

Friends of St Annes Library



NEWS

DECEMBER 2010

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Reading with a view: All systems are go!

WE'VE done it! In October, the Friends of St Annes Library received confirmation that our application to Big Lottery's Community Spaces scheme for funding to create the reading garden at St Annes Library had been successful. Together with the funding already granted by Lancashire Environmental Fund and funds donated by library visitors, this brings the total to just over £57,000, the funding we need to make the dream of the reading garden a reality in 2011.

Reading with a View has been in the planning stages for several years, and the Friends of St Annes Library wish to express our gratitude to Lancashire Environmental Fund and Community Spaces for their support.

We are particularly grateful for the help and guidance of Lancashire County Council's Community Design team in developing the garden master plan and accessing the necessary funding. Thanks also go to the St Annes Town Council, the Fylde Local Stra-

tegic Partnership, Fylde Borough Council, the library users, and the wider community for the support they have given the project from its earliest stages.

The garden's designer, Gabby Nickson, has agreed to serve as project manager during the implementation of the project. The next step will be to appoint a contractor. Then it is hoped that ground breaking can take place in January and the official opening in the spring of 2011. Anyone wishing to view the garden master plan can stop by St Annes Library and visit the Friends of St Annes Library notice board where the plans are on display.

Among the garden's features will be a sheltered area for children's story times. It will also feature other sheltered seating areas throughout for reading and quiet contemplation, as well as an open area in front for activities and activity tables. The planting is designed to appeal to both people and wildlife and the garden will be completely disabled-friendly.



Stories from St Annes on the Sea

EVERYONE has a treasured possession, an object that has a story to tell and means something special.

Perhaps it's a family heirloom that's been passed down through the generations along with stories of your forebears. Maybe it's something that has belonged to you alone and reveals something about your own life. It could tell a story about St Annes and its history or its tale could relate to another country, culture or time.

The Friends of St Annes Library invite you to share the story of your special object as part of the Stories from St Annes on the Sea project. In collecting the stories shared by people who have a connection to St Annes, the Friends intend to build up the collective story of the St Annes community in all its rich variety.

Community History Manager Andrew Walmsley has helped the Friends develop a blog – an on-line journal – where pictures of contributors, together with their special objects and their stories, can be shared so that everyone can experience this living archive as it grows.

Some members of the Friends have already shared their stories: Ian's collection of glass slides tell the story of a journey his great uncle and aunt made to India in 1925; Anne shares childhood memories embodied in the wooden clogs she wore as a little girl; Andrew's



special object is his grandfather's dog tag from the First World War; the story of the silver box belonging to Seetha's grandmother starts in India in the early 20th century; Paula's story is about the well-travelled fiddle that links her father's life in Europe and the United States with hers in St Annes today.

To find out more about the Stories from St Annes on the Sea project and how you can share the story of your own treasured possession, visit the blog at <http://anneslibrary.wordpress.com>, e-mail the Friends at friendsofstanneslibrary@gmail.com or call Paula on 01253 720191.

Lancashire's criminal past

AS part of this year's Lancashire's Criminal Past series of events (many activities and talks taking place across Lancashire libraries this autumn, funded by the Heritage Lottery fund), St Annes hosted Colin Penny from Lancashire Museums on 28 October for an illustrated talk on prison life in 1810.

If you have visited Lancaster Castle museum for the tour of Shire Hall and the castle, you may

have heard Colin speak before. He is an entertaining speaker and did not disappoint, using his slides as a starting point to relate anecdotes and interesting facts about Lancaster prison, the felons incarcerated there and their way of life - and death.

Many sayings in general use today have their origins behind prison walls and it was fascinating to hear, amongst other things, why prison

officers are called 'screws', and what sort of 'cat' you might not have room to swing if your living accommodation is very small!

Colin's descriptions of the food provided and the work that the prisoners were forced to undertake were indicative of his wide knowledge of and interest in the subject. All those present agreed that it was an enjoyable – and educative – evening.

Lancashire Lantern shines on local newspapers

THERE may have been a war going on but 1916 was an exciting time for St. Annes town. The year saw the formal opening of Ashton Gardens and the open-air swimming pool, and discussions with Blackpool over whether the two towns should be amalgamated. News of these events was, of course, reported in the local newspaper, the Lytham St Annes Express, and it's now possible to search the newspaper via the Lancashire Lantern web resource.

