

**THE PARK BENCH
GENERAL MEETING**

7.30 Thursday 22nd Oct. 2009 at 9 Nottingham Street Bristol BS3 4SS

Minutes

1. Greetings and introductions

Present at meeting: Stella, Heather, Richard, Lucy, Carol

Apologies: Linda,

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting on 16th July were approved.

3. Treasurer's report.

Richard reported that there have been no significant movements since the last meeting. The balance in the bank account stands at £409.86 at 12 October 2009, but this is before the cost of the London trip and a few expenses incurred by the secretary.

4. Operations

Figures for this quarter are attached to these minutes.

New Street

The loan system has been simplified recently by the removal of the white cards, borrowed titles are just listed in the book as at the Salvation Army.

Although we discussed changing the opening hours we have not done so as a later close starts to run into lunch time and there hasn't been a noticeable last minute rush of late.

The Salvation Army hostel.

Running nicely, fairly quiet but still appreciated.

Other libraries & bookshelves

We have bookshelves at

- a.** The Big Issue offices
 - b.** Townsend House (women's hostel)
 - c.** The Well
 - d.** One25
 - e.** Naomi House – a mother and baby home
 - f.** Julian Trust – a nightshelter for the homeless
- Heather continues to make regular visits to all these places. Richard & Heather plan to do a major book sort in the next couple of weeks.

5. Book movements

Nothing to report.

6. Volunteers

We've had two or three promising applications from new volunteers and a previous volunteer returning to us.

7. AOB.

On 17th October three of our volunteers (Heather, Stella and Carol) went to London at the invitation of the Phoenix mobile library to celebrate their 10th anniversary. The Phoenix was the original inspiration for the Park Bench. As well as speakers from the Phoenix library, Heather spoke about the Park Bench and there were also presentations from Outside Story, a project to improve access to library services for the homeless.

The Phoenix were inspired to follow our example of replenishing bookshelves in other locations and there were several other expressions of interest in our work.

8. Next meeting

Our next meeting will be the AGM in January, Linda & Heather will agree a date and venue and issue the appropriate notice.