

Friends of Sonning Common Library AGM

held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 11th November 2019 in Sonning Common Library

1. Welcome

Jill Hutchinson (Chair of FoSCL) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. This was attended by Friends, Volunteers and members of the local community

2. Apologies were received from

Gordon & Chrissie Haigh, Non O'Dell, Chrissie Godfrey, Bev White, Teresa and David Jones, Chris Bickerton, Jeni Wood, Margaret Moola, Elaine, Carol Lewis, Alan Gibbon, Jill Greenwood, Pat Fraser, David Constable.

3. Minutes of the 2018 AGM

As the minutes had been previously distributed, Jill asked for any matters arising. There were no matters arising so the minutes were duly approved.

4. Chairman's Report

Jill welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming and delivered the following report.

'This year has been a busy one in the library, since last year we have again donated £900 into the book fund for Rosemary to spend as she wishes, and we hope you appreciate some of the other changes around the library. We have purchased two new noticeboards and some matching fabric for the rather faded ends of shelves in the junior section. We also have the new sofa and a new bookcase for Rosemary, to try and ease the congestion behind her desk, plus a small, hand-held vacuum cleaner and a fan/heater. Earlier this year the school was selling some of its overhead projectors and, as we needed one for our Authors' Evening, we purchased one of them, together with a spare bulb and a new drop-down screen. Our thanks go to Nesco Simic for helping to install it, and to Jenny's son Mike for all the help and advice he gave us.

Fundraising has continued with our regular membership donations, the aforementioned Authors' Evening, our tombola and book sale at the village fete and our annual quiz. Our photographic competition produced few entries, but congratulations to Helen Simic for her winning photograph of the harvest and many thanks to Katherine Fell for agreeing to act as judge for the competition. We have used Helen's photograph and some other photographs, kindly given to us by Dave Tyldesley, to produce a pack of six cards, available to buy for £3.50 from the library.

In addition to these fundraisers the library continues to offer regular events for the community. We have weekly tech sessions with volunteers offering valuable support to anyone who needs help with their gadgets. The Scrabble group continue to meet on a Friday morning and there is now a book group meeting at the library, as well as a knit and natter craft session. For children, we have our regular twice-monthly rhyme times, Saturday story times and stories and craft sessions on some feast days and holidays throughout the year. These are accompanied by a coffee and cake sale, and our grateful thanks go to all volunteers who contribute cakes; they are an important fundraiser for us as the proceeds are used to fund the craft mornings.

During the summer holidays, children and adults were encouraged to join the Summer Reading Challenge. The theme for the children this year was 'Space' and FoSCL helped to subsidise two events for the children – a craft workshop and a Lego Master Builders session.

Our volunteers continue to support us in so many ways – thank you to you all.

And our thanks of course to Rosemary, Annabel, Juliette and Lesley; there have been some hectic moments this year, thank you for staying calm and patient with us all.

Next year, we have plans for a Murder Mystery evening on 28th February, as a joint venture with Chiltern Players – look out for ticketing information in the new year and if anyone has any suggestions for the library, please do let us know.

I would like to thank the FoSCL committee for all their hard work throughout the year, particularly Jenny and her family, who work so tirelessly to support us. Thank you to Val Harris, who has decided to step down from the committee. I do hope some of you will consider joining us, we meet just 5 or 6 times a year, but are in contact via email, which helps to minimise meetings.

Our Library continues to be a busy hub within the Village.'

5. Treasurer's Report

Helen presented the audited accounts for 2018-2019 and explained the Income and Expenditure.

Total Income £3,537.95

£840 **Membership subscriptions.** This figure remained the same as the previous year.

£707 **Donations** Helen expressed her gratitude for all these generous donations, which were up by £87 on the previous year.

£206.80 **Cake sales and Scrabble mornings.** The profit from cake sales was lower than the previous year (by £94.27) but still helped to pay for the craft mornings.

£ 1,391.37 **Events** (Quiz, A Writer's Life, Summer Fair) This figure was £86.85 more than the previous year.

£392.78 **Gift Aid** A valuable source of income and well worth collecting. The next claim will be submitted shortly.

Total Expenditure £3,832.21

£973.24 **Books**

£187.92 **Craft** Previously included in the figure for books.