St Annes Library provides access to the Lytham St Annes Express in a microfilm format dating back to 1904 and the Lytham Times from 1870 to 1957 but, until recently, no index was available to help users locate content. Along with other libraries in Lancashire it was decided to create an historical index for local newspapers, as part of the Lancashire Lantern project. St Annes Library decided that the years covering the two World Wars would be a good starting point for the indexing of the Lytham St. Annes Express. Indexing of the Lytham Times is also about to start, dating from 1875 when the building of St Annes began.

A member of the Friends of St Annes Library, Pam Foster is also a library volunteer and is currently indexing the newspaper for the years 1914–1918. She said, 'Without an index, users have to plough through pages of newsprint on microfilm. Now they can easily search for local individuals and events on the Lancashire Lantern, which is a fantastic electronic resource for local history covering the whole county.' The Lancashire Lantern is available at www.lantern.lancashire.gov.uk.

Currently, three volunteers are undertaking the work but St. Annes Library is looking for more potential volunteers. Anyone interested in helping with community history-related projects should contact Community History Manager Andrew Walmsley on 01253 643900 or Andrew.Walmsley@lancashire.gov.uk.

Together Wii Play

FUN and fitness will be the order of the day from early in the New Year when a Nintendo Wii, a leading interactive TV and computer game console, is installed in the library.

FoSAL chairman Anne Fielding recently gained funds from UnLtd Engage for a project called 'Together Wii Play'. The equipment includes a Nintendo Wii and a plasma screen. This project will enable the library to hold regular activity sessions bringing together young and old. The main focus will be on older people using the equipment with support from pupils from Lytham High School.

Anne says: 'It sounds like an easy and fun way to keep fit and I hope there will be lots of interest.'

Sessions will be monthly and free of charge.

Library News

WE have had six months of interesting and popular events at the library. Much of the success is thanks to the excellent support from the Friends group (FoSAL).

The summer reading challenge went down well, enhanced by FoSAL volunteer Pauline Germain, who took time to come in to talk to children about their books.

Knit Together, run by Chairman of FoSAL Anne Fielding, continues to thrive, and members of the club have supported other library events.

Volunteers also help with community history by indexing newspapers and offering IT support at the library.

We have hosted a series of community history talks as part of the Lancashire Criminal Past initiative, including one by Peter Shakeshaft and one by Colin Penny.

On Lancashire Day (27 November), the library held a 'Made in Lancashire' event in which local crafts people were invited to sell their wares. FoSAL members were on hand to sell refreshments and second-hand books.

A cultural awareness event, 'A Taste of Asia', demonstrated henna hand painting and sari tying.

Library users were encouraged to 'Get Online' with an IT and Biscuits workshop in September and online sessions in October. These were in addition to the weekly Clickers sessions for computer beginners.

The summer months saw three space-themed children's activities, the last of which was fancy dress.

Babies and toddlers are not forgotten: members of the library staff regularly attend the Baby Massage sessions at Oak Tree Children's Centre to talk about the library and to hold mini 'Baby Bounce and Rhyme' sessions.

Andrew Walmsley, the community history manager, has used his links with the Lancashire museum service to help host school visits in the library, including a popular 'Victorian Schoolroom' session.

Sheila Woodburn



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

What would you like the Friends to do?

AS is described elsewhere in the newsletter, the reading garden project is taking shape; the knitting group remains popular; and a Wii group will be starting in the New Year.

The Friends steering group has some ideas for events and speakers for the next 12 months, but we also want YOUR ideas. We want to involve all members of the community – young and old – in the library, but we cannot do it without your help.

If you have an idea, please share it with us. And if you feel able to volunteer to help with any of our ongoing activities, please do so.

If you would like us to put on any particular activity or host a speaker, please let us know. Remember, YOUR library needs YOU!

Contact any member of the committee:

Anne Fielding (telephone 711123)

Barbara Mackenzie (711584)

Seetha and Ian Shearer (781116)

Forthcoming event

25 January 2011 – An evening of music and poetry to celebrate the life of Robert Burns. Event to be held at the library, starting at 7.30 pm.

Knitting News

THE Knit Together group continues to flourish.

We now have 16 members, who are all deeply immersed in our latest project: knitting miniature bobble hats for Age UK to send to a juice company. The juice company, which pays Age UK for the hats, is to use them in its Christmas promotion.

The knitting group is currently planning a fundraising event for next year and is looking forward to a Christmas outing.

Beginner and experienced knitters are welcome. So come and join us on the first and third Friday of the month from 10 am to 12 noon in the library.