

Friends of Towneley Park (Reg. Charity No. 1144988)
Minutes of meeting held on Monday November 22nd 2012

1. **Present:** Pat Colbran, Pat and Pete Ashton, Ronnie Pollard, Roger Leach, Pam Pickles, Tony Kitto
 Maureen Frankland, Margaret Crane, Susan Barker, Sylvia Hagan, Andy Buck
2. **Apologies:** June Pritchard, Louise Chesbrough, Keith Wilson, Roger Atkinson. Cllr. Margaret
 Brindle, June Evans, Jill Urquhart
3. **Meeting – July 23rd 2012:** Minutes passed as a true record.
4. **Matters arising:**
 The car park at Woodgrove is now fully functional. Parking problems with Unity College pick up time
 should now be solved. The Enforcement Officer will be checking on this.
5. **Financial Report. 1st September – 21st November 2012:**

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Money in CAF bank / 1st September	3871.15	Outlay for Notelets	28.00
Donation - Mrs Janet Parker(Wedding)	100.00	Envelopes	5.50
Woodland Festival stalls & event	123.43	Scooter repairs	66.00
Sale of Notelets	24.50	Bird Seed	21.00
Sale of DVD's	35.00	Security W/Fest (Air Cadets)	120.00
LCC Woodland festival LMG	250.00	Contribution -W/Fest	550.00
		BBC – Bulbs	90.00
		BBC – Print Newsletter	277.00
		Jig Saw Blades (Christmas)	7.48
		Trousers for Father Christmas	5.99
Total:	4409.08	Total:	1177.22
		BALANCE:	3231.86

Grant money (Co-op) in hand for Scooters now: £1024.20

6. **Reports from BBC Officers (Points raised and updates):**
 - Concerns about blockage in the river near the play area. BBC needs to obtain authority from the Environment Agency to do any clearance work. The log will soon be removed by the EA.
 - Some parts of the retaining wall along the river are in very poor condition. BBC engineers will be able to do this work as finance becomes available. **We feel that this should be seen as a priority, as further deterioration is likely during Winter storms.**
 - Flood retention work at Fulledge is well under way.
 - The Ribble Rivers Trust project by Unity College: **We feel that the black shale remaining from old industrial workings should be scraped off before any planting or seeding is done.** This could be used as a base for the extended bridleway paths around the playing fields.
 - Although the new car park at Woodgrove is now open, the planting areas are still bare. What has happened to the original planting plans for this area? Is the money allocated to these plans still available? **The Friends Group is willing to help with this project providing money can be found to buy the plants.** Pete will meet with Steve and Simon to discuss a suitable scheme. It was suggested that if necessary, Burnley College horticultural students could be approached to be involved with the planning. The Community Farm, Freshfields and Princes Trust Business in the Community may also be sources of help in gardening aspects of the Park.
 We may be able to plant daffodils with Schools in this area.
 - Some of the wildflower meadows will need additional seeding next Spring. Funding sources required e.g. Skipton Building Society.
 - The bridle path work around the playing fields is well underway.
 - The Brass Band Concert date is Sunday June 9th. Bands from two Schools will each play a 40 minute session. (St Augustine's and St Wilfred's) FOTP to contribute £150 to the event + £50 for additional promotional material e.g boards for advertising the event around the Park on the day. More publicity about the event should be displayed around the Park, especially Riverside, as many visitors are unaware of the event. It was suggested that local school children enter a poster competition.

- The Classic Car Show on June 30th will be enlarged to include other vehicles. Do we want a stall?
- The Parks Department has located a source of "Barwise" dahlias. 800 will be incorporated into the Italian Garden bedding scheme in the Spring. This will benefit the Offshoots "bee project" by providing a source of nectar. We may be able to overwinter the tubers in 2013/14 to reduce further costs.

The cost will be split by our Group and the Towneley Hall Society. (£200 each) and will fit in well with our "History of the Park" project.

7. Management and Maintenance:

- Andy needs to update the Management Plan and this will be circulated. Please take time to consider this and send comments to Maureen in the next three weeks, using each of the 8 headings as appropriate.
- Plans for "the Green Heritage Status" for the Park are in hand and the Management Plan will reinforce the application.
- The Council is facing further cuts in finances and in staffing. Plans for the Park should be realistic and include sources for additional man power and money in order to make programmes sustainable.
- ***FOTP are concerned that the staffing levels are becoming so low that the remaining gardeners will be unable to maintain the high standards expected in the Park.***

8. Feedback from:

- **School bulb planting** went well despite poor weather. The children never complained, and just got on with the job. 3000 bulbs were planted along the Haha wall by the hall car park and between 12 trees on each side of the triangle road to the Hall.
- **Scooters:** Poor weather reduced the number of users this year (44 as against 88), but all enjoyed the freedom to explore the Park. The scooters need to be used regularly during the Winter months to keep the batteries charged. This can be done by volunteers doing the bird feeding rota.
- **Newsletter:** Distribution of the 3000 Autumn / Winter edition has gone well.

