

**Friends of Towneley Park (Reg. Charity No. 1144988)
Minutes of meeting held on Thursday May 16th 2013**

1. **Present:** Pat Colbran, Ronnie Pollard, Maureen Frankland, Pat & Pete Ashton, Margaret Crane, Sylvia Hagan, Graham Gavaghan, Mike Townend, Phil Dewhurst, Keith Wilson.
2. **Apologies:** Louise Chesbrough, Pamela Pickles, June Evans, Susan Barker, John Nuttall, Andy Buck
Jill Urquart has resigned from the Group owing to other commitments. She has enjoyed working with us, and sends her best wishes for our future work.
3. **Minutes and Matters arising–** March 25th: Minutes passed as a true record.
 - The cycle racks were not installed as previously Minuted, but should soon be in place.
 - The offer from Aircelle to help to organise the public bonfire has been withdrawn.
 - Graham thanked the Group for the offer to assist with School party visits, but said that Schools provided sufficient staff.
 - Still sorting out legal insurance requirements! It seems that we are covered by BBC insurance when working with BBC staff supervision at our events. Simon Goff is checking this with the BBC Legal team. Phil Dewhurst offered to investigate including our Group under Offshoots policy to cover public and employers liability.
 - Richard Colbran and Keith Buchanan were thanked for making and fitting the temporary and permanent signboards at the Small Holdings Trail entrance.
 - John Nuttall had cleaned and checked the mobility scooters.
 - Car parking at the May Day Festival: Cars were parked all over the grass at the fair ground and on the Events field without charge. This seemed very unfair. At least a few charity buckets could be used.
 - It was noted that the whole Festival area was cleaned from litter very promptly, thanks to Graham, Peter Thorne and his team.

4 Officers Reports:

- May Day Festival kept the Rangers very busy. The park was the busiest we have ever seen it.
- Graham is enjoying his new role with school party visits. He also would like to start up a nature club to offer badge courses to Scout and Guide and other youth groups.
- The Dawn Chorus walk had no takers, as the weather was very wet and cold. However, Graham had a great sighting of a small herd of deer on the Golf Course.
- Keith Wilson will arrange the "Through the Wood" sculpture installation when he can liaise with the Tree Team.
- The new seat at Woodgrove: Site inspection needed to pin- point position to make sure Andy can order the correct size and style. Maureen to meet with Andy to decide.

5. Financial Report: 23rd January – 25th March 2013

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Easter Eggs	23.37	Easter Egg event	153.10
Jay-Care Scooters	135.00	Skipton B.S: Marquee hire	700.00
CVS Membership	15.00	Skipton B.S: Bulbs	250.00
BBC Dahlias	400.00	Skipton B.S: Wildflower seeds	400.00
Argos: Sand for wild flower seeds	5.93	Towneley Hall Society	500.00
Sarah Law- Consultant	200.00	(£200 dahlias+ £300 fountain)	
Print cartridges	44.99	Notelets	10.00
Wild flower seeds	400.00	May Day Raffle	97.60
Print-Spring Newsletter	300.00	May Day Stalls	197.55
Bird seed – bird reserve	12.99	Balance B/Fwd	11,363.84
Jay – care (Scooter 3)	74.40		
Total:	1671,73	Total :	13,672.09

Balance now: 12,000.36

Money Committed: 8,228.33

Committed Money :	Rotary Club Garden: 64.50	HLF: 6149.03
	Scooter Mtce: 814.80	Autumn Bulbs: 250.00
	W/fest marquee 700.00	Woodgrove Bench: 250.00

We are holding an invoice for Fountain refurb (when completed to our satisfaction) @ £7770.00
N.B. Vat was included in the original application to HLF. - 2nd half of HLF money has now arrived with 10% with-held until final evidence is provided that we have completed most of the tasks.

6. World War One Commemoration: Mike Townend.

Mike gave us a summary of the proposals for this important event in 2014:-

- In June and August 4,000 commemorative crosses to be laid from Hanbrig, along the Holmes Road up to the War Memorial in the Park. This will involve local schoolchildren with adult supervision. Wild poppy seeds will be scattered along the roadside in the Spring. On August 3rd the last few crosses will be laid at the memorial, followed by a view of the Exhibition and other events at the Hall. On the 4th, there will be an evening candlelit procession from Hanbrig to the memorial. The last cross will be laid at 11.00pm followed by a reading and music. The crosses will be collected and used in successive years at Remembrance Time.
- Towneley Hall will stage an exhibition of 100 stories of local people who served in the War, including those from the Museum collection and others contributed by local people and children. In November there will be an exhibition of local war memorabilia.
- It is hoped to have conservation work done on the East Lancashire Regiment banner which was used at the Royal Albert Hall in 1917 to commemorate the battalion's involvement in battle in 1914.
- It is also hoped to involve the East Lancashire Calligraphy Group to write a new Roll of Honour over a four year period to include all those who died.

Obviously, much planning work is still underway, including securing funding to cover the costs of this big project. Funding from HLF and local wards, public donations, local charities and companies will be sought.

A suggestion was made to have a "carpet bedding" of the East Lancashire Regiment Badge opposite the Italian Garden, or the roundel in front of the Hall.

