

## **Report from FoBALS Secretary, Janet Senior: January 2019**

Happy New Year to you all. It is a while since I contacted you all so I thought you might like an update. Firstly I have to inform you of the death of a member of FOBALS. Kath Alred, who will have been known to many of you, passed away during the Christmas period. Kath was an enthusiastic supporter from the outset and she will be greatly missed. Her funeral took place on Thursday 17th of January at Nab Wood and members of the FOBALS committee were present.

Your committee has met at regular intervals throughout the year. At the meetings we hear reports from Fiona Marshall and Caroline Brown on the work in WYAS and Local Studies. Any concerns we have are discussed and both Fiona and Caroline appear to welcome our input. Both these ladies have onerous jobs and any support we can offer is gratefully accepted. Fiona is looking into the possibility of volunteer work in the WYAS so we will keep you informed of any progress. Caroline welcomes anyone who would like to volunteer for work associated with Local Studies.

Information leaflets have been produced by volunteers. One volunteer has worked on the map collection. Have you seen the blog where maps are reproduced and can be downloaded? Another volunteer is cataloguing 19th century pamphlets. Memory boxes have been updated with volunteer help. Something new; a one day a week job is on offer in Local Studies. It is a Development Officer. If you are interested contact Caroline Brown in Local Studies and she will give you the terms and conditions.

Membership of FOBALS has not greatly changed since setting up the group. We have not tried to recruit new members nor have we asked for further monetary contributions. We have a healthy bank balance (available on request from me). FOBALS has not organised many activities for the members. If you would like to suggest a visit or activity please feel free to contact me. If you would like the committee to discuss anything then please contact me. One of our committee members is secretary of the Friends of Bradford Art Galleries and Museums. FoBAGaM would like to have closer contact with FOBALS and have suggested that perhaps a member of our

organisation would like to join their Trustees. If anyone is interested please contact me for details.

I hope this short update has been of some interest to you. Do contact me if you wish to know anything more about activities, volunteering opportunities etc. Bradford Libraries are about to face a huge reduction in funding. The committee of FOBALS feel that we may again need to gird up our loins in a fight to support our hardworking staff of the beleaguered libraries. If this occur your support will be vital. Thank you for remaining with us and I look forward to meeting some of you at the AGM (details later).