



Newsletter No 2: Winter 2016/17

Plans for an autumn newsletter didn't quite happen – busy times! We have been both lobbying and running events to raise funds – with successes on both counts.

Council budgets are still being cut, but for the moment it looks as if we will see little change in Ledbury Library for the financial year 2017/18. This means we can spend a few months planning for the future before more lobbying will be needed in the budget round, in Autumn 2017.

We are looking at a project to demonstrate that Ledbury Library should be open for the same number of hours as Ross and Leominster Libraries. We anticipate that such a project would cost about £5000. More news on this once we have investigated the feasibility.

As always, thank you for your continued support. It's only by working together that we will succeed in ensuring our library continues and thrives. Hereford Council respond very much to numbers so keep borrowing books and keep encouraging people to join the library. Happy reading!

Nina Shields, Chairman

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Update on Autumn events:

October Demonstration

In October, we joined up with other Herefordshire libraries and mounted a demonstration outside Shire Hall, Hereford. Councillors were meeting to decide the 2017/18 budget for the county's libraries. Several of the independent councillors came out to talk to us, which was appreciated. Most of us then went in to listen to the meeting. For some of us this was the first experience of a council meeting, quite an education. It wasn't clear from the discussions what impact there would be on Ledbury Library but clarification since has indicated that we

should not see more cuts or changes during the coming budget year.

November Book Sale

Following the success of our July book sale, we mounted a second one in November.



We had listened to the feedback and thanks to a team of volunteers, we succeeded in stewarding the sale every day it was open.

The fiction was displayed in alphabetical order by author, which seemed to be much appreciated.

Although only open for 3 days, we managed to raise just over £600 enabling us to donate some additional folding chairs for events in the Master's House.

We've already booked dates for two book sales in 2017!

Annual Quiz

November 21st saw our annual quiz, once again 'masterminded' by Sara-Jane Arbury. This year the venue was the Royal Hall, The Southend (next to the Royal Oak inn). The Heaney family kindly donated the hall and food and made every effort to ensure we had a good evening – many thanks to the family. Despite atrocious weather, we had an excellent turnout and the coveted Quiz Shield was won by the Fairy Dorks team.

Once again we had tremendous support for our raffle from local businesses and members.

Our thanks to the following businesses for their donations:

Cutting Club, Elegance, Ethos, Gaynan Jewellers, John Goodwin, Gurneys, Handley Organics, Hay Wines, Juice Jewellery, The Kitchen Cupboard, Ledbury Hardware, Market House Café, Muse Café, John Nash, Nice Things, The Retreat, Sitara, Sweet Memories, Tesco, Tinsmiths and Westons Cider.

We made just over £600 to support schools events at the Library.

Looking to the Future

Ledbury Library is now pretty well stocked with books and equipment. This is giving us the opportunity to explore how we can support events. Trying to arrange author events ourselves is something of a challenge so it makes sense to support the ones being

planned in the Master's House. We are giving priority at the moment to schools events and will discuss this further at our AGM in April.

We continue to work with Joint Action for Herefordshire Libraries (JAHL). In turn, JAHL works with the Library Service and we continue to try to find ways to ensure our libraries have a sustainable future. With County Councils having their funding cut, we need to find other income for our libraries.

Research continues on this. Meanwhile, between user groups and the library teams, we are getting some recognition from Herefordshire Council that Herefordshire Library Service is one of the most cost effective in the country and highly valued by residents.'

Future Events

April 2017 LLDG AGM - to be confirmed

July 17th to 22nd 2017 – **Book Sale**

November 13th to 18th 2017 – **Book Sale**

November 2017 Annual Quiz to be confirmed

February 2018 Chris Beardshaw - garden designer, Chelsea gold medal winner and TV gardening guru.



Fund Raising If we want to support library events, lobby or run projects to produce evidence to present to the council, we need to continue to raise money. If you have ideas for fund raising events that you would like to run anything from a coffee morning or lunch party at your home to sponsored runs/cycle rides - do get in touch. Every little helps.