



## Morrab Library Spring Newsletter - 2022

Welcome to our Spring newsletter, bringing you up to date on all the latest news from your library. A very happy Easter to you all too.

### A message from the Chair



Dydh da. It was somehow inevitable that, having set the date and purchased the wine, the occasion of our Members Christmas get-together would have to be cancelled at the last minute as Omicron flared across the country but it was good to be able to celebrate, a fortnight earlier, with some of our Volunteers, at a gathering in the Reading Room. So much of last year was lost and it was a frustrating and lonely time for many. Whilst perhaps the last effects of the pandemic are still to be played out, and we remain cautiously masked when moving around the library, it is true to say that the Morrab is emerging back into a near normality with many of our usual activities reappearing: the lectures and talks programme, the Poetry and Local History groups meeting regularly and Members, both new and long established, visible once again within the library.

After a lengthy process, I am delighted to announce the appointment of two new Patrons in Philip Marsden and Dawn French who join Lord St Levan, and succeed the late John Le Carre. I know they will both bring a great deal to the Morrab Library and we are privileged to have them join us and to represent us at both county and national level.

I would also like to formally mark the end of our relationship with the Tanner Trust which has recently been wound up. They have supported us financially for twelve years and enabled us to purchase furniture for the new extension, bookcases, map chests, the new EPOS system and the start-up costs for the KOHA programme along with many other projects. Enormous thanks are due for their generosity and far-sightedness.

There is a busy series of events planned with the Spring Fair, our A.G.M., and Summer Fair approaching rapidly. In Penzance there is the Art Festival, LitFest and midsummer folly to look forward to and, nationally, what should be a wonderful four days of celebrations in early June for the Platinum Jubilee. Keep an eye out in the fortnightly links email or check out the events page on our website for information <https://morrablibrary.org.uk/events/> . I hope you will be able to join us in some of these.

We lost a good friend recently in Steve Clark, Life Member, Trustee and former Secretary. There will be time at the A.G.M. to pay fuller tribute to Steve but we were so glad to be able to host a gathering for Steve's family and many Morrab friends on March 17th where the new carpet received its first crumbs and tentative wine stain – I'm sure Steve would have had a wry smile and an apt comment for this.

I would like to thank all the Library Staff for their resilience and good cheer over some difficult months. We also say farewell to Tracy McMorris, our Housekeeper, and thank her for all her hard work in keeping us safe through the pandemic months. We wish her well on her return to Lancashire. Her successor is to be Jak Stringer who will already be known to many, is familiar with our oddities, and will be a great addition to the team.

We are in the fortunate position of actually having a waiting list for our Volunteer roles but huge thanks are owed for everything that you do in your numerous specialities. We could not manage effectively without you.

Thank you to One and All for continuing to support us with your membership – you make the Morrab Library what it is: such a special space.

Dha weles,

*Harry Spry-Leverton, Chair*

### **News from the Photo Archive**

We have had an exciting month in the Photo Archive with new faces settling in and old hands returning. We took possession of a new A3 scanner which will allow us to scan some of the larger prints in the collection and we are now able to tackle some of the albums. I have started on one which has collages of images: original photographs and postcards. It has been in the collection for years but we know little about it. It was most probably made in the early years of the twentieth century. Whole pages can now be scanned, preserving the

character of the album. Look out for it on the website in the next month or two. It's called the 'Small Photo Album'.

I have been volunteering in the Photo Archive for more than seven years and am now coming to the end of my second term as a Morrab Library Trustee. This means that I will not be a trustee after the AGM but I will continue to report to the trustees and coordinate the volunteers.

Don't forget that there are new images regularly added to the website and you can search by topic, place etc. We also have our own albums which are available for you to view. Drop into the Photo Archive any Thursday morning for a chat and to have a look at what we are doing.

*David Puddifoot - Photo Archives Manager*

### **Annual General Meeting**

A reminder to all members that the library's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 9th May at 10.30am at the Lugger Hotel. Papers have been emailed, and we hope to see you there. A reminder you need to be a paid up member in 2022 to be eligible to vote, and only one vote per household is permissible. On that note - a gentle reminder to members who haven't yet renewed their membership this year but would like to continue supporting us to please get in touch!

### **Cataloguing updates**

We are delighted to say that we have now catalogued more than 3,000 titles in our Fiction collection, and we are not too far off moving on to the slightly more complex non-fiction books. We are very grateful to our volunteers who have worked so hard to get us this far - their enthusiasm (and accuracy) is remarkable. Our small team of intrepid volunteers also continue to digitise the archive collection as well. Alongside our Photo Archive, it's brilliant to see the library slowly but surely moving towards allowing the world to see and know our fantastic collections.

### **Events**

Our [Spring Fair](#) will be held on 7th May from 10.00am to 2.00pm and it's sure to be a lovely day. Please note however that it will not be possible to access spaces in the library to research or work on the afternoon of 6th May as we set up, or on the 7th as we host the event, nor will any parking be available. There will also be no library tour on the 6th May. Many apologies for the inconvenience this may cause.

Please also note that due to the extra bank holiday and celebratory period for the Platinum Jubilee, the library will be closed from Thursday 2nd June and reopen on Tuesday 7th.

Our ballot system for the talks programme looks to be working well, allowing many more members to be afforded the opportunity to attend. Where we can, we are also filming the talks, and these are available on our website to view:

<https://morrablibrary.org.uk/librarytalks/> . Bear with us while we improve our cinematography skills!

Keep an eye on our website at <https://morrablibrary.org.uk/events/> for information about upcoming events at your library.

## Childrens Room

Those that have visited the library in recent months will see the Travel and Children's room has undergone some changes. We have new carpet, and the giant Victorian shelving unit has changed angles to help ease access to the room and collections, and create a more distinct nook for our younger members. Here's what the floor looks like without carpet - and how the children's area is looking now...



## The Gardens have a Defibrillator

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of donors, in particular our Library members, Morrab Gardens now has a defibrillator for use in emergencies, located on the wall outside Pengarth Day Centre. It's an important addition to our beautiful gardens, but one we hope we never have to use.



### **Conservation news**

Thanks to a significant grant from the Pilgrim Trust we will soon be welcoming Harwell Document Recovery Services, who will undertake a deep clean of our rare book collection and storage area in the basement. Over many decades, these precious volumes have collected a lot of dust and even some historic mould. This project will see them all individually cleaned under very strict and careful protocols to ensure they are conserved and available for our members and visitors to access and enjoy. We are very grateful to the Pilgrim Trust for their support of the library. The cleaning exercise will take two-three weeks and you may see our volunteer conservation team decamp to one of the upstairs rooms to continue their invaluable book cleaning and repair work during this period.

### **New Hearing Loop**

We are happy to inform you that the library has installed a Hearing Loop at the Reception Desk, which will hopefully provide assistance to many of our members. Look out for the sign:



### **Book Suggestion Book**

We are always looking for our members to suggest titles they feel should be purchased for the library and added to our majestic bookshelves. We have now located the *Book Suggestion Book* at reception so you can enter your proposals when you visit. If you can't make it in, please call or email us and we'll add your choices to the book for you. The Book Selection Committee meets 3-4 times a year and decisions as to purchases are made at these.

Thank you as always for your support of the library - please know that we don't take it for granted. If there's anything we can help you with, don't hesitate to ask. Take care and hope to see you very soon in the library.

Lisa, Sue, Harriet, Alison, Jak, and the Trustees.