Phil Dewhurst offered possible help with making the crosses at Offshoots.

Mike will keep us updated and the Group will gladly consider helping, as more details are provided.

7. Offshoots:

Phil Dewhurst told us about the developments in the 4/5acre Garden. A lease on the old Natural History building has been obtained from BBC. The main office is now working in the building, and plans are in progress to reinstate the lecture room and develop the old aquarium section into a shop/kitchen to sell their own organic produce.

A biomass boiler will provide heating using locally sourced timber.

They help other groups to set up permaculture projects in the area, providing planning, tools and compost etc.

The Black Bee project has 7 productive hives at Offshoots, plus hives have been set up in different parts of the Town. All the wildflower areas have been very helpful, along with other floral plants in the Park.

He invited the Group to have a tour of the Garden, and sometime in July will be arranged.

8. Feedback on Projects:

- A good day was had with the Ribble Rivers Trust project at Fulfilledge. The Environment Agency completed the diversion work of the old well water through the reed bed. We prepared the ground and sowed wildflower seeds alongside the path. The bridge is still to be installed.
- The History/Heritage workshop on April 13th meeting went well. **On May 28th** a steering group will meet (10.30am at the Hall) to decide just where to place the wicker deer in the Italian Garden. They will be installed on **June 11th at 10.30am.** Wicker workshops with Eco Arts will be held over the next week. The next History/Heritage workshop will be on June 20th at **Susan's house (2 Darnley Street) at 10.30am.**
- The old Bronze deer is being repaired and eventually put on display in the Natural History Museum.
- The Easter event was very busy – almost 200 children did the trail. Thanks to Pat A and Pete for preparing the clue trail. About 15 children entered the Hat Parade. Thanks to June E. for organising and Joan Heginbotham for the hard task of judging the parade. Unfortunately we ran out of small prizes for the non main prize winners so we must remember next year to set some aside, as all the entrants were very good.
- The wildflower seed sowing with schoolchildren covered areas at Woodgrove Car Park and near the path on the wetland area. The children also visited the daffodils which they planted back in autumn, and picked up litter on the way!
- May Day – we had wonderful weather – very successful raffle, plant and bric-a-brac stalls, raising £294.
- John Nuttall cleaned and repaired the scooters. Towneley Hall staff now issue the scooters. £48 given in donations helps with the maintenance costs. New Notices are being prepared to promote the Scooters.

9. Current Projects:

- **A display board** to use at Riverside to draw attention to events around the Hall. We decided against buying a banner just now, as Maureen had made a board to use. Pat A. volunteered to finish off the lettering.
- **Thanks** were expressed to Susan for organising the Give and Gain Day on Mat 17th. FOTP Members were invited to take part along with the 30 members of local businesses recruited by the Prince's Trust Business in the Community representative, meeting at Offshoots at 9.30am. Diana Preston kindly donated the costs of the afternoon refreshments at the Rotunda.

- **May 27th (Monday) N.B. this was changed to Saturday 25th.** Plants from the Italian Garden (11.30 -3.30) will be on sale. Plants removed by Give and Gain volunteers and FOTP members.
Steve Wood and his Team to plant up the Summer bedding by May 20th ready for a good display in time for the Antique Road Show event on June 27th.
- **Sunday June 9th: Band Concert.** Catering stall as usual. All offers of baked cakes, buns etc to sell most welcome. (Ring Pat Colbran (426449) for details.
- **Himalayan Balsam picking:** Suggested dates: (Thursdays) June 13th -10.30 and June 20th -2.00. Meet at Riverside.
- **Next Newsletter:** Pat A. has this in hand including articles from Phil Dewhurst and Mike Townend. Articles to her by end of June. Pat C. has applied to LCC councillors for funding the next two issues.
- **Antiques Road Show:** 10 volunteers have agreed to help, and have filled in forms as requested.
- We decided against having a stall at the **Classic Car Show on June 30th.**
- **FOTP members to lead public walks on July 14th, 28th and August 11th and 26th.** Volunteers requested to lead these. All meet at the Rotunda at 2.00pm.
- **A summer activity** with children was also decided against for this year.

10. Regular Activities:

- **Gardening Club:** June 6th 10.00am meet by Offshoots.
- **Website:** Susan, Pat and Richard to update.
- **Card and DVD sales** ongoing.
- **Litter picks** to be arranged.

11. AOB:

- **June E.** sent a note: She has taken down the feeders from the bird reserve and will keep them in her shed.
Maureen has taken down the Riverside feeders and will keep them in her loft.
- **Race for Life Cancer Charity** takes place on June 16th. Volunteers needed to help either from 8.30am-11.00am for the Run (contact Liz.Booth@cancer.org.uk or phone 07748933504) Also from 12.30pm to help with tidying up with Andy Buck's team. (Contact: ABuck@burnley.gov.uk)
- **Tee Shirts/ Jumpers** with our logo were suggested, which could be worn at events. It was decided against the idea as variable weather would probably make them ineffective.
- **A Valuation Day proposal:** Margaret Crane has a good contact with an antiques valuer who is willing to have a day at Towneley.. This will be a good event to have next year and will be discussed at a later date

Next Meeting Date is on: Wednesday July 24th 2013 at 10.00 am (in Lecture Theatre)

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