

# Friends Matter- May 2021

The regular newsletter from The Friends of Brixham Library

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The Queen & Prince Philip Visiting Brixham.

## Forward

The news these last few weeks has been dominated by the start of the relaxation of Covid 19 restrictions. The sad news of the death of Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, just short of his 100 years means that for most of us he has been in the public eye during the whole of our lifetime. For many he was 'the grandfather' of the nation and over the last few weeks many stories and anecdotes have been related about the man, the Prince Consort, the Father and the environmentalist and many other labels that he was. When my wife Sue as Lady Mayoress was supporting her Mother as Lord Mayor in Plymouth in 1998-99 she met Prince Phillip at the official opening of the National Marine Aquarium on Sutton Harbour. The line-up included the Lady Clinton, High Sherriff of Devon; Alison Stone, the Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council; Eileen Evans, the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and Sue as Lady Mayoress. As he walked down the line exchanging pleasantries he was heard to say to Sue, 'Is this city run entirely by women?', a moment that she has enjoyed retelling many times over the years.

The news that Brixham Library reopened on Monday 12 April was most welcome and despite the opening hours being temporarily reduced, this is a most welcome change that will be appreciated by FoBL members and book lovers alike. Emma has kindly sent me a very comprehensive update on library matters which you can read in depth later in this newsletter.

This month's newsletter contains a wide breath of what I hope you will find as interesting and diverse as a newsletter can get. With items ranging from feeding ducks to a 5K walk challenge I hope there is something to interest all our readers. In addition, Helen our Events Co-Ordinator is starting to put a programme of events together but more of that later. All comments and contributions are always welcome, so please do keep them coming in for inclusion in future issues.

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## Summer Reading Challenge

Many thanks to all those who tried out our donations button below. Our target of £500 has already been achieved so we've raised the threshold and revised our target upwards to £1000. At the time of going to print we had raised £560.00. In this way, Brixham Libraries Summer Reading Challenge will be even better for all those children and young people who take part. So, if you haven't done so already here's another opportunity for you to do so.

[www.gofundme.com/f/friends-of-brixham-library](http://www.gofundme.com/f/friends-of-brixham-library)

And we shall keep you updated on how much we have raised in the next newsletter.

## Why is bread bad for ducks & swans?



One of the joys of walking around Brixham Harbour, whatever the state of the tide has been to see the ever increasing, number of swans that have made the harbour their home. It was whilst reading an article in the Canal & River Trusts newsletter that I read with interest the following information which is as relevant for our swans as it is for ducks. Thus, I hope you'll find it a complete revelation too and when you are down harbourside you'll want not only to keep the children/grandchildren happy when feeding the swans but also know that you really are doing the right thing.

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## 5 reasons why bread is bad

- Ducks need a varied diet to be healthy. Bread doesn't have much nutritional value and fills the duck's stomach so that it doesn't forage for foods it would naturally eat, which can lead to malnutrition.
- Uneaten soggy bread can cause a build-up of bad nutrients, which can lead to more algae growing around water, more diseases and more pests, such as rats.
- Throwing bread into a canal or river can create an unnatural overcrowding of bird populations, as the birds will flock to the same location in search of their starchy treat.
- Too many ducks or waterfowl in one place can stress the birds and lead to their habitats being damaged.
- This also creates excessive amounts of bird droppings, which, along with being smelly and slippery underfoot, can reduce water quality and clog waterways with harmful algae.



## So, what can you feed ducks?

We've put together a list of six different foods that you can use as duck feed, instead of bread.

1. Sweetcorn - It turns out that ducks are quite partial to sweetcorn. Tinned, frozen or fresh. Obviously, remove them from the tin first.

2. Lettuce - As a nation we're guilty of throwing away a vast amount of lettuce, especially the bagged variety. Instead of consigning it to the bin, rip it into pieces and treat your local ducks. Rocket, kale and iceberg are all great choices.



3. Frozen peas - There's no need to cook them but make sure you defrost them first.

4. Oats - Flapjacks, rolled oats and even instant porridge oats will be a huge hit with ducks.

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5. Seeds - Whether you buy bird seed or just seeds from the fruit and nut aisle in the supermarket, the ducks will be very grateful for these nutritious nibbles.

6. Rice - Ducks will appreciate a handful of leftover rice from a takeaway. Just remember to keep the crispy duck all to yourself. You can also use uncooked rice, both are fine.

In conclusion, is it okay to feed ducks bread? No, there are many other types of food you can use instead, which will cause less overcrowding and a less stressful environment for ducks and swans. A healthy duck is a happy duck.

Thanks to the Canal & River Trust for the above article.

Bringing magazines to you...



The digital library is always open.

OverDrive

OPEN 24 HOURS

Read on Libby.  
The one-tap reading app from our library.

