

**FRIENDS OF TOWNELEY PARK (Reg. Charity no. 1144988)**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – October 12th 2013

Held in the Lecture Theatre, Towneley Hall.

**Present:** Maureen Frankland, Ronnie Pollard, Pat Colbran, Keith Buchanan, Linda White, Grayson Holden, Ian Walton, Pat & Pete Ashton, June Evans, John Nuttall, Susan Barker, Margaret Crane, June Pritchard

**Apologies:** Sylvia Hagan, Louise Chesbrough, Roger Leach.

1. The Chairman welcomed all who attended. Two new members were welcomed (Ian Walton and Grayson Holden)

Details for our forthcoming activities were distributed: Bulb Planting: Bird Feeding rota: Volunteers to assist at the Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> Bonfire: Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Gardening Club: Christmas arrangements: Notice boards rota.

2. 2012 AGM Minutes given out. Keith Buchanan proposed and John Nuttall seconded that they were a true record. The Minutes were unanimously accepted.

3. **Matters arising:**

No action yet on providing a defibrillator at the Hall. Need to check progress with Ken Darwen.

Dog mess still a problem in some areas, even on the golden gravel paths. Not very pleasant when gardening! We haven't yet met the Enforcement Officer!

The excess golden gravel on the paths is still causing difficulties for push chairs and wheel chair users.

A suggestion was made to perhaps use the Youth Offending Team or Community Payback to sweep up and save the surplus. Would Andy or Simon be able to make the contact?

FOTP volunteers are willing to help Steve in the planning etc.

4. **Chairman's Report:**

Maureen thanked everyone for their volunteer work during this busy and extremely successful year.

- The HLF funding for the fountain work and wicker deer is now completed. Producing the History Leaflet about the Park from the 1200's onwards will be finalised in Spring 2014 when all the research work is completed. Thanks to Susan for co-ordinating all the investigations.
- The Santa event with a 12 Days of Christmas trail was very popular.
- The Easter Egg Hunt and Hat parade in March was also well attended.
- Local school children planted wildflower seeds and looked at the daffodil displays from bulbs planted the previous Autumn. They also did a litter pick!
- Our usual Mayday stalls (Plant, Bric-a-brac and Raffle) were well attended.  
Some members helped at the Give and Gain Day with Business in the Community and the Ribble Rivers Trust to do some extra work around the Park on May 17<sup>th</sup>.  
The popular Band Concert in June was well attended, and refreshments were soon sold out!
- Members helped to prepare the flower beds in the Italian Garden ready for the Antiques Road Show in June. Spring bedding was removed, and some plants sold to raise funds. Steve and his team planted Summer bedding including the special Barwise dahlias.
- All who helped at the Show on June 27<sup>th</sup> enjoyed the experience despite the poor weather.
- In July and August, 5 walks around the Park were led by Susan, Maureen and Andrew, Pat and Pete.  
Some members enjoyed an afternoon in July as guests of the Towneley Bowling Club to sample the game, and an interesting morning in August finding out all that Offshoots has to offer.
- The rainy weather at the Heritage and Woodland Day in September affected the attendance, but was still an enjoyable event.
- In early October a team of volunteers from the Lend Lease organisation helped Steve and the gardeners and us to empty the Summer bedding from the Italian garden and replant with new Spring bedding. They also brought several shrubs which we were able to use in other areas.  
Some of our members rescued the Barwise dahlias to dry out and overwinter them. Hopefully they can be re-planted for next summer.

As well as these activities, the Gardening Club (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month), balsam picking, bird feeding and planning meetings carry on as usual throughout the year. A grant application to Awards for All for extra footpath work has been successful. And work should soon begin.

A revised list of members and contacts was distributed.

## 5. Secretary's Report:

The year has included: the usual distribution of Minutes, Officers Reports and updates to all our members, council officers, local park residents and businesses. Thanks to Andy, Keith and Graham for their regular reports and input.

Funding applications to the LCC Local Members Grant scheme has covered costs for the Autumn 2013 and Spring 2014 Newsletters and two events at the Woodland Festival. Our thanks go to County Cllrs. Brindle, Sumner, and Hassam for approving these grants.

A letter of thanks from Keith Wilson thanking the Group for their help and funding at the Woodland Festival has been received.

This is my last report as Secretary. I was very touched to receive a lovely flower arrangement, a picture of the weeping ash tree on the Towneley lawn, a card plus an album of photographs from the Group. Linda White has kindly taken on the task for the future.

## 6. Financial Report: See separate page for the annual accounts statement.

The balance at 31<sup>st</sup> August was **£6900.84**.

Since then we still have outstanding payments to make, totalling **£3384.38** as at 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013 as follows:

Rotary Garden – £27.55: Co-op Scooter maintenance – £610.30: Autumn Bulbs – £250.00:

Bench for Woodgrove – £250.00: Woodland Festival - £428.00: HLF - £1813.03.

So our available funds for projects are now **£3516.46**

June has had to resign from being our Treasurer and was thanked for keeping the books in such good order for the past few years. A card and gift were presented as a token of our appreciation.

## 7. Election of Officers

Chair: Maureen Frankland. Vice Chair: Roger Leach agreed to serve a further term. Secretary Pat Colbran and Treasurer June Evans both resigned. Pat will continue to be an active Group member.

Linda White agreed to take over as Secretary, **but we urgently need a Treasurer.**

Pat Ashton thanked Maureen on behalf of the members for all her work which had underpinned our many activities.

## 8. Volunteer contacts for projects:

Pat Ashton for Newsletter production: Susan Barker for publicity.: Pete Ashton for Gardening Club: Pat & Richard Colbran & Susan for website:

Maureen Frankland for liaison with the Hall re Scooters: John Nuttall for cleaning and any problems with Scooters: Susan and Maureen for Heritage Lottery project.

## 9. Suggested Projects for 2014 from our own surplus funds:

1. An extra picnic table at Riverside.
2. A hard core and gravel base, (using swept up golden gravel from the Park) for two/four benches to give a raised viewing point overlooking the Italian Garden by the South Wing door to the Hall
3. Willow play activities e.g. a willow tunnel, dens, maze in Thanet Lee Wood.
4. An information board for the Deer Pond as requested by Keith Wilson.
5. Additional carvings on fallen trees in Thanet Lee Wood.
6. Footpath improvements in Thanet Lee Wood.

These ideas will be progressed over the next few months and discussed at the next Friends Meetings.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday January 22nd at 10.00am.**

**N.B. This will be held at Towneley Garden Centre Café as the Hall will be closed for maintenance work.**

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