

Glemsford Library
Annual Parish Meeting April 2015

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting I am pleased to report the following:

April 2014 – April 2015

- Friends Group about 26 and formed a group of trustees post AGM last July.
- Finances healthy with thanks to Glemsford Angels, Patrick and Pauline Currie (Lunch), Phoenix Card Sales and donations made at the library.
- FoGL purchases for the library - clock, printer and display board
- Monthly Sewing Bee group
- Hospitality for annual Village Spring Clean and present at village events.
- New computers (with Minecraft!) and free WiFi
- Glemsford one of a number of libraries chosen to develop new arts opportunities so that films and streamed live performances can be enjoyed locally.
- Successful application to World Book Night April 2015 for free books
- Key events during the year:
Summer Reading Challenge and Budding Artists Mythical Maze morning
Fund raising lunch
Pied Piper Puppet Show
WW1 Poetry Tea

It is now four years since we responded to the consultation on the future of the library service in Suffolk and in our Expression of Interest our overarching aim was to reach out to the village of Glemsford and district and to become a multi-faceted hub of the area.

Key to this aim being achieved is the enhancement of the village hall. Included was a move to streamline the opening hours which we started last summer with a survey. Feedback from Suffolk Libraries means that more documentation is Parish and District Councillors, resident's association and other community organisations. Also there needs to be consultation with the younger age group and for the whole process to be led by the library manager.

Since early November this role has been covered by relief staff and continues to be so. Many of you will know Sue Tolley who has worked at the library for many years and always gave a kind word to everyone who came to the library. She went on sick leave last Autumn and I am pleased to say that she is much better but it is highly unlikely that she will be returning to her post here.

Much as I would prefer not to mention this I feel it cannot go unrecorded the intimidating effect on visitors to the library of the group of youngsters congregating outside the premises. It is not appropriate to dwell too much in this report about this but I do know that positive moves are being made via library staff and PC Gary Austin to engage with this age group.

In conclusion I wish to thank all friends and trustees, especially Anne Edwards and Anne Mallalieu, Patrick and Pauline Currie, Sue Tolley, Sue Vosper, Emma Watson and all library staff, Glemsford Angels, Glemsford Parish Council and Cllr Richard Kemp. Their support and enthusiasm throughout the year has made such a difference and so valued. Our library is a terrific asset for the village and for many is a vital link to getting out and meeting people as well as benefiting from the wide range of reading and musical tastes plus many other services.

Well worth and visit and free to join!

Harriet North
Friends of Glemsford Library, March 2015