

FRIENDS OF TOWNELEY PARK Registered Charity No. 1144988
Minutes of Meeting held 23rd July 2014

Present: Linda White, Grayson Holden, Ian Walton, Alex McDonagh, Keith Buchanan, Pat Ashton, Pete Ashton, Pat Colbran, Ronnie Pollard, Victoria Woods, Margaret Crane, Diane Flynn, Maureen Frankland

Apologies: Andy Buck, Richard Moss, John Nuttall

Thanks to Ronnie Pollard for taking on maintenance of wooden posts on Smallholdings Trail. Also thanks to John Nuttall for offering to clear the Pond of litter. Vicky Woods (Ribble Rivers Trust) will help with this.

Minutes/Matters arising:

Hall is to be closed to the general public on Mondays to Fridays from November 3rd 2014 to February 14th 2015 but open for private functions and school visits. The Hall **will** be open as usual every Saturday and Sunday. Proposed increased weekday opening times for Spring 2015 onwards, will be confirmed later.

Treasurers Report: No written report for this mtg., but financial income given by Pat Colbran ie: £20 donation received, £11 for cards, £12 for scooters, £347 for band concert, Plants £155. Copies of Lottery funding expenditure given out. Charity Checkout information circulated. **Please consider before AGM.**

Officers report: Report circulated. Andy's report expressed thanks to the group for all their hard work. Monday 4th August : Stewards required for commemoration of WWI ceremony. Pat and Pete Ashton to co-ordinate this. All volunteers left their contact details with them to pass on to Mike Townend.

Issues:

Himalayan Balsam : Ribble Rivers Trust (RRT) has kindly provided funding for the leaflets that are now available at the Rotunda and in the Foyer, and the large bags have been distributed for collection of the Balsam. Agreed it is better to bag this and leave it to compost so that it cannot re-seed. FOTP picked Himalayan Balsam at Riverside car park area with RRT volunteers on July 21st and some members will pick in areas behind the Hall after the meeting. Members encouraged to pick any areas that have Himalayan Balsam before the end of July/early August (before they go to seed). Thanks to RRT for their additional "Balsam Bashing" in the Park.

Golden Gravel : Discussed – pointed out that to remove this using 'Payback Team' would cost us money, £6+ per person per hour, so it was decided that it was not our responsibility to pay for this, nor is it a possibility for us to remove it ourselves. It was suggested that we should send a letter to S.Goff asking him to contact the firm who originally distributed the gravel, but as this happened 4 years ago, and there were many complaints made in 2010, it was thought this would not bring any success. It was agreed that we would contact Jeff Sumner as County Councillor to see what help he can give to get the community "Payback Team" to help, without payment. The gravel is still blocking drains, causing puddles to develop, and these will present a slipping hazard when frozen in Winter.

Towneley Holmes Crossing: After discussion it was decided by the Group that again this was not our responsibility. In our opinion the Unity College PTA should arrange crossing duty if they are concerned about safety of students crossing Towneley Holmes.

Alex's project: The website linked to his Phd is taking shape with themes of Community: History: and Healing, emerging. He has taken personal stories from people who have grown up visiting the park and many stories about what has been happening over the years and visits which have taken place, including FOTP activities. Alex to show Linda White how to use Twitter

Spring Woollies: Diane Flynn from Pendle Crafters is to involve the public, including the Friends, in making knitted/crocheted/feltwork etc items over the winter. Wood work activities e.g. carvings/ bird boxes/ wicker/ items etc will also be made. These will then be used in Spring and Summer 2015 to identify walks in Thanet Lee Wood, as part of a Social Prescription programme entitled "Wool and Wood", for which we have received £2000. Photographs of a similar display at Sizergh Castle (National Trust) were circulated.

Workshops to be held on Saturday October 11th - 10.30am -12.30pm and 1.30pm – 3.30pm
ALL WELCOME. Please confirm with Maureen (01282 432423) to book a place for yourselves or others.