Are you a fan of reading magazines?

Have you downloaded the new Libby App which is the platform where you can read all the magazines offered by Libraries Unlimited?

There is a wide selection to suit every taste, gardening, cooking, hobbies, houses, homes and many more. Some of the popular glossy magazines such as Hello, Good Housekeeping, Woman and Prima.

Do you want to know what to watch on T.V? Download the TV Times!

Keep up with scientific developments via New Scientist, for example there have been some fascinating articles on Coronavirus and associated vaccination analysis. Is history your interest? The BBC history magazine is very informative but easy to read, there was a great piece on the excavation of

The Sutton Hoo in 1939. The Netflix film The Dig is a good watch and judging by the BBC article on the subject is fairly faithful to the actual work.

The choice is endless try it, you will be hooked!

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Emma writes:

**RBDigital move to Overdrive/Libby:**

As you may know already if you use the service RBDigital which is an app that offers magazines, newspapers and eAudiobooks has moved over onto Overdrive/Libby. Everything should now be available on Libby that you previously could access on RBDigital except the newspapers which remain on RBDigital. Libraries Unlimited have also increased the magazines available to now contain over 3000 titles so it is worth another look if you haven't checked the magazines out for a while. You can continue to access magazines on RBDigital until 30th April but please do start to move over to Libby.

## Libraries Unlimited – Moving on from lockdown

**Re-opening:**

We are very pleased to be able to re-open for browsing and computer use, and the staff are working hard to make sure everything is runs smoothly.

Test and trace will need to be completed by everyone entering the premises and not just one member of a party even if you are just popping in for a few minutes. This can be done as before by completing a form which will be destroyed after 21 days or by scanning the barcode with your NHS App.

We will be open 10am – 4pm Monday/Tuesday and Thursday and 10am – 1pm Wednesday/Friday and Saturday. We can't wait to welcome everyone into the building.

**Loan Extensions:**

All loans which were due back before 4th April have been extended to w/c 28/06/2021.

**Meeting Room:**

This will be available to hire for groups of up to 6 people hopefully from 17th May.

**Libraries Unlimited AGM – Save the date**

Our Libraries Unlimited AGM will be held on Tuesday 12th October 2021, 4pm - 5pm, on Zoom. We would love to see as many of our friends there as possible! Invites will be sent out via email later on in the year to your group's Membership Nominee. Until then, please save the date in your diaries.

**Reading Well Collections:**

The Reading Agency has received DCMS funding to provide every library in Devon and Torbay with new copies of three full Reading Well Sets.

Reading Well – for Mental Health

Reading Well – for Young Adults

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Reading Well – for Children.

These collections provide quality-assured information recommended by health experts and people living with the conditions and issues covered. They are particularly valuable and important at the present time. We are currently in the process of adding these books to the catalogue to make them available soon. The funding also enabled Libraries Unlimited to expand their Reading Well eBook collection on Overdrive/Libby.

### Children's Activity Packs:

Over the May half term, we plan to sell activity packs based around Pirates and Mermaids due to the Pirate Festival being cancelled. Previous packs for half terms and holidays have proven popular. These will be advertised nearer the time.

### The Ledge:

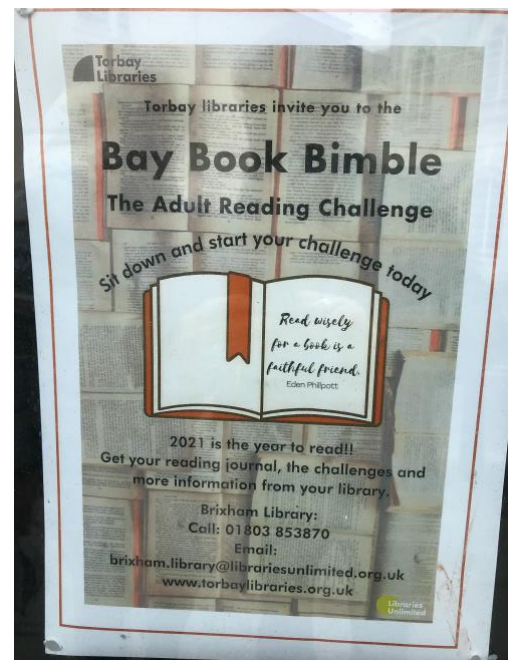
As we are able to reopen our building this is just a reminder that the ledge is available for hire for displays on a weekly basis. Please do mention to anyone you know who may be interested in hiring this space to promote an event or display items for sale etc.

### Good Neighbour Scheme:

Do you know someone who loves books but can't get to the library? Sign up for our Good Neighbour membership and you can collect books on their behalf.

