

Volunteers' Voice

June 2013



NEWS UPDATE

Apologies for the delay in writing this edition of the Volunteers' Voice but we seem to have had a very busy few weeks since our last edition. We are still looking for someone to help us with the monthly production of the Volunteers Voice (and publicity work in general) so if you are interested please get in touch.

Many of you came to the AGM on 25 April - this was the AGM of the Limited Company (the New Haw Library Community Partnership) that we set up to run the Library – and we are required under the Companies Act to have an AGM some time between April and June each year. I think most people thought it was a good evening; the first hour was taken up with the formal side of the business – reports from the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Volunteer Co-ordinator (or me, Richard and Steve) and then we had a lecture from Professor Nigel Saul (from Holloway College) who spoke to us about Magna Carta and what it means – and looked forward to the celebrations that will happen in 2015 to mark the 800th anniversary.

As you know, the Community Survey has been going on during the first few months of the year – and Judi Linney and her team kindly produced the first cut of the report in time for me to give those who came to the meeting an idea of the recommendations.

In brief – the survey told us that the Library is broadly meeting the expectations of local residents and users but that there is scope for further improvement. We should consider

- Promoting the new role of the Library and its facilities to local residents;
- Supporting and developing the role of Library volunteers;

- Looking at the possibility of extending opening hours
- Improving book choice;
- Investigating the possibility of establishing specialist user groups;
- Considering further improvement and promotion of room hire facilities
- Improving and promoting IT facilities and provision of refreshments;
- Establishing an information/reference resource which will signpost people to local groups and services... and developing partnerships with local organisations
- Producing a Library Business Plan – involving all stakeholders, including SCC, Friends Volunteers and Users.

A few days ago – Judi Linney and Emma Whittinger came to present the summary report to the Management Group and it is now for the MG to decide which of the recommendations we will take forward and on what time scale. We hope to get the final version of the report shortly and we will make sure that you all see it – I would also be grateful for any comments you have on how we implement the recommendations.

I would like to say thank you again to Judi and her team (Emma, Margaret, Fiona and Samantha – with some help from Hamid and Moira and several others who provided support). I hope this will be the first of many such surveys that will help us to understand what local people and organisations want from us.

CONTINUED OVER



Just to mention a few things that are coming up – we are having a stall at the Midsummer Event in New Haw on 22 June – so come along and see us. Help on the stall gratefully received so that we make sure it is covered all day (and keep your fingers crossed for some fine weather).

We are looking forward to launching the Summer Reading Scheme. Some of you came along recently to speak to Karen and Nell from the SCC Team about what it would involve (talking to local schools and encouraging local children to take part in the scheme for a start – but lots more besides)) . One way and another we will all be involved with the scheme (which launches in mid July and we recently had an evening where we invited all volunteers along to tell you about it (and to share a glass of wine or a cup of coffee).

We are also planning a photography competition – launching in June – so watch out for that. We hope that some of the photos that are entered into the competition might provide us with Library Christmas cards this year (hopefully on sale in the Library from September).

Finally we welcomed a new member, Graham Osgood, to the Management Group in April. He has an interest in stock control and book supply – key to the running of the library. We also welcomed David Ashdown who is the group's Health and Safety advisor.

Finally , finally – we are always looking for more people to help us on the Management Group – if you are interested I would be happy to have a chat about it – contact me on carol.deakins@ntlworld.com

Carol
June 2013

VOLUNTEER'S NEWS:

We think it would be a nice idea for volunteers to share anything that has made them smile, perhaps while on duty in the library, or a particular piece of personal happy news. For example, maybe you or a loved one are celebrating a special birthday or event, the recent birth of a grandchild, or a personal achievement. Perhaps you have read a book you have enjoyed and would recommend; or how about turning that completely on its head and telling us which is your worst book. We could do a display in the library and see if the users of the library agree. It's been done in other areas and the books apparently disappear quickly off the shelves. If you would like to get the ball rolling, please submit your Happy News to Irene, Carol, Steve, or a member of the management team, so that we may include it in the Newsletter.

This would help us get to know more about each other and has the advantage of a corner of Volunteers' Voice being about the volunteers.

Contact us at carol.deakins@ntlworld.com,
irene.basley@nhlcp.org.uk, or steve.hunt@nhlcp.org.uk



DIARY DATES

JUNE

Woodham & New Haw Midsummer Event
22nd June @ Heathervale Park, New Haw,
bring your unwanted paper books to the
library for our sale ; volunteer to help or
come and visit our stall and take part in the
quiz.



On 24th June 2013 we are launching our local area photography competition with a closing date of 9th August. There are 3 age groups under 12's, 12 – 18 years and 18 + so get your cameras out and get snapping. There will be some great prizes. Entry forms available from the library.

FRIENDS EVENTS

On Monday 24th June there is a special Story Time being arranged on the topic of Fairies, please encourage the under fives to attend.

On Friday 28th June @ 12 for 12.30pm there is Story Time for Grown Ups. Bring a sandwich and relax whilst listening to a short story or excerpt from a work of literature. Coffee will be available.

REGULAR EVENTS

Monday 2.15 to 2.45pm. (F)
Story Time and Rhyme Time for the Under Fives. For further details contact June Knight on 01932 340360

The Evening Reading Group meets monthly, normally on a Friday evening. For further details contact Janet McMurtry on 01932 353457. (F)

[(F) = Events organised by Friends of New Haw Library]

