

Friends of St Annes Library



NEWS

JULY 2009

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Progress

SUMMER has come and you may have noticed that the colours of summer are blossoming at the entrance to St Annes Library.

The spring bulbs we planted last autumn were a hard act to follow, but our band of merry gardeners gave it a good shot. Marigolds, nicotiana, petunias and begonias should keep the library's entrance looking bright and welcoming into the autumn.

“My inspiration for the garden design is based on the octagonal features of the building, the vestibule, skylight and lantern. It is a beautiful and ornate building and I don't want to detract from this”

– Garden designer Gabbie Nickson

We're making great progress with plans for the Reading Garden. Rosie Pritchard from Lancashire County Council's Community Design team appointed Gabbie Nickson as our garden designer back in March, and so far it's been a match made in heaven. Gabbie shared two different ideas for the garden with the Friends meeting in early April, and one of them proved a hands-down favourite.

Gabbie took the chosen design away and worked it up in more detail. On a drizzly Saturday morning ▷

Forthcoming events

August

An Evening with Anna Jacobs

Anna Jacobs writes historical sagas, often set in Lancashire, and she's a firm favourite of local readers. Anna grew up in Lancashire and now resides in Australia. She comes back regularly to see family and do research.

Anna is touring the UK this summer and we're pleased to announce that she will be visiting St Annes in August. Lancashire Library Service and the Friends of St Annes Library will be co-hosting an evening with the author. Look to the local press and the library noticeboards for more details.

September

Party in the Garden

We're having our second annual Party in the Garden on Saturday 12 September. As with last year there will be something for everyone, so put an asterisk on the calendar and keep your eye out for more details!

Peter Foley opened our first Party in the Garden, and liked St Annes Library and the plans for the Reading Garden so much that he's agreed to come back. The Bolton-by-Bowland nurseryman, speaker and familiar panel member on BBC Radio Lancashire Gardeners Question Time will be giving a talk entitled 'The Autumn Garden' on 16 September, 7.30pm at the library.

Peter will be illustrating his talk with some of his own plants, and you'll have a chance to purchase them at the end. Tickets will be £5 and will include a glass of wine and nibbles. Proceeds will add to the coffers for the Reading Garden.



Friends Pat, Pauline and Pam at the spring coffee morning

▷ in early May, library users had the chance to see the more advanced plans and quiz Gabbie and Rosie.

While we were talking to library users out in the garden, Kate Cartmell and Barbara Weston were in the much warmer and drier Junior Library, helping younger library visitors make their own books. Ruth Vidler and librarian Claire Grogan entertained with their storytime sessions.

We think that the garden design is elegantly simple and sympathetic to the Grade-II-listed library building. Gabbie has taken into consideration the requests of library users, and her design includes accessible pathways, seating for reading and quiet activities, a special storytelling area, and planting that will appeal to the senses and be attractive to wildlife.

Gabbie is now putting the final touches to the design and specifications. We expect to receive the plans in a handover ceremony to coincide with our second Annual Party in the Garden on Saturday 12 September. We'll then be able to start fundraising in earnest so that we can make the Reading Garden a reality in 2010.

If you'd like to see the draft garden designs, they are on display in the library octagon. □



Anne Fielding at work on the Friends' 'Summer Colour' project at the library entrance

Sandra Wilson tells us about...

...a busy spring

ST Annes Library staff paid a visit to Oak Tree Children's Centre. They read stories and introduced the children and their families to some fun songs and rhymes.

WORKING with the YMCA, the library hosted a group of children for a fun-filled afternoon of talk, games, a story and healthy snacks to finish.

TWO events were held to celebrate World Book Day. Twenty-one children came to the Teddy Bears Picnic storytime for the under-fives, listening to stories, taking part in a craft activity and enjoying a drink and biscuit. And then after school we held a Drop-In craft session; 31 children attended altogether, including six brand new members.

THE Teen Reading Group, or TRG as they like to be known, is going strong with 11 regular members. They have rearranged the teen section to their own specifications, taken part in quizzes, and written some fantastic book reviews.

TEN children from St Thomas' School joined us for an event with local artist Jane Blackburn. They made carnival headgear and Mothers Day cards.

A LARGE group of 22 children visited the library to celebrate the 40th birthday of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. The children listened to the story, made a Hungry Caterpillar bookmark and enjoyed a drink and snack.

Toddler sessions

WE hold weekly Bounce-and-Rhyme and Toddler Rhyme sessions every Monday. They are both extremely well attended. There is also a thriving monthly Chatterbooks group for children aged seven to nine to talk about books and take part in quizzes, crafts and activities.

ST George's Hall in the United Reform Church, St Annes was the venue for this year's local history display. The theme was 'Sport, Leisure and Entertainment in the Fylde'. The display attracted many local and community history groups from across the area, with holidaymakers and daytrippers also showing an interest.

at the library

THE local police have a new community display board in the hallway at St Annes Library. The information relates to policing pledges by wards and a Crime Stoppers section. Constable Steve Higgs will be our contact for this scheme.

LAST year's National Year of Reading has evolved into 'Reading For Life', a programme that aims to promote the benefits of reading – for life, opportunities, health, family happiness and overall enjoyment. More information on this valuable scheme can be found at www.readingforlife.org.uk (below).



Reading groups

ST Annes Library now has three reading groups:

- Morning – first Wednesday of every month at 10.30am
- Afternoon ('Page2Page' group) – second Thursday every month at 2pm
- Evening – first Thursday every month at 7.30pm

THE 'Clickers' computer help sessions are still running strong. Feedback from the public has been very helpful.

THE Adult College, Lancaster ran its computer courses for beginners at the library last month. In an event coinciding with Adult Learners Week, Lynne Cavill from Carers Point visited in May to provide help and advice for carers and their families across the Fylde. □



Friends who knit together...

KNIT Together, the knitting group formed by the Friends of St Annes Library, has a new project.

As well as doing our own knitting, members of the group are knitting soft woollen dolls called 'Izzy' dolls. Thousands of children – victims of war, HIV babies, orphans and those who suffer from plain want – are able to be normal children, smiling when they get their Izzy doll.

The dolls are distributed by the charity Icross. The charity began in Canada but is now spreading world-wide.

If you would like to help, join us on the first Friday of the month at St Annes Library, 10.00am until 12.00pm.

Anne Fielding
Knit Together organizer

Coffee Morning and Book Sale

WE had our first coffee morning in the library on a Saturday in May. It was such a success that we've got another coffee morning and book sale planned for 11 July, 11.00am to 3.00pm.

Come along, enjoy a cup of coffee (or tea), pick up a bargain, and find out a bit more about the Friends of St Annes Library!

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



Meet the new guys

APRIL 2009 saw two new members of staff join St Annes Library, with the appointment of Andrew Walmsley to the newly created post of Community History Manager and myself, Sheila Woodburn, as District Manager, Fylde Libraries.

I have worked for Lancashire Library and Information Service for 34 years, most of which has been as branch manager of Longridge Library.

For the past four and a half years I was Young People's Manager 0-5, with a county remit for the library service to babies, toddlers and pre-school children. I am thrilled to be appointed to St Annes Library, which holds a whole host of children's activities.

It is a privilege to work in such a lovely historic library and Andrew, the St Annes staff and I have been busy creating space for a community history room. Over the next few months we hope also to open out the library to create room to accommodate the reading groups and the knitting group more easily and to provide comfortable seating areas for customers.

I am also delighted to be working with the Friends of St Annes Library. The Reading Garden project is very exciting and will provide an attractive area for customers to enjoy. I am very happy to be working at St Annes and am looking forward to meeting more of our customers. □