JUNE 2022

I am very sad to be writing this newsletter following the sudden death of Professor Tom Scott, one of our valued trustees who has always prepared this in the past. We are going to miss Tom tremendously and send condolences to his family. Tom was a key part of the library trust and spent time deciding on purchases, cataloguing books, preparing the newsletter, editing and supporting our publications. Tom was also involved in fundraising and many other things besides. Tom was also a much valued member of the community and was involved in Westerkirk Parish Church and a great supporter of Langholm Rugby Club.

Towards the end of May, Mairi, Tom and April met with Katy Jackson from the South of Scotland Enterprise along with a colleague from Dumfries and Galloway Museum, Judith Hewitt and a colleague, Jacob O’Sullivan from Museums and Galleries Scotland to discuss the proposed extension project. Advice from them was that we should try to create a strategy for the library and begin to get activities going again before considering seeking funding for the project. Katy is keen to offer support in the future and it seems she will be a very worthwhile contact.

Howard Buckley and his daughter carried out a feasibility study for an extension to the library offering a reading room, toilet facility and small exhibition space. Some further work on this is required but the recommendation on the old school was that it is not worth pursuing an asset transfer from Dumfries and Galloway Council to take on ownership of the building. Council staff have now been informed of this situation. We would like to hold a public consultation event at some point about our proposals.

We have submitted an application to take part in Doors Open Day Dumfries and Galloway which will take place this year on Saturday the 3rd and Sunday 4th September. We will need help with this and propose to open the doors of the library from 1pm – 5pm on both days. The 3rd September is also the Benty Show day. If anyone is able to help on either of these days could they please get in touch with one of the trustees.

Mairi Telford Jammeh, Chair

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