

Minutes of

The Park Bench 3rd Annual General Meeting

Held at

Julian House, Little Bishop Street

On

Thursday 15th January 2009

Present Linda Ewles, Richard Drake, Heather Lister, Stella Wintle, Rosemary Andoh, Cherry Harris, Lucy Palmer.

Apologies Steve Witt, Ruth Williams (Salvation Army) Annie Eatwell, Andrew Watson.

Business outstanding from our last meeting on 9 October 2008:

- Minutes of last meeting were read and agreed
- Quarterly figures (Oct – Dec 2008) were discussed. Linda was thanked for providing these and all the figures.

AGM

1. Welcoming remarks were made by Linda Ewles (Chair) and gratitude was expressed to the Julian Trust for use of the venue.
2. **Chair's Report.** Linda summarised the Chair's Report, as it appeared in the Annual Report. She remarked that she enjoyed writing the report, and reflecting on the unique service we provide; books provide not only an escape, but enlightenment and enrichment in people's lives.
She said that she was aware of the numbers of people who had helped the library in various ways. She described Heather (our secretary) as the "powerhouse" behind the organisation, and thanked Richard for his support as "sub-station"! Thanks went to all volunteers, and all who have donated books. Special thanks were given to Cherry and Simon for facilitating bookshop donations.
3. The Treasurer reported that The Park Bench was running on a shoestring, and running well. Figures are presented in the Annual Report. There is no need for fund-raising yet, but if we opened up at another venue, we would need to raise some money for basic equipment.
4. The Trustees were asked whether we had enough volunteers. Lucy remarked that if we recruited more volunteers, we would be spread more thinly, and would not have as much contact with borrowers as we do at present. We have had no problems

covering sessions, and there is enough “slack” in the system for people to step in if others are ill or unable to attend.

There was some discussion around the numbers of borrowers, which fluctuate even within short time periods, for reasons it is hard to discover. Numbers remain unpredictable. We also reminded ourselves of “non-borrowing contacts,” when we are recognised and engaged in friendly and often profound conversation. This is a worthwhile aspect of our service.

Questions were asked about the progress of Nicola Harris’s research on library provision for homeless people. It was agreed to send her an Annual Report and enquire about progress.

Richard was asked about the visit from The Park Bench, a rock band in Derby who found us on the Internet and came to perform at a Caring @Christmas session. Though a little loud for some tastes, the gig went well – it was their first performance outside Derby and they were pleased with the experience.

5. All Trustees were unanimously re-elected to the positions they are currently holding.
6. The meeting ended at about 8.45, and refreshments were enjoyed.

Dates of next meetings

16 April 09

16 July 09

15 October 09

21 January 10 (AGM)