£746.77 **Events** This figure includes the cost of licences and professional workshops such as Master Builders Lego, 2 Art Pods and Library Lions. The income from the Library Lions event covered the cost but the others were subsidised a little.

£298.40 **Admin** These costs have previously been subsumed into Events but were perhaps greater this year because £97 (which will be more than recouped) was spent on printing the

greetings cards after the photographic competition. It also includes the cost of website registration, stamps, the short story books and fabric for recovering chairs.

£1,625.88 Capital Improvements The committee decided to spend more on such things as an overhead projector and screen, a sofa and new notice boards.

-£294.26 To FoSCL funds The above-mentioned capital improvements have resulted in a slight loss, ending the year with slightly less money in the bank than at the same point last year but this is what the fundraising is for, to provide things as well as books which enhance the library and its ability to run events.

Total FoSCL funds now stand at £4,425.18

The accounts had been audited and signed off. There being no further questions the accounts were duly accepted.

6. Librarian's Report

Rosemary thanked everyone for supporting the Friends either by annual subscription or by attending fundraising events. The money for extra books is very exciting! Of the £900 this year, £400 has been spent, £100 is on order and there is still £400 to be spent by Christmas Eve. Suggestions for books to cover stock gaps are always welcome. Rosemary offered to produce after Christmas a list of all the FoSCL books that had been added to stock and this was welcomed.

Rhymetimes are popular. Rosemary advertises them on the local Facebook pages the day before. The greatest number of people who have come to one of these is 30, which would seem to be a sensible maximum number. Rosemary said that more volunteers to lead these sessions would be most welcome.

The numbers of children attending the Saturday story times varied a lot – from one or two to over 20. Again, Rosemary said that more volunteers to lead these sessions would be most welcome.

At the Digital Help sessions on Thursdays the helpers can sometimes outnumber the people needing help, so Rosemary asked that people promote this service.

There is also the Scrabble Club on Friday mornings, which continues to be popular and sociable rather than terribly high-powered. Knit and Natter also runs on the last Friday of the month. Both Scrabble Club and Knit and Natter could accommodate more people and one volunteer stressed that even though the group is called 'Knit and Natter', one could draw, embroider, crochet or whatever.

Tuesdays with the school are busier, mainly due to a volunteer who brings children over for stories every week and the support of a particular teacher.

Rosemary explained that she does now (unlike last year) receive quarterly figures for library use but is not allowed to share these details. However, she was able to say that adult issues are up, junior issues down slightly and CD/DVD issues down a lot. The CD/DVD figure being down is due in part to the lack of new DVDs coming in but also it was suggested by Trish Rockell that streaming services such as Netflix may well have superseded DVDs in many households. Taken as a whole issues are slightly up, and Rosemary was able to share with the meeting that only 9 out of the 43 libraries in Oxfordshire were in this position, which is tremendously positive for Sonning Common Library.

7. Election of the Committee

Jill informed the meeting that the FoSCL constitution stated that the committee should stand for re-election every year and should serve a maximum period of five years. Val Harris is retiring from the Committee. The following Committee members are willing to stand again but it was noted that there would be a significant exodus in 2021!

Chair	Jill Hutchinson	2016
Treasurer	Helen Fort	2016
Secretary	Jenny Jones	2016
Minutes Secretary	Clare Keen	2017
	Trish Rockell	2017
	June Duckworth	2018

The re-election of the existing committee, apart from Val who has stepped down, was unopposed and the committee agreed to continue for a further year. Proposals were invited from the floor to join the committee. Gordon Haigh had already agreed to allow his name to go forward; Jenny proposed that he join the committee and Helen seconded it. Chrissie Godfrey is also willing to be co-opted onto the committee.

9. AOB

Rosemary explained that she would not be in the library for the following week but that it would be in safe hands with Annabel, Juliette and Lesley. She reminded everyone to let her have any suggestions for book purchases. She said that there was no necessity at this time to spend any money on more computers. In response to a question from the floor, Rosemary explained that the printing situation was now much easier as the (ill-advised) experiment with printing, whereby people could send documents to the library, had thankfully been discontinued.

The next AGM would be in November 2020, the date to be arranged nearer the time.

There being no other business, Jill thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.