



Friends of Milborne Port Library (FOMPL) DECEMBER 2018

The most important item this month has to be the future of our Library.

The Somerset County Council Cabinet came to a decision on how they propose to support this on 5 November 2018. Their suggestion is to create Community Library Partnerships, (CLP's) for the fifteen libraries currently at risk. If a CLP is created for Milborne Port we can expect to receive the 'Core Offer' (<http://somersetlibraries.co.uk/redesign/community-library-partnerships/>), plus £1000 per annum for an initial period of seven years. In addition they offer a further £1000 of 'matched funding' to support staffing costs only. 'Matched Funding' means that the CLP would have to find £1000 towards staffing costs. This total of £2000 would provide two hours per week of trained Library staff. This clearly reduces the service the Library can provide for its members but if we had enough committed volunteers it seems a possible way forward.

The current location costs will be too high to sustain but there are suggestions that the Library could temporarily be housed in the top floor of the Town Hall until a more suitable venue can be found. This obviously has implications for those who find stairs a problem, but again, this is where volunteers could assist. The current situation is that Milborne Port Parish Council have submitted an Expression of Interest to Somerset County Council. The Friends of Milborne Port Library continue to be more than willing to work with the Parish Council on the formation of a CLP should this come into being – we await further developments.

On a lighter note, two classes from Milborne Port Primary School visited on 27 and 29 November and Reception and Year One enjoyed being read to by our great story tellers, Sue Spencer and Tony O'Brien. We were also lucky to welcome Sue for a special Storytime session on Friday 23 November. She entertained the children with Christmas related stories before the annual Lights Switch On ceremony. It was lovely to have so many children and their families to what has become an annual event in the Library.

The Friends of Milborne Port Library would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Jill Spring