

Friends of Milborne Port Library (FOMPL) May 2018



Much current activity centres on Somerset County Council's proposals for the Library Service.

The proposed options for Milborne Port are, either the involvement of 'the community' to keep the Library open, or a monthly visit from a Mobile Library.

We hope you have given this some thought and made your voice heard by completing the Consultation Questionnaire. You can do this directly Online at www.somerset.gov.uk/consultation. Printed questionnaires are also available at the Library.

The deadline for taking part in the Consultation is 13th June.

The sub-committee of the Parish Council, including Councillors and Trustees of the Friends, will be exploring the practical possibilities of the proposals for our Library.

The Friends of Somerset Libraries (FOSL) are also working hard behind the scenes and our Representative on FOSL, Rick Jones, gives us this very interesting report:

“On 13 April Council Library staff and 3 from Friends of Somerset Libraries (FOSL) visited Devon Libraries who have an external company, **Libraries Unlimited**, running their 54 libraries. The external company was formed by their own council staff who saw the opportunity and identified savings and took the jump to make up a company. They have been running successfully for 2 years thus far. All Libraries retain paid library staff, though across the county volunteers, where they exist, help, though they are not on their own. We think it unlikely Somerset will try this as we are still in a consultation phase. Next that afternoon we visited Saltash, in Cornwall, who have a different model, again unlikely to help Somerset. We will leave the council to consider what they have seen, as well as a proposal we have outlined to them to make savings.

Several other Libraries have formed new **Library Friends Groups**, though they didn't in 2010 when libraries survival was first threatened. We continue to communicate with these other Somerset Library Friends groups as we feel that pressure and ideas from all libraries under FOSL may be our best chance of effecting council decisions. Another FOSL meeting with the Council Library Service has been set up for May.”

There is at least something light-hearted to look forward to. There are rumours of a **Murder**, and we'll need budding Hercule Poirots or Miss Marples to solve the Mystery! We'll have full details of this event next month but, meanwhile,

**Make a Date in your Diary for
10 a.m., Thursday June 28th.**



Keep in touch with developments and news of events on Facebook, via "Friends of Milborne Port Library FOMPL".



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