



KENT SLA AGM



Agenda

MONDAY 11th DECEMBER

5 - 7pm

Brockhill Park Performing Arts College

Attendees: Jasmine Brown (Brockhill); Lisa Daisy (The North School); Philippa Rose (The King's School, Canterbury); Ros Waltho; Brenda Marshall (The King's School, Canterbury); Kelly Trapp (Homewood); Jackie Grant (Homewood); Jay and Hunter (The Folkestone Bookshop). The meeting is quorate.

Apologies: Julie Gabriel (Walthamstow Hall), Chantal Kelleher (Herne Bay High), Isabelle Register (Kent College).

Minutes of the previous meeting: agreed.

Introduction to Brockhill: Jasmine talked to us about Brockhill's library and the varied initiatives she has put in place to support the pupils. Jasmine buys much of her stock second-hand, and has built up lots of links with local booksellers. There are craft clubs, and lots of other events for pupils in the library. Jasmine has had great success with pupil librarians too.

Chair's Report – see Appendix A

Secretary's Report – see Appendix B

Election of committee members: Lisa continuing as Chair, Jasmine continuing as Social Media Officer and extending her commitment to also include CPD and Training Officer, Philippa as Secretary, Jackie Grant

(Homewood) as a new Committee Member, and all other returning committee members.

The Folkestone Bookshop: Jay and Hunter from The Folkestone Bookshop (www.thefolkestonebookshop.co.uk) gave a showcase explanation of their work. The bookshop offers community-spaces, a library with free refreshments, a pay-it-forward board with vouchers available for those who cannot afford to buy books. They are also happy to offer book recommendations and apply a school/library discount on books bought from the bookshop.

Upon hearing about some of the budgetary concerns of school libraries, they directed us to the Siobhan Dowd Trust. Teachers and librarians (as well as any group that works with disadvantaged young people) can apply for a grant to spend in a local independent bookshop. This year they will be giving away up to £2000 monthly! Find out more: <https://siobhandowdtrust.com/>

Additional agenda items:

- Kent library jobs:
Off the back of Isabelle's vacancy at Kent College, Philippa asked if it would be of use to offer a Kent library job vacancy ad to our emails? You would email us and we could advertise your vacancy to our members via email. Might be time-consuming and unwanted though? Would be an opt-in to advertise rather than us looking for vacancies to advertise. Ros noted that doing such a thing under the SLA banner (when SLA have a paid-for advertising deal on the website) would be problematic, so we won't move forward with this.
- It was agreed that to have our AGM in the depths of winter was tricky so next year's AGM will be planned for the warmer, lighter summer months.
- Kelly will look to arrange a local author event at Homewood for next year.
- Jasmine suggested a Kent SLA Graphic Novel Book Award.
- Ros suggested looking into a sub-committee for West Kent.

Appendix A: Chair's Report

During the last year, we have welcomed 7 new members but said farewell to 13 others. Currently, we have 93 members (Nov '23) in the Kent Branch.

Without everyone's support, we wouldn't have been able to benefit from such a successful branch. I would like to extend special thanks to Philippa for her duties as Secretary and holding us all together, and to Jasmine for her social media support.

The committee has met regularly over the last year, and the branch events have always proven popular. I would like to thank those who have organised, hosted, and attended.

January was a fantastic opportunity to see archives at King's School. In April, we visited The Amelia in Tunbridge Wells, which was a highlight for many. It allowed us to meet familiar branch members as well as members who are based in the area and can't always attend events. June was a very useful and enjoyable visit to Brockhill Library to share ideas around running a successful pupil librarian team. A very special visit to CPI in October was arranged, and members found this a very interesting event.

If anyone would like an event to be held somewhere, has ideas for training, or would like to accommodate a visit, please share this with us.

Many places that we have tried to visit are now insisting on a fee, so it is proving problematic at times to accommodate. However, if you have contacts that may be able to accommodate a visit, please offer up the branch contact details.

As Chair, I have visited two schools that were asking for advice about their library provision. I had a video call consultation with another school and have been asked to speak to another school to promote the SLA to their Senior Leadership Team.

These visits have been useful to all involved, and two were with primary schools, which is an area not always well-represented in our branch.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Isobel, who will soon be leaving her library, for her next chapter. She has served the committee, furthered our cause and managed her library and all in good humour. Her presence will be missed by all and we wish her success in her new posting.

I hope everyone has found this past year enjoyable and productive, and if anyone has any suggestions for the coming year, please share them at any time. I am excited to continue being part of such a successful and model branch of SLA.

Appendix B: Secretary's Report

We currently have ninety-three members, which is up from eighty-eight last year. Most of our members are from the West Kent area, with Dartford and Canterbury the next most numerous.

- Primary: 8
- Secondary: 35
- Academy: 17
- Grammar: 1
- Free: 2
- Independent: 19
- Personal membership: 11