9. Current Projects:

- **The Spring 2013 Newsletter:** Planning already started. Suggestions for articles were put forward. Photos are needed to be placed on the flickr web site. Pat Colbran will apply to LCC for a Local Member Grant to fund the printing costs.
- **Woodland Trust Trees:** Planting date Wednesday November 28th. Meet 11.00am at Rotunda to plant in the Small Holdings Wood alongside FOB volunteers.
- **Santa Comes to Towneley:** bookings going well. A rota of volunteers has been arranged to set up the Grotto (Friday Dec 14th 10.30am) and ensure the smooth running on the big day (Sunday 16th from 12.30) Also to clear up the Grotto on Monday morning 10.30am. Santa's suit now has a new pair of trousers, and Margaret is renovating the wig and beard! All "12 days of Christmas" clues are ready to go. Posters and clue sheets have been produced by Graham- many thanks.
- **Bird Feeding during the Winter:** A rota of volunteers was completed up to the end of January. Fresh supplies of bird food were distributed. Do try to use the Scooters when it is your turn. June E. sent a note to report that two of the feeders had been damaged in the Bird Reserve. This will be investigated.
- **Heritage Lottery Project + Deer and Fountain installation:**
The Grant will soon be paid into our account, and more early planning meetings are as follows:
All to be held at Towneley Hall
Wednesday 16th January 2013, 2.00pm - HLF Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday 13th February 2013, 10.30am - Initial Meeting for people who have already expressed an interest in history research.
Saturday 13th April 2013, 1.30 pm - 4.30pm to be confirmed - Open History Workshop Event
Wicker Workshops for adults with EcoArts: Dates in May to be confirmed (Saturday - two 2-hour sessions)
Wicker Workshops for school pupils: dates in May to be confirmed (Brunshaw, Springfield and St. Stephen's - nine one and a half-hour sessions over three days. Adult helpers needed from the Adult workshops.
Work on the Fountain renovation will start in January with Hardy Utilities, who have also given a £500 donation towards the project. Towneley Garden staff will do the initial excavation.

10. Activities:

- **Gardening Club:** Snowdrops planted along the Lime Avenue, daffodils planted at the Stables border and the Rotary garden in November. The next working party is on **1st Thursday in March 2013** when we hope to complete the Rotary garden and Stables border planting. The Friends Garden by Offshoots is settling in nicely, and is much admired.
- **Website:** Roger A, Pat and Richard and Susan met to learn about the procedures, so we should be able to keep things up to date. Roger is our main guru if we run into problems! More photos will be added when appropriate
- **DVD's** - some have been sold in the shop. Roger L. will provide a Youtube link to be put on the website.
- **Scooters:** Maureen will hold a training session for the Hall staff, as Neesha and Letitia will be leaving in January. We say "thank you" to them for introducing visitors to the scooters over the last 18 months and wish them well in their future careers.
The scooters need to be used regularly during the Winter months to keep the batteries charged. This can be done by volunteers doing the bird feeding rota or on any other occasion.
- **Litter Picking:** Sylvia will contact volunteers to fix a suitable time and date.

Roger Leach showed 2 short videos, one encouraging people to join the Friends of Towneley Park and one of the Remembrance Sunday Service at the Towneley War Memorial. – Thanks to Roger these videos are providing a valuable insight into Park activities.

11. Feedback session from the Heritage and Woodland festival:

Jackie Simm joined us to discuss some issues and was thanked for her efficient organisation of the H&W. festival paper work.

- Although the day was very successful we felt that the publicity arrangements could be improved.
- The big poster displayed at Hanbrig doesn't have the date or time showing. This could be attached each year on a separate laminated sheet by whoever displays the poster?
- Some sort of announcement of the event should be prominent at the Riverside car park on the day, as not many people would look at the display board.
- Also by the main gate to the park and outside the shop entrance.
- FOTP would willingly distribute some of the fliers in their areas.
- A few of the site maps and programme of events could be left on each stall in the Marquee. Visitors can miss out on the handouts by the Council information van.
- Attracting more exhibitors/events on the day to add year on year variety to the well established and popular programme. Jackie made the point that all demonstrators charging a fee have to go through the BBC accounting system, by providing bank details etc. This puts some small organisations off.

12. AOB:

- Cllr. Brindle has contacted the Stocks Massey Bequest committee to have a summary of their criteria for awarding funding. The Woodland Festival application was accepted, but the Arts application for the Italian Garden was refused.
- June E. was concerned about large numbers of large Husky type dogs and owners using the Park as a group, and perhaps frighten small children and timid adults. Members felt that there should be no problem if the dogs were kept under control. Some people find them an attraction.
- She also noted a toilet paper problem in the ladies loos at the Rotunda. The interleaved dispensers should perhaps be replaced by another type. Pat agreed to contact Simon about this.

Next Meeting Date is on: Wednesday January 23rd at 10.00 am

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