

## **Community & School Library of St Peter & St Paul, Bristol**

The initiative of setting up a library in the Greek Community of Bristol had started in December 2015, after the inspiration and donation of one of the retired teachers and old members of the Community. An amount of books (second hand) had already been gifted by members through the years. The idea was embraced by the Trust and the project began to take shape.

Our main purpose is to create a small but sophisticated and functional lending library mainly for use by the school but also by the wider community.

We aim to build a library from the Community for the Community which will work as a cultural and educational hub for Greeks in Bristol, build community cohesion as well as promote Greek language, studies and culture outside of the Community.

On 24.04.2016 we applied for a grant with *The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies*, in order to expand the stock capacity and create a small Community & School Library, located in the Greek Orthodox Church & Community of St Peter & St Paul, in Bristol. We were awarded the grant of £250 on 21.06.2016 and we proceeded with the purchase of a number of books.

The Society suggested the new books to cover the fields of Ancient Greece and Classical Civilization. The idea dove tailed very well, as we lacked stock in this area and we were planning to try to cover this gap. The £250 was a very helpful kick-start for creating a basis on ancient history and civilization in Bristol.

For this purpose, we bought 36 books, mainly for children and some for adults. The library aims to promote the reading of Greek language, so we focused on Greek written editions. However, we also purchased a few books in English to attract English readers.

Our new books cover a wide range, including: a whole series of 12 volumes for children's mythology, Homer's *Odyssey* and *Iliad* with DVDs of theatrical plays, Acropolis and Athens, Ancient Olympia and Olympic Games, Alexander the Great, Aesop's Myths, Pytheas of Massalia-the explorer of Great Britain, the mechanism of Antikythira-the ancient computer, Greek philosophers-from Thales to Aristotle, a spicy version of mythology with the comments of our great author N.Tsiforos, a series of Aristophanes comedies in comics, playing with ancient toys, Rape of Europa, etc.

The purchases took place between 14.09 and 19.09.2017. According to <http://eur.gr.currencies-today.com/gbp/289-11> the total amount of 289.11 Euros we spent, converts into £ 250.98.

The overall collaboration with the Society was quick, simple, efficient and inspiring – along with the grant funds, we also invested some extra funds from donations by our community members (aprox. £100) in buying more books about ancient Greece. In the future we are looking forward to create a more complete collection in this field in both languages.

Here, in the Greek Community of Bristol, we very much appreciate and we are grateful for the help we received from The Society. The books purchased with the grant's funds will be identified as having been donated by The Society. We made a special reference to the grant in our autumn newsletter which was distributed to all members of the Community and also we will be making a similar reference at the Official Opening Ceremony of the Library which will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

<http://www.greekchurchbristol.com/>