

Friends of Milborne Port Library (FOMPL) December 2017



Our news will start circulating just as the excitement of the Big Christmas Lights Switch On takes over the Village!

Our wonderful Sue Spencer will have been reading a **Bedtime Story** at our Library, between around 5.45-6.15pm, giving everyone time to cross the road for the 6.30pm Lights Switch On. As last year, our naughty library sheep will have been hiding around the library, waiting to be found & to be hung on our Christmas tree, before stories are read. We particularly appreciate the gift of the Christmas Tree from the Spirit of Milborne Port, and we hope its place in the Library, in all its decorated glory, will continue to cheer you all throughout the run up to Christmas.



Apart from this special pre-Christmas Story, we may have to take a break from the regular weekly Story Times, as currently, this doesn't seem to work for anyone. But PLEASE do let the library staff know if you'd like us to resurrect these and what day & time would suit you (and your friends?) best. We have a great team of volunteers who take these FREE sessions. Please do come along and help us share books with your children!

An exciting development for adult readers is the promise of a visit from local Author, Caroline Newark, in January.

Caroline will be talking of how her 17 times great-grandmother was the inspiration for her new book, *The Fair Maid of Kent*. Advance publicity describes this as "the story of an enduring love in a dangerous world where a man may not be all he seems, and your most powerful enemy is the one you cannot see!"

It is indeed a fascinating story, both about the Fair Maid of Kent, and about how Caroline Newark discovered the family connection.

This Author Visit will be at **10.30 am on Thursday 18th Jan**. FREE tickets will be available at the Library from 24th November. You all know how little space there is in our Library, so hurry to secure your Ticket to avoid disappointment. You won't fit in without one!

Last month we reported that the Friends had met with representatives of the Parish Council and the County Council to exchange ideas about prospects for the next three years, and beyond, in the face of severe financial cut-backs. This was just one of a round of similar meetings held with library stakeholders across the County.

Rick Jones, our representative on Friends of Somerset Libraries (FOSL), reports that the County Council now plans to distribute 'various communications' to libraries and the Press to promote **public consultations from mid-January**. It sounds as though we shall have to recover quickly from all the Christmas jollifications, and get down to what threatens to be serious work for the future of our Library. Hopefully, we will know when, and how, the public consultation is to take place in time to alert you all in the next issue of the Magazine.

Meanwhile, a Happy Christmas and Good Reading in the New Year!