



Friends of Milborne Port Library

The Friends recently had another in their series of meetings with representatives of the County and Parish Councils and here is a brief summary of items discussed.

The long-term plan is for the Library to share space in the new Community Hub in the Redcliffe Homes development on Station Road and Wheat Hill Way. The outline application for the Hub building has been approved, but we await the full application. There are new technologies around these days for allowing access to the building for different users, but it's early days yet to plan that in detail. The current plan is exciting, and in cooperation with the History and Heritage Group a selection of heritage items will be on continual display, with books beneath. We have tweaked the internal layout and will look at under-floor heating instead of radiators to free up wall space, though this would need funding.

It is hoped that the Static Mobile Library will provide a home for the Library until the Hub is ready. The favoured venue remains the East Street car park. SCC expect to take over a new Mobile Library for regular use in June. They will fit out the interior, put it into service, and deliver the old one to the village. We have a list of issues which will need resolving. Obviously there will not be as many books in the static library as at present, nor will there be space for jigsaws and computers save possibly a laptop.

The search for a name for the Bus continues. The latest inspired suggestion is to incorporate letters from the name – 'MILborne port LibrarY' to create "MILLY". That certainly sounds affectionate and as we expect to become very fond of our temporary home, is definitely appealing. But the search goes on!

Meanwhile, the Library has been a buzz of Easter themed activity. From 6th April, children came to make an egg carton Bunny, to be filled with an Easter Egg, to take home with them. There was also a very popular Treasure Hunt, with images of chicks, bunnies and eggs hidden around the room, plus bunny dot-to-dot and colouring sheets to do. Look around the Library when you are next in there and see the results. (See the image attached below).

Lucy, our student volunteer, has been very involved with the holiday activities, including setting up – by special request – a Thomas the Tank Engine Treasure Hunt. Lucy has been helping in the Library since October last year, working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Silver award. She finishes her work at the end of the month and will be posting a display about her work in the Library, so do look out for that too.

Our thanks go to Lucy, and we wish her good luck with her progress through the DofE award scheme. Next time Gold, Lucy!

Christine Partington