### Bay Book Bimble

Launched last month the Bay Book Bimble is open to anyone who would like to participate. There are a range of tasks to complete throughout the year with a new theme each month. There is a prize available in January 2022 to one lucky winner too who completes their Bimble. Pop into the library to sign up to this event if you would like to join in.



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## 5k in May:

In May Libraries Unlimited are running a virtual fundraiser called 5k in May. The staff, volunteers, members of the public and you as our friends are being encouraged to walk/skip/hop/run 5k then donate £5 to our charity using our JustGiving page then finally nominate five friends to carry on the fundraising. More information about this will be available soon in the library and on our social media pages.

***If you would like to add your support to this initiative, please look at the Walking for Health item later in this newsletter.***

## Give As You Live and Amazon:

Just a reminder that you can register with give as you live and Amazon to help raise funds for Libraries Unlimited at no cost to yourself. They will donate to LU every time you purchase through them. It's a free way to help raise money and quick and easy to set up. If you haven't already done so and you shop online, please do consider signing up to donate to Libraries Unlimited on these platforms.

Finally thank you all for your support throughout what has been a very challenging year. We are looking forward to returning to some sort of normality and in time hope to be able to host events again.

Kind regards, Emma

Emma Aydemir, Team Leader, Brixham Library  
01803 853870

## Future FoBL Events

Hello Friends

With things slowly returning to 'normal' a Boules evening has been arranged for Wednesday 22nd September at the Berry Head Hotel. Meeting at 5.30pm for a buffet meal and boules in the Library. Numbers can only be 25 with Friends at £16.00 and non-members at £18.00. A sample menu for that evening is as follows:

### Finger Buffet

Selection of Sandwiches

....

Mediterranean Vegetable & Cheese Quiche

....

Farmhouse Savoury Sausage Rolls & Apple Puree

....

Mini Fishcakes served with Tartare Sauce & Lemon Wedges

....

Seasoned Jacket Potato Wedges Served with a Sweet Chilli Mayonnaise

....

Ham Hock Terrine topped with Chutney served on a Crostini

....

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

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I have also contacted the Wine Loft here in Middle St Brixham about having another wine tasting and nibbles event with them as the previous one was very successful and educational.

Am also waiting to hear back from the Met Office in Exeter as to when they could be starting their guided tours again.

Hoping also to have a fish and chip evening in the Autumn with entertainment but the venue has yet to be decided upon.

It is lovely to be able to look ahead book events for you all. Any suggestions for events please leave at reception Brixham Library for my attention and I'll look into things.

Helen Kelly - Events Co-ordinator, Friends of Brixham Library

## Walking for Health – Monday Walk



Our regular Monday walks recommenced on Monday 12 April with 36 people taking part. To help comply with Covid 19 restrictions, although technically speaking we aren't obliged to, we have encouraged walkers to take part in groups of six, evenly spaced out along the route. I think unanimously, all who took part enjoyed being able to walk together, catching up on life experiences over the last few weeks and months and of course enjoying a socially distanced warm drink at The Guardhouse Café as the Berry Head Hotel wasn't opening until later in the week.

So, if you know of anyone who likes an easy walk; would like to meet new people or help recover from a health issue by starting to walk again, then please join us at 10.00am at the junction of Centry Road and Gillard Road Brixham on a Monday morning as we would be delighted to see you. These walks are free and are open to both FoBL members and non-FoBL members alike.

## 5K in May

If you would like to support this initiative, why not pencil Monday 10 May into your diary. Our normal Monday walk is being extended and all are welcome to participate by meeting outside Brixham Library at 9.30am for the start of our walk. This will take us up to the normal walk start point at the rear of Douglas House, before following the footpaths to the Berry Head Hotel via the Berry Head Forts, a stop for coffee before returning to finish our walk outside Brixham Library. All participants will be asked to donate £5.00 each towards this Libraries Unlimited initiative as part of their campaign to raise 5K in May. This is a one-

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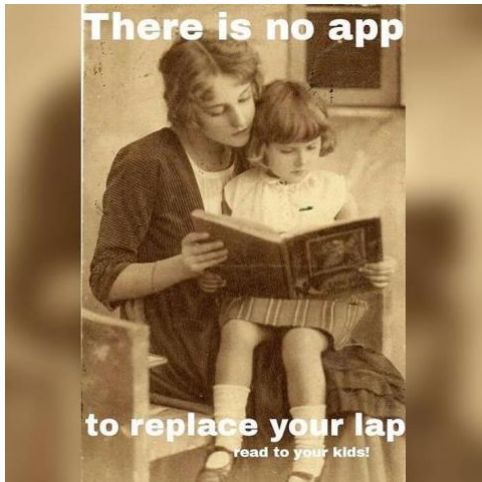
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And Finally....



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