

## FRIENDS OF TOWNELEY PARK

### Minutes

#### Meeting held January 21st 2016

**Present:** Roger Leach, Pat Colbran, Pat Ashton, Pete Ashton, Keith Buchanan, Ian Walton, Ronnie Pollard, Ann Mason, Margaret Crane, Susan Barker, Maureen Frankland, Richard Moss.

Roger Leach's DVD of Santa at Towneley 2015 was shown.

**Apologies:** Diane Flynn. (Alex McDonagh apologised after the meeting. His wife is undergoing serious hospital treatment)

**Welcome:** Maureen opened the meeting. Parking passes checked, and an up to date contact list of members given out. Bird food was available for the next rota of volunteers.

A DVD copy of the ITV film made about Towneley should soon be available from the producers.

Roger was thanked for recording the meeting on to an SD memory card.

**Minutes/Matters Arising :** Minutes were passed as a true record.

Memorial benches and new litter bins are still waiting to be installed.

We hope to have notices fixed to the bins to encourage the public to take litter home.

The dogwoods planted at Riverside to act as a windbreak were now showing new growth from the base, so should be more effective by the time summer arrives.

Two donations have been received for plants on the Little Lime Walk.

**Treasurer's Report:** No official report. Expenses have been paid out for work done so far on improvements to the meeting room (£1,434). This includes electrical work – new lighting, new extractor fan, plastering, new ceiling in the entrance and removal of an old gas fire.

£85 was raised by the Halloween trail. Scooter donations were £21. Santa at Towneley raised £225. The £200 local members grant from LCC for the March Newsletter has been banked – (thanks to CClr Margaret Brindle for that). Our balance now is £15,189

The Charity Checkout set up last year has had no response so far. Maureen agreed to contact the organisation to see if they were able to process gift aid contributions as part of their remit.

**Officers Report:** No report from A. Buck. We are aware of staff shortages etc, but would like to have updates on Park problems/ activities.

No news from Simon about the "wetlands bridge" being installed. Flood problems in Thompson Park have, of course, taken priority, with major damage to the bridge and paths.

#### **Members area checks:**

**Fulledge: Andrew/Maureen** noticed that a large puddle had formed near the swale. It needs draining into the river. The effects of the flooding was minimised by the Environment Agency's work over the last few years. There was little litter in the area which was good!

**Riverside: Ronnie :** One of the motorbike security racks at Riverside needs repairing – Andy to be informed.

**Smallholdings: Pat C** The flood damage on the footpaths had quickly been repaired by the Parks team. Notice boards were fairly clean, and little litter seen. A new memorial bench should soon be in place near the woodland at the top of Deerpark road where there is a good view point.

**Higher Towneley: Pat and Pete.** The paths in Thanet Lea are very muddy in places.

**Hall Area: Ian:** Extra litter bins are needed for events and long weekends. Some spare box bushes are available for the bowlers to use in the garden. The hole at the Offshoots entrance has been filled..

**Triangle:** The finger post giving directions to parking areas would benefit by adding "To the Hall" on the short stay sign. At present it just says Towneley Hall – Short Stay. Some visitors haven't realised and were unfit to walk from Riverside. Anne Mason asked to check this area in future.

*All the information boards should be checked to see if they need cleaning – they may have condensation/mould after all the damp winter weather. Members asked to help with this if possible.*

**Feedback from: Heritage and Woodland Day:** The catering was successful, and it was agreed to do the same this year. We need to work out a better system for boiling water provision.

**Halloween:** Some of the trail clues were destroyed (vandals???) on the first day. They were replaced with no further problems. Next time we need to check the trail every day to ensure all is in order. Visitors enjoyed taking part and following the clues.

**The Towneley bonfire:** worked out well, and the catering was appreciated by all the volunteers. The Worsthorne Tea Rooms provided the excellent food. Another volunteer is needed to help with the tea/used on the night, not duplicating with security staff.

**Santa at Towneley:** Had to be relocated to inside the Hall at the last minute due to the weather conditions. This proved very popular, and it was decided to do this every year. Roger Leach made a DVD of the afternoon. This year's theme (December 11<sup>th</sup> 2016) will be decided later! Ideas to Maureen please! A list of suggestions and improvements, submitted by Cynthia, will be discussed.

**Future Planning: Newsletter:** Pat Ashton has this well in hand. She will try to fit in a mention of the flooding, and also the popular Saturday 5K park run. She is still waiting for Hall events for this summer so that they can be included. Publication scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Gardening Club:** Starts again on Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup> (10am – noon), and then every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday. It was discussed whether to have plaques made to display on the areas we look after to say: "Planted and maintained by the Friends of Towneley Park." Maureen will check with Simon. Pete will check re costs, and if appropriate, will go ahead.

Some willow plants are on order to fill in the sparse growth on the legs of the wicker deer.

**Little Lime Walk renovation project** will continue on Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are also welcome to join us and the Park gardeners. A lot of clearance work has already been done in two sessions by volunteers from the "Go to the Park" and FOTP during the autumn. An information board will be displayed to explain the work and hopefully encourage donations to pay for new shrubs to be planted. Some plants are on order. It was felt that planting on the Hall side should be low growing to maintain the good view of the Hall. Simon and the gardening staff will be asked to make a plan and order the heritage planting.

**Towneley Crafters:** Meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, then every other Monday (1.30 – 3.30)

Our project is to make a large mosaic to display in the Park. Sharon Bainbridge is working on the design, and will source all the materials. Members will do practice work on small pieces in the meantime.

**Meeting Room:** A sheet was circulated for volunteers to say what time and expertise they could offer. Cracks to be covered – Andrew and Maureen: Noticeboard – Pete: Doors – Keith: Walls – Grayson and Pete: Clean up – Pat. **Any offers of further help** (cupboard making: replacing cupboard: retiling windowsill) – **contact Maureen.**

Susan donated material to be used for covering seat cushions. This plus curtains should finalise the work!

**Easter:** The Egg Hunt is on Easter Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3.30. Pat A. to prepare the clues. Meet at 11.30 to set out the trail so that there is time for a lunch break!

**Mayday:** We would like to do either a bric-a-brac stall or tombola on Mayday Monday along with a plant stall. Pat C to check with Rita and the T.H Society to see if they are planning anything on that day.

**General Concerns:** Litter