Feedback from activities:

June 1st - successful visit by Lower Burgh Meadow Conservation group, with FOTP walk, visit to Offshoots and Hall. Funds raised by selling tea/coffee and biscuits enabled us to cover costs of new tea pots and large water flask.

June 8th - Brass Band Concert was success. Special thanks to all cake makers. Professional photo of Hebden Bridge Band, taken by Rawlins Photography at end of the afternoon, was circulated.

June 29th – Heritage Lottery completion celebration attended by 50 people with three successful walks and refreshments at the Stables café. The leaflets “Towneley – the changing landscape” were well received. No general public attended walks.

July 13th – Alex led walk with Maureen and Andrew. No public attended.

Gardening – Gardening Club (1st Thursday of each month 10am) have continued maintenance of Offshoots, Rotary and Cafe beds. Mr. Barwise’s dahlias planted there are beginning to flower. Slug pellets and insect spray used.

Noticeboards – The History waymarkers from the HLF project are now located round the park. The new Noticeboard for the Deer Pond has been designed, and the design was circulated. The board should be in location before the end of August. Ian Walton is on duty checking all the noticeboards in August. Linda White is on duty checking all the noticeboards in September.

Scooters - Margaret is to do new Posters. Thanks to Christine (Hall shop) for smooth running of the scooters.

Flower Sale – from Italian Garden very successful. £155 raised through honesty box, with FOTP keeping plant table stocked. Some of money used to buy new tools for BBC gardeners, 2 spades and 1 lawn edge trimmer (2 more on order) £15.30 paid.

Future Activities:

Winter Newsletter –to be cancelled due to a) lack of sponsorship, b) Hall winter closures, c) lack of articles.

Spring newsletter - Thanks to Ribble Rivers Trust for Sponsorship of spring edition. Hall opening times will be known by the Spring. Articles already identified.

Walks – Sunday July 27th – Susan: Sunday August 10th – Pat and Pete: Sunday August 24th – Maureen and Andrew. All welcome.

Heritage and Woodland – September 13th, 14th is the Heritage Weekend and the Hall will be FREE entry for all. There will NOT be the usual Woodland festival, but there will be a few Woodland activities and walks at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm. **The Friends of Towneley Park will provide Tea at Towneley, tea/coffee/squash biscuits and cakes in the Housekeepers room and Servants dining room from 1pm – 4pm. All Cakes welcomed.**

Annual General Meeting -Saturday November 1st – 11am

a) Items for the Agenda to Linda White/Maureen Frankland by October 10th.

b) We need at least one new Trustee, preferably two, to replace Roger Leach and June Evans.

c) All invited to the Stables café for Hotpot Lunch at 1pm at a charge of £5 per head. **Please confirm with Maureen to book a place.**

Bonfire – the Bonfire will go ahead on November 5th.

Santa at Towneley –meeting at Towneley Hall Lecture Theatre on Thursday August 28th 2pm. All welcome

Any Other Business:

1. It was agreed that we should continue to plant bulbs with the school children in October/November. Pete Ashton to explore pricing of 2000 bulbs from Gordon Riggs or Burnley Council.

2. Maureen to enquire of Andy Buck why Picnic bench for Riverside has not been bought and installed.

3. Victoria Woods (Ribble Rivers Trust) circulated the book River Calder which explains about the Calder’s journey through Towneley Park. It is on sale for £14.99. Ask Maureen.

4. Victoria Woods asked the **FOTP** to reserve **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH** as an activity day re-instating the land alongside the pathway beyond Unity College, to improve the land, plant new plants and generally maintain the area. She will bring along 50 young people, but **NEEDS OUR ASSISTANCE**. Please give any time you have to spare to help on this day.

Contact : Maureen Frankland (Chairman) 01282 432423 , e mail: maureenfrankland159@btinternet.com .

Linda White (Secretary) 01282 453328 e mail: lindawhite793@btinternet.com

P. S. Message from Alex: Yes - our new baby daughter, Deryn, arrived in the early hours of Wednesday morning August 20th at 7 pounds and one half ounce!