



To all continuing members of The Friends of Aldeburgh Library (FOAL)

Dear Friends of Aldeburgh Library,

The last year has been difficult for all kinds of community services, but we are pleased to say that our Library has played its part in keeping in touch with a wide range of people. Many thanks are due to Sue Osben, the Library Manager and her team. The Friends of Aldeburgh Library (FOAL), our members, have remained stalwart supporters of the Library. The Foundation (ALF) has also continued with its reduced timetable of Courses and Talks, and many of our adult students have been kind enough to say that the online sessions have been a lifeline over the winter.

The Government has announced its roadmap for the relaxation of lockdown, and we will be offering an expanded course timetable for our Summer Term (April to June). In May it is possible that we will be offering some courses that are appropriate for groups meeting outdoors. We will also be offering courses when we can take up to 6 people (socially distanced of course) in the Library and have more participating online by zoom. Most of our courses will continue by Zoom and will run on into June.

We have looked at our activities, curtailing where no longer possible or appropriate, and husbanding our resources to support a recovery of activities in the Library.

When we started in 2012 we had gift aid donation to become a member. Since 2014, we have offered a Loyalty Card entitling FOAL members discounts to some shops and services in the Town. Over time this card has been less used. The costs of printing, administration and mailing have made it seem worth suspending the card for the rest of the Pandemic. So, for 2021-2, we will not be offering a Loyalty Discount Card to members. This will enable us to return to Gift Aid to our foal membership. We will use the funds to support a re-start of the community, educational and social activities in the Library as we come out of lockdown in the summer. We can continue to benefit from the major refurbishment, including the recent addition of outdoor seating areas.

May we urge you to renew your membership, using the forms provided. We have more things to do and to achieve.

With all good wishes,

David Grugeon

Chair of Aldeburgh Library Foundation