



charity no. EW39477

Friends of Colyton Library  
Corner Market Place & South St.  
Colyton  
EX24 6NQ

Dear Simon,

We, the Friends of Colyton Library, (FoCL) would be delighted to invite you to visit our library in the most rebellious town in Devon. Our library is one of the smallest in Devon with the biggest Friends group impact.

Our successes have included:

- Saving the library from closure in 2007.
- In partnership with the Parish Council and Libraries Unlimited (the charity which runs Devon Library services) we are responsible for the maintenance and running costs of the library building thereby ensuring that Colyton has a vibrant facility for people of all ages.
- A flourishing volunteer team run an extra session to increase the opening hours and support the library service.
- Through successful fundraising we have solar panels on the roof, an outside WiFi bench for use by the community, and are about to install a new environmentally friendly eco-heating system.
- Supporting lots of children's events financially.
- Encouraging the library to be used by book groups, a play reading group, a Shakespeare group, Knit and Natter.
- Founding a Memory Cafe for the Town.
- Our group has about 70 members and on the committee we have a young member (age 14) who contributes actively, keeping us in touch with the views of his generation.
- Recent activities (prepandemic) that we have organised include author events, quizzes, summer outings, a poetry competition, and an art project for young people.
- We like to be proactive and always have something new in the pipeline.

Colyton is a wonderful, friendly, historic town that works tirelessly to protect and improve facilities for its community:

- Colyton takes great pride in being proactive, spirited, determined and, when necessary, unashamedly rebellious in dealing with both local and national issues. Following its involvement in the 1685 Monmouth Rebellion and the Battle of Sedgemoor, Colyton rightly earned the title of "The Most Rebellious Town in Devon."
- This rebellious spirit has been maintained in several, more recent, local "battles". The community mobilised to save our Post Office and our Fire Station, to hold a street market (against the council's wishes) based on an Act of Parliament that had never been rescinded and, of course, to save our Library. We hit the national news in 2018 when residents rose up in support of a neighbour who was criticised anonymously for hanging her washing in her front garden. Underwear and other

items were proudly displayed on quickly erected washing lines throughout the streets of Colyton, some even draping from flag poles!

- On a more proactive level, the community was heavily involved in ideas leading to the construction of a superb Youth Centre with extensive facilities.
- Colyton is a small town with a big heart. Whenever it sees a need or an opportunity to help and improve the life of its community, it gets things done! It has a proven record of tackling all opportunities with enthusiasm and commitment and would love to be involved in the 2022 Libraries Tour.

#### Celebration event:

- Our library building is going greener, adding a brand- new heating system to complement the solar panels already installed. This will make our library more cost efficient with reduced running costs enabling increased access to the building outside current opening hours.
- We want to celebrate our funding achievements and our volunteer efforts to realise our vision of making our library greener and more environmentally friendly.
- We will welcome you and our community to the launching of our new Poetry Club for young people and our new Literary Group who will creatively entertain us with the power and pleasure of words reflecting on the environment and the need to create a more sustainable world for future generations.
- We would love you to officially 'launch' our new heating system as part of our celebrations.

#### Practicalities:

- We are very flexible regarding the day of the week of an event but were thinking of a start time of around 5pm so that school students can attend.
- We can accommodate around 25 people without distancing and probably around 12 with.
- We can provide a lectern and PA if required.
- We are confident we can meet the technical requirements. The library is having an IT upgrade very shortly and we can let you have full details if we are successful, but we did not want to delay our invitation. We are fortunate in Colyton in having a Town Hall and a modern community centre either of which could be used for live streaming the event.

Thank you on behalf of the committee of FOCL for reading our invitation. This would be a wonderful opportunity for our library and our whole community.

Jane Dauncey  
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