

# Friends of Milborne Port Library (FOMPL)

The 4th of February marks the anniversary of the 2011 national day of protest against proposed cuts to Library Services, when we made such an effective demonstration then that we were on TV and mentioned in national Broadsheets!

**Were you there?**

**Make sure to be with us again this February 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9.30 to 12.30, when we celebrate our Library and all things to do with Books.**



**Do drop into the library**, where there will be a Love Your Library Tree on which you can post your appreciation of the Library and all it offers. The Tree will be in situ for the whole week so, you can add your messages earlier if necessary. Children will be appearing in their **favourite character costumes** – and you are free to dress up too! (Rumour has it that Gandalf will be around!) Look out for the launch of our new **Jigsaw Puzzle library** there and register your interest and whether you have puzzles to lend or donate.

**Then cross the road and visit the Town Hall** where there will be much for you to enjoy. Downstairs, the WI will be providing refreshments especially for this occasion as part of their own national campaign in support of Libraries. Upstairs local authors and illustrators will show their work and sign books. We are fortunate to have so many talented people living in the surrounding area and this will be your chance to meet some of them and talk about their work. There will also be a Book Sale.

A treat for children 5 yrs or over will be a

**Pop-Up Workshop run by author and illustrator Paul Stickland  
([www.paulstickland.co.uk](http://www.paulstickland.co.uk)) from 10.30 – 11.30 at the Town Hall.**

*[Numbers will be limited for this FREE event, so register in advance via the Library.]*



We look forward to as good a turn out for **National Libraries Day** as we had at the Hullabaloo Demo this time last year, when together we said it Loud and Clear – Hands Off Our Library.

While we Celebrate the saving (so far!) of our Library, we continue to say it Loud and Clear as members of the Friends of Somerset Libraries (FOSL). Interactions between FOSL and Somerset County Council (SCC) have a backdrop of the successful court case, where FOSL stopped SCC closing libraries, reducing hours, and reducing mobile libraries. However we remain concerned as to the future, as SCC still has a financial problem, and we are talking to them to assist in achieving both aims: keeping libraries open while saving money.

Watching a news website closely, we have noted some comments by a particular councillor: “The High Court victory over library closures across Somerset is likely to be meaningless in the long-term, according to a county councillor”. The councillor in question is not the one we are dealing with; we are working with the cabinet member responsible for the future plans, who has said formally she intends to engage with groups, including FOSL. The new Libraries Director, who is permanent SCC staff, has said: “I can assure you that there is a real commitment to have a fresh look at options for the service.”

**Thus we are cautiously and defensively optimistic as we plan for this meeting.**

We need your support and involvement as much as ever and, if you are not already a member of the Friends, do join us (Membership forms at the Library and the Post Office).

**And we look forward to seeing you at our Celebration on 4<sup>th</sup> February**