

## Annual Report for 2018/19

### 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 50 different courses during 2018/19; with over 700 enrolments the programme continues to develop. The new 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, World History continued 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, doors and roof in the library funded by Suffolk County Council.

#### The Library Manager:

Sue Osben completed her second year as our new Library Manager in Spring 2018. 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.

#### Capital Building Project

By March 2019 the ALF Board progressed the natural stage 3 of the Library's refurbishment, building on what has been done over the past six years. This stage will increase the space in the library, improve the reception and access to facilities, build a new exterior entrance and provide paved seating areas and access to all parts of the front of the building. Architects Studio Gray were appointed and plans approved by the Board, Suffolk Libraries, Suffolk County Council and the planners. Builders R Duncan were appointed to progress the first major stage in 2019, with additional internal works planned for 2019/20.

ALF is able to carry out this work through the support of the community for its adult courses and other events, augmented by donations through its Bees Appeal, and where possible grants. It has also the capacity to borrow when necessary. Works are expected to be completed in August 2019, subject to weather.

#### Financial Report

The Aldeburgh Library Foundation continues to have strong financial performance, contributing just over £6,800 to the continuing support and improvement of the Library. The overall net funds on the charity's account rose to just over £30,000 at the end of the financial year, an increase of just over £7,500 in anticipation of the 2019 building works.

#### Financial Reserves policy

As a Charity we have a declared financial reserves policy to hold sufficient to meet our contractual obligations for running costs of the charity looking ahead 12 months. These costs are typically under £6,000 pa. The Charity has no employees nor any other contractual obligation that exceeds 12 months.

David Grugeon: Chair

Robin Boyd: Treasurer

On behalf of the Aldeburgh Library Foundation Board