



FRIENDS OF ST. ANNES LIBRARY

AUTUMN 2011

friendsofstanneslibrary@gmail.com

Grand Opening for the Garden!



Hard work done, time to celebrate

ST ANNES library was packed inside and out on Saturday 7 May: stories were told, songs sung, maypoles danced 'round, kerchiefs flung, marches oompahed, faces painted, tunes fiddled, tea slurped, and a very important ribbon cut. It was the opening of the Reading with a View garden, of course.

Anne Fielding, Chair of the Friends of St Annes Library, welcomed our guest of honour, Taffy Thomas, the Storyteller Laureate, who cut the ribbon and then led the gathered children down the path to the pergola for an inaugural story.

With drizzly rain continuing and the first story told, Taffy and children retreated inside the library for more tales.

Contributing to the throng and general hubbub were Fiddle Faddle, the KEQMS singers, and salsa dancers. Outside, musicians from the Guardian brass band entertained in the marquee, and children from Heyhouses primary school danced the maypole and the Fylde Coast Cloggers did their thing.

Colourful creations adorned the faces of many children thanks to Kate Cox of Funky Monkey Face-Painting.

Our launch party was made possible in part by Community Spaces and support also came from St Thomas church in the form of tables and chairs for the day. Reading with a View was a long time in the making so it was great to pause, admire what we had achieved, and celebrate.

Garden in the spotlight

READING with a View has been getting lots of attention since it opened. We have seen many of you enjoying the flowers and plants and using the benches and pergola.

In the last few weeks, the garden has been visited by judges from Northwest in Bloom – fingers crossed for St Annes! We have also learned that the project has been nominated for two awards – one from New Fylde Housing for community gardens, and a second from Lancashire Environmental Fund, one of our generous funders, for Best Practice.

Watch this space!

Author talk: Jenn Ashworth



THE Friends eagerly welcomed Preston-based author Jenn Ashworth to the library in August. Jenn was a lively and humorous speaker and kept her audience engaged and enchanted throughout the evening with her thoughts on writing and on local life in general.

She read extracts from her first two novels, *A Kind of Intimacy*, published in 2009, and this year's *Cold Light*, which she describes as 'dark and funny'. She explained how her plots and characters are often based on untruths or personal interpretations of the truth.

She has also written many short stories and has taught creative writing at the Centre for New Writing at the University of Manchester and at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston.

After graduating from Cambridge University, Jenn worked as a librarian in a men's prison but now devotes all her time to writing and teaching. Earlier this year 'The Culture Show' named Jenn among the 12 best new British novelists.

We agree that she's one to watch – and read.

Stories from St Annes on the Sea

A LAUGHING Buddha, a pair of Derbyshire clogs, a collection of glass slides documenting a journey to India, a small silver box, a memento of a grandfather's role in WW1, and a well-travelled violin.

These are a few of the objects that have inspired entries on the

"Stories from St Annes on the Sea" community blog site.

The aim of the blog, a Friends project, is to capture stories St Anne's residents have to tell about objects they treasure and along the way capture the collective story of the St Annes community today.

The collection is growing and with each entry we are learning a bit more about who we are as a community.

To find out more visit the blog at <http://anneslibrary.wordpress.com> or email us: friendsofstanneslibrary@gmail.com

Waterin' and weedin'

THAT's what FoSAL's Garden Crew has been up to this summer. You may have seen us during the drier, warmer weeks: we were out there with our new hose making sure that the new plants had the water they need to get established.

A few weeds managed to fight their way through the deep layer of bark mulch so we've been plucking those out. We've also put a few bedding plants in the timber container and dotted them around the beds.

The garden was designed to be low maintenance but there will always be some work required to keep the garden looking good and the Friends have taken on that responsibility. We're all volunteers in the Garden Crew with everything from very little to a lot of gardening knowledge and experience. What we all share is an interest in keeping the Reading with a View garden looking tiptop.

Courtesy of the great people at Community Spaces, FoSAL has been awarded £3,500 to help us put on activities this year that will ensure the garden's long term sustainability.

We are using some of that money to have three workshops for Garden Crew volunteers with a horticultural tutor from Myerscough College. The first one was with tutor Jim Carrey on 28 May. Jim took us through the garden talking about key plants and their care. We learned about watering, pruning, fertilising and conditioning – skills and knowledge to use in the library garden but equally applicable in our own gardens at home.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Crew and would like to find out more, give Paula Fodor a call on 01253 720191

A very birdy day in the garden

WE joined forces with the RSPB on Saturday 25 June for A Birdy Day in the reading Garden.

Thanks to a sustainability grant awarded to us by Community Spaces, families had the chance to learn from RSPB staff and volunteers how to construct nesting boxes. A few lucky children were allowed to take a finished box home for free.

Inside the library, there was a display of birdy-themed books. Katie from Storytellers Inc was also on hand with a selection of

books and she entertained with tales in the pergola.

As part of the Reading with a View project, three nesting boxes have already been sited in trees in the library's garden. Next year we will have a keen eye on them to see if they become homes for our feathered friends.

We'll be having more events in the library garden throughout the year. A few are listed on the back page of this newsletter, but keep your eye on the library notice-board for announcements.



FoSAL Website

OUR new web site has now gone live at www.fosal.org.uk

You can also link to Facebook and Twitter from the home page.

It will keep you up to date with what is happening and allow you to look at photographs of various events put on by the Friends and the library staff.

We would love to have your feedback on the site so please have a look at it and send your comments to info@fosal.gov.org

Check out the new logo too. It is Thompson Dagnall's wooden sculpture which stands in the Reading with a View garden.

Friends patron



Books, garden: the staffs of life. Alan Foster with his granddaughter reading *The Owl and the Pussycat*

STAND-UP comic, writer and actor Jenny Eclair has agreed to become patron of the Friends of St Annes Library.

She had this to say about books and gardens:

'There are things in life that keep me sane and they are books and gardens. Life is nothing without reading and garden spaces so enjoy your books and when the sun comes out, enjoy both and take some time to think how lucky you are.'

Knit together

THE knitting group continues to grow – there are now 16 members who meet on the first and third Friday of each month from 10 am to 12 noon at the library. They are always happy to welcome new members so if you are interested, just come along to the next meeting and introduce yourself.

Beginner or experienced knitters, it doesn't matter.



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

Forthcoming events

3 SEPTEMBER – **Come and Read in our Garden**, a coffee morning and book sale. 10 am to 12 noon. Cold drinks will be served.

22 SEPTEMBER – **'Fylde Coast: Some aspects of its history and wild life'**. A talk by Peter Shakeshaft. 7.30 pm at the library. Entrance fee £2.

1 OCTOBER – **Older People's Event**, run by the library. Our patron, Jenny Eclair, a well-known comedienne, writer and performer, has been invited. Musical entertainment by Fiddle Faddle. Sessions to include Wii Fit, Ancestry, Go ON sessions.

12 OCTOBER – **FoSAL Annual General Meeting**. Details to be announced.

29 OCTOBER – **Autumn storytelling and scarecrow competition**. Details to be announced.

Ian Shearer

IT WAS with great sadness that the Friends learned of the untimely death of Ian Shearer in May this year. As well as being a founder member of FoSAL and its treasurer, Ian was well-known in the community for his activities with Amnesty International and the World Development movement, among others.

Ian and his wife, Seetha, worked tirelessly on the garden project. The Friends are currently talking to Seetha about the planting of a tree in the library garden with a plaque in Ian's memory.

FOSAL officers

Chair	Anne Fielding
Vice Chair	Barbara Mackenzie
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Paula Fodor
Membership Secretary	Pauline Germain
Web Site	Pam Foster

As you can see, the position of Secretary is currently vacant. If any member can offer help with this, please contact Anne Fielding or Barbara Mackenzie, or email info@fosal.org.uk