

Partnerships:

Board members have enhanced our collaboration with other local providers, such as the Britten Pears Foundation with the Red House facilities and staff, Aldeburgh Cinema, Aldeburgh Church Hall and the Wentworth Hotel.

The Library is seen as a major educational resource, and partners are keen to help us in achieving this aim. Currently with nearly 1000 users in the Aldeburgh area, and good links with school children and their parents, we believe the Library will continue to serve the whole community across the spectrum from very young to elderly, working adults and retired.

Adult Education classes:

We provided over 40 different courses during 2017/18; with over 650 enrolments the programme continues to develop. The new large screen computer/TV in the Library has enabled tutors to conduct film-related courses and to show art history artefacts. Music, zumba, three European languages, Literature and American Politics continue to be popular, along with innovations and additions to the programme. Students are chief amongst the volunteers in distributing the Autumn and Spring brochures to all local residents.

The Friends of Aldeburgh Library:

Ensuring wide public participation in shaping the future of the Library was a key commitment of the origins of ALF. The Friends of Aldeburgh Library (FOAL) has been established as an integral 'supporters arm' of the Foundation, initially built around the core of adult course subscribers and others, and by 2016 we had 300 members. Those who join FOAL are also Associate Members of the Foundation, participating in its governance by nominating a member of the Board, as do the Town Council and the Aldeburgh Society. The benefits to FOAL members have been extended to include an Aldeburgh Loyalty Card, which gives members a 10% discount in local businesses.

The Foundation has raised funds (via adult courses income, tea/coffee sales and applications for small grants and, through the library staff, the sale of charity Christmas cards) and has from 2013, already carried out improvements to the building and its facilities in the provision of toilets, kitchen and furniture for classes. From 2016 FOAL significantly supported the refurbishment of the inside of the library by replacing the original carpet tiles and book storage (over 50 years old) and enhanced IT facilities, updated computer equipment, and a refurbished Children's Area.

The refurbishment began with the replacement of all windows and doors in the library funded by Suffolk County Council.

### The Library Manager:

We were pleased to welcome Sue Osben as our new Library Manager in Spring 2017. The board had reviewed the work of the Library Manager in progressing the vision of Suffolk Libraries, and of the Aldeburgh Library Foundation. The annual FOAL income has now been put toward an extension of hours for the new Manager, to enable more time to be spent on partnerships with schools and other groups to use the Library, on exhibitions and displays, and on leading the team of dedicated Library Assistants. The board has been delighted with the extra time that has been given to promoting the work of the Library and ALF, notably in regular update pages drafted by the manager in Aldeburgh Gazette and Aldeburgh Times.

### The next major project:

Newer members of the ALF Board have spent 18 months considering the challenges before the library, as a shining example of the county wide co-operative 'Suffolk Libraries', over the next 5 years. Consideration of the day to day work of the library, and the opportunities for more IT-based learning, have led to a project adopted by the Board, and a feasibility study by an architect which will progress to further fundraising and building work in 2019, following consultation and planning approved in 2018.