

# Friends of St Annes Library



## NEWS

DECEMBER 2009

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## THE SUN SHONE ON THE PARTY

THE Second Annual Party in the Garden, which we hosted, was enjoyed by a large number of local residents and visitors to St. Annes when it was held on Saturday, 12 September from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the St. Annes Library grounds.

On a day filled with sunshine, the festivities were opened by St. Annes Mayor, Cllr. Tony Ford, and by the St. Annes Rose Queen, Jennifer Moore.

At noon, the St. Annes Library Garden Plan was handed over to Paula Fodor, Chairman of the Friends, and Sheila Woodburn, District Manager for Libraries in Fylde, by Cty. Cllr. Fabian Craig-Wilson. The

plans were designed by Landscape Architect, Gabby Nickson.

The Steering Group had worked with Community Design, which is managed by the Environmental Projects Team at Lancashire County Council. Community Design was established in 2004 to help community groups with good project ideas but a lack of resources to get their ideas down on paper, especially in such a way as would help them attract the funding they needed to implement their projects.

We first got in touch with the Environmental Projects Team last summer. With the help of Com- ▷



The plans for the Library reading garden are handed over to the Friends. From left: St Annes Mayor, Cllr. Tony Ford; Cty Cllr Fabian Craig-Wilson; Cty Cllr Bill Winlow; Sheila Woodburn; Paula Fodor; and Gabby Nickson





Broadcaster and plantsman Peter Foley addresses a rapt audience at the Library's 'Autumn Colour' event

**OUR project 'Reading with a View' aims to improve and regenerate the grounds around St Annes Library to create a community reading garden.**

The design includes a safe and comfortable area for the use of junior reading groups; seating areas in which adults can enjoy conversation, reading and reflection; a Community Noticeboard; garden sculpture; and a water feature.

We are grateful to St Annes Town Council for its award of a £500 grant to support activities and events designed to get everyone in St Annes involved with the Reading with a View project.

We have submitted an application for the major part of the required funding from Community Spaces, a fund administered by Groundworks UK. This should cover the majority of groundworks, hard landscaping and planting, and the costs of managing the project.

The Friends has also applied to become registered with Entrust as an Environmental Body: this registration will enable us to apply for the remainder of the funding we require from the Lancashire Environment Fund.

If our two funding applications are successful we should be in a position to commission the work by spring next year. We are hoping that the work will be completed within a three-month period from then.

# Living Libraries

THE Friends of St Annes Library will take part in the Living Libraries in Lancashire project, which is being sponsored by Lancashire County Council's Library Service. St Annes Library has been designated as one of the participating libraries.

The Living Library is a concept that was first introduced in Denmark in 2000, and which has since been developed in countries throughout the world. The idea behind the project is that instead of borrowing a book customers 'borrow' a person, and so gain direct access to that person's experiences, hobbies, or expertise. 'Loans' are conversations which last anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour, and take place at the library.

Where Living Library projects have taken place, they have been met with almost universal approval from both the 'books' and the borrowers.

The purpose of the projects, besides providing an enjoyable event for everyone, is multi-fold. The Living Library approach can develop new and creative ways of learning, especially encouraging the borrowers to be pro-active in their own learning. It offers an inclusive opportunity for individuals to learn from each other and to develop a fuller appreciation of other people's experiences and knowledge. It can help young people to develop communication skills, and helps promote understanding and increased awareness by bringing together people who might not ordinarily meet.

By bringing individuals together the Living Library can bring communities together. It provides a safe, open environment in which people can share experiences of different ways of life or cultural backgrounds.

## Volunteers wanted!

The Friends of St Annes Library are working with library staff to plan their Living Library event., which will take place on Saturday, 6 February 2010 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Do you have a story to tell? Volunteers are being sought to share experiences within areas including: inspiration; history and culture; career, achievement or an interesting job; life changing experiences; unusual hobbies or anything they think might be of interest to others. If you'd like to take part, drop into the library and speak to a member of staff.



## Joining the Friends of St Annes Library

Subscription is £5 per person per annum

It's easy to join! Just provide the information requested below and return the completed form to the library. Cheques may be made payable to 'Friends of St Annes Library'.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

How I would like to be involved

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Librarians' Corner

### News in brief

- St Annes Library has had a mini make-over. The foyer has now been decluttered and painted, which has brightened it up considerably.

The enquiry desk has been moved, making the library look far more spacious. A seating area also has been created near the windows, and has proved very popular with customers who have been using it for working, recreational reading or simply for relaxing and chatting.

The space is also used by the Reading Groups and Knitting Group, who have appreciated the extra room. It will also give us more scope to hold events in the future.

- November's most borrowed book was a fiction book, **Sixth Target** by James Patterson. The most popular non-fiction book was Delia Smith's **How to Cheat Cookbook**.
- Dan Brown remains very popular, and his latest book, **Lost Symbol**, was the most requested book of the month.

## Friends together...



ONE of the first projects of the Friends, shortly after our founding in June 2007, was the clean-up and replanting of the flower beds at the entrance to the Library. The soil was thin and tired, and it looked like it might be a hard spring for the new bedding plants.

Two years and three plantings later, we got a lovely surprise when putting in the winter 2009 plants: A multitude of worms had moved in. New Friends Chair, Anne Fielding (above) made the introductions. It's true: a little help goes a long way.