial in the computer area. Part of our remit is community and educationally based and £372 was spent. A double sided A5 flyer was also designed and produced, costing £53, to publicise the facilities in the new library space as we sometimes to ensure that Street residents are aware of the location of the library and the support and friendship to be found there. We have kept our goals in sight over the last financial year and raised and used our funds in pursuit of those goals.

The meeting thanked Peter for all his work during the year and his efforts in organising the AGM.

5. Training and Recruitment of Volunteers

Members had already received an advance copy of Marilyn's report. Claire had kindly helped Marilyn to settle into the role. Marilyn thanked all the volunteers for their continuing support and for their flexibility in stepping into the breach when required. Recruiting new volunteers had been challenging on occasion, but happily a new volunteer had just joined the team. The current volunteer numbers had dwindled during the pandemic period and currently stands at 10. Help from members to provide the 80-90 hours of volunteer staffing needed each month would be very gratefully received. Volunteers will be a regular agenda item for members' monthly meetings so that statistics can be reported to the community library partnership as proof of our fulfilment of our role in the partnership. Our most recent volunteer opportunity was at the Strode Theatre Book Festival where we manned an information table in the theatre foyer at various points from 1-3 April.

6. Election of officers and trustees of the Friends of Street Library

Claire Axten, outgoing Chair of the Friends of Street Library, kindly took over the conduct of the meeting at this point and thanked Sarah Ivory for stepping into the role in 2021 when Claire announced her intention to resign as Chair. Since moving away from Street she felt it was time to step back, especially as there was a helpful and supportive team of trustees, members and library staff to take the group forward.

Officers

- 6.1 Chair Angela Southern nominated Sarah Ivory as Chair of the Friends of Street Library. The nomination was seconded by Marilyn Fletcher
- 6.2 Treasurer Angela Southern nominated Peter Fry as Treasurer. The nomination was seconded by Debra Drew
- 6.3 Secretary Sarah Ivory nominated Angela Southern as Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Marilyn Fletcher

Trustees

According to the Constitution of the Friends of Street Library (a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which is lodged with the Charity Commission, one-third of the trustees must stand down each year and can then be re-appointed. This means that those who have been in place the longest, Claire (Chair), Peter and Angela stand down as trustees.

- 6.4 Claire had already signalled her intention to stand down as a Trustee.

Angela Southern and Peter Fry stand down and seek re-election

This leaves the following trustees in place:

Sarah Ivory
Jenny Duval
Susan Monaghan
Sharon Lawton

- 6.5 Re-election of Trustees

The Friends of Street Library are now seeking to re-elect the following two as Trustees:

Peter Fry Nominated by Sarah Ivory and seconded by Angela Southern
Angela Southern Nominated by Susan Monaghan and seconded by Marilyn Fletcher
Angela Southern and Peter Fry are re-elected as trustees of the Friends of Street Library

- 6.6 Appointment of new Trustees

The Friends of Street Library now wish to appoint two new trustees:

Debra Drew Nominated by Peter Fry. Seconded by Sarah Ivory
Marilyn Fletcher Nominated by Jenny Duval. Seconded by Sarah Ivory

Debra Drew and Marilyn Fletcher are appointed as trustees of the Friends of Street Library.

6.7 The Trustees for the year 06 April 2022 to 05 April 2023 are:

Debra Drew
Jenny Duval
Marilyn Fletcher
Peter Fry
Sara Ivory
Susan Monaghan
Angela Southern
Sharon Lawton

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Date of next Members' Meeting

The possibility of holding a hybrid meeting would be explored to accommodate those who did not wish to meet face-to-face.

A June date would be notified to members by email and was likely to be Monday 13 June in view of the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee holiday the previous week.

01 May 2022