

# Friends of St Annes Library



## NEWS

DECEMBER 2008

friendsofstanneslibrary@googlemail.com

## Up and running!

WHEW! What a first six months we've had!

The Friends of St Annes Library was launched in the summer and since then the group has:

- Enhanced the library's garden, planting summer bedding (July) and winter bedding and spring bulbs (October) and turning an old rubbish bin into an attractive planter;
- Organised two talks on the early history of St Annes by local historian Peter Shakeshaft;
- Sponsored an exhibition on the history of St Annes presented by the Lytham St Annes Civic Society;
- Supported the Library's events for Lancashire Reads and Christmas;
- Organised a Party in the Garden in September which attracted hundreds of people to the library, launched the Friends' project to develop a reading garden in the library's grounds, got some great press, and raised more than £500.

We've got lots planned for 2009. So, if you haven't joined the Friends, what are you waiting for? Fill in the form on the back page, pick up a membership leaflet from the library or, if you prefer, email us at [friendsofstanneslibrary@googlemail.com](mailto:friendsofstanneslibrary@googlemail.com).

WANT to be a part of the next six months? Join us for the next meeting of the Friends of St Annes Library on Tuesday 6 January 2009. We'll be talking about plans for the reading garden and events for 2009, and sharing refreshments and a chat.





# PARTY in the Garden

AS IF by magic, on Saturday 27 September the torrential rains of August and September gave way to a beautiful autumnal day with sunshine, blue skies and a whisper of a breeze. Perfect weather for a Party in the (library) Garden!

The party was the lead-off event as the Friends began our efforts to create a garden made for reading in the library's grounds.

Peter Foley of Radio Lancashire and the Ribble Valley's Holden Clough nursery opened the day with generous words of support for the project.

On the lawns, the party began. Bubu Endresz, from Blackpool Tower Circus was the perfect toy soldier and entertained with his feats of juggling and wit; faces young and old were the canvas for the fanciful creations of Kate Cox of Funky Monkey Face Painting; Councillor Tony Ford and members of St Annes Rotary ran the coconut shy; visitors learned about St Annes sand dunes from Anne Heslop of Lancashire Wildlife Trust and about the Fylde's woodlands from members of the Lytham St Annes Civic Society; Christine Miller and Suzanne Butterworth ran a wildly successful tombola; and Maddie MacAlroy presided over the plant stall, which sold out.

Under Councillor Albert Pounder's big white marquee, Pat Ryder, Pat James and Adele Mullen ran the book stall and bran tub, the Ormerod Trust purveyed tasty pickles and chutneys, there were handmade cards

to be purchased and Glyn Eatock and friends gave everyone the opportunity to buy ethically with Fairtrade foodstuffs and crafts.

Seetha Shearer, Barbara Mackenzie, Anne Fielding and Pam Foster made sure we all gained a pound or two with their offerings of cakes and tea. Behind the scenes, Ian Shearer kept things ticking over as banker!

Members of St Annes Fire and Rescue brought along the big red pump to the delight of young visitors and signed up quite a few people for free fire safety checks. Pauline Germain and Councillor Fabian Wilson signed up new Friends.

## Our goal: a reading garden for St Annes

The fun continued inside the library, too. Young and old flocked to the regular story-telling sessions throughout the day, with the cast of Seussical the Musical also offering entertainment and a mask workshop by Ayla Shearer proving very popular.

Thanks to all Friends who contributed to the day and to Fylde Borough Council, the Fylde Local Strategic Partnership and all the local businesses that gave their support, including Flower Design, Margarets Florist, Booths Supermarkets, Marks and Spencer, and Bargain Books.

The day was a great success: We raised more than £500. Library users told us what they want to see in the reading garden. The local press helped us communicate our aspirations for the garden to the wider St Annes community.



Pictures, from left: Tea and cakes on the refreshments stand; butterfly face paint; and Peter Foley gets the party going

Rosemary Pritchard from Lancashire County Council will be attending the Friends' meeting on 6 January to review with us the ideas for the garden gathered so far and talk to us about what we need to do next to make the garden a reality.

## Support the Library – Become a Volunteer

ST Annes Library staff do a superb job putting on activities to suit the needs and interests of the wide range of people who use the library. With the help of volunteers they can do even more.

You need look no further than Friends Pat Ryder and Peter and Maureen Shakeshaft for examples of how the library's services are enhanced through the good services of volunteers. Pat helps with the Home Library Service, delivering books to those members of the St Annes community who find it difficult to get out, and Peter and Maureen run sessions to show library users how to research their family histories. So whether it's helping with the library's activities for children or helping to digitise archive materials, there's lots volunteers can do to help support St Annes Library.

For more information on becoming a volunteer for the library, speak to one of the library staff or call on 01253 643900.

## Knitting Together

LOVE to knit but looking for a bit of company and emotional support when it comes to increasing, decreasing or turning a heel?

Knitting Together, the new knitting group at St Annes Library, could be just the thing you're looking for. The group will meet at the Library on the first Friday of the month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

For more details, ask at the library or drop us a line at [friendsofstanneslibrary@googlemail.com](mailto:friendsofstanneslibrary@googlemail.com).

## Friends Events in 2009

FRIENDS Pauline Germain, Kate Cartmell and Pat Holdsworth have put their heads together and come up with some ideas for Friends events. These could include:

- Coach trips to various places of interest in the North West.
- An exhibition in the library focusing on Andrew Carnegie and his role in founding the library
- Speakers and author visits
- Storytelling and creative writing workshops

If you've got ideas for events which the Friends could organise or support or you'd like to get involved, come along to our 6 January meeting. And look out for details of forthcoming events through future newsletters or on our Friends bulletin board at the library.

## Friends of Lancaster Library

IN November Paula Fodor and Seetha Shearer attended a meeting of the Friends of Lancaster Library at the invitation of their Secretary.

This was a great opportunity to share our experiences and plans. With a major rejuvenation of Lancaster library underway, funded by a Big Lottery grant, the group's vision is to develop a programme of regular arts events starting with a big launch on 17 January. Our Friends in Lancaster have dubbed themselves Vivid Arts.

For more details of their launch event, check out their page on Facebook.

# 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

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## Librarian's Corner



Tricia Virgo

TO inaugurate our regular feature celebrating the librarians who make St Annes Library the hub of our community, we asked Tricia Virgo, Senior Librarian, to write a few words as she moves on to a new role in the library service.

I ARRIVED at St Annes in August 2003, by way of Poulton and Garstang libraries, but only after 21 years of packing up house and moving 13 times with my husband, who served with the RAF – hence my occasional struggle with the Lancashire dialect and local phrases. I have worked in libraries in Surrey, Lincolnshire, Wiltshire and Buckinghamshire, and gone from a paper – based library management system to a computerised one along the way!

The past five years have been busy ones, but the highlights include celebrations to mark the building's centenary, starting – and keeping running – an evening reading group, participating in the Club Day processions in Lytham and St Annes, and not least seeing the establishment of the Friends Group for St Annes library which will keep alive my 'dream' of a Reading Garden to be used by our whole community.

I leave with regret, but am looking forward to my new post in which I will be working with library staff across the County to develop and deliver projects for the benefit of all our customers. I expect to be back here occasionally and will maybe see some of you then. So I hope it is not goodbye, just au revoir, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all well for the future.

The Friends of St Annes Library extend their heartfelt thanks to Tricia for her dedication and hard work and wish her all the best in her new role.