

Friends of Milborne Port Library (FOMPL)

September 2017



The Summer Reading Challenge is in full swing and so far, some 60 children have signed up.

There is still time to join in because, although technically the Challenge ends on 3rd September, our Library will be keeping it going until Sept 12th.

The grand finale will be our End of Challenge Party on 16th.

Time and place are still secret, but all who have taken part will be invited.

Friends volunteers have been spending an hour a day in the Library - when open - to help the Library staff with the Challenge work, chatting to the young readers, reading to them or doing some of the Challenge activities with them. The times we've set for this are:

Tuesdays 3-4pm, Fridays & Saturdays 10-11am.



One of the volunteers, Tony O'Brien, has been making good use of his time between chatting to children about the Challenge, to help with 'Reviving the Stock' time.! This is when staff aim to weed out any old, battered, or unpopular books from the shelves, ready to make way for new stock. A special thankyou to Tony for this extra help. Don't forget that the Library is always grateful for donations, and our village seems to be very good at passing on books to swell the stock.

Looking further ahead, we're thinking about National Libraries Week, which will be happening in its new time, from 9th – 14th October.

We'll have more detail of what will be on offer in our report next month,
and meanwhile look out for any Posters advertising events.

Friends of Somerset Libraries (FOSL) had one of their occasional meetings with County Council representatives in July. Rick Jones gives us this report.

"3 Friends of Somerset Libraries representatives met with 4 Somerset County Council Officers who outlined various issues: medium term funding & strategy, technology investment programme, fixtures & furniture investment, customer survey, recognition of achievement for Friends groups and Service Manager Development. "All very technical and many of their ideas have not yet been put to the Council hierarchy.

"The 28% budget reduction made through efficiencies since 2011 may be becoming unsustainable as the service is showing signs of being overstretched and under invested. This has resulted in some ad hoc library closures due to minimal staffing levels. The Revenue Support Grant from the government will reduce to zero in 2020/2021 giving an extremely challenging time for the library service as well as all other council areas.

"A comprehensive analysis of library catchment, mapping library use by borrowing, computer and Wi-Fi use and need has been undertaken. Are there other criteria that could be added to provide further meaningful analysis? The analysis of the catchment information could form the basis of evidence which will show the position and role of each library."

A further meeting has been set up in September, and our thanks, as always, go to Rick for the work he puts in for us at County level as our representative on FOSL.