



## **ILA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2023**

### ***The Plymouth Proprietary Library: A New Beginning***

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The PPL moved into new premises in 2018. A former church hall had more recently been a doctor's surgery before becoming an independent library. No sooner had the library got settled in this new environment when the COVID outbreak began, and lockdowns ensued.

I started working at the PPL in March 2022 as things began to return to normal. There was an opportunity therefore to start planning ahead. In the light of this recent move, the PPL needed (and still needs) to ensure the local community and beyond know who we are and what we do. There is also the continual financial drive to recruit members to this subscription library by providing a series of talks and events to attract new and existing users. This paper will explore my first year as Library Manager at the PPL and examine the positive steps that are being taken to ensure the library has a future.

**Darren Bevin** is a qualified librarian who joined the independent library sector after several years in higher education and special collection libraries as well as freelance work in European museums. He was librarian at Chawton House during their redevelopment and re-opening; as part of that team he oversaw the development of one of the UK's truly great unique collections. Since 2022 he has been Library Manager at the Plymouth Proprietary Library, working to bring one of the UK's independent subscription libraries to a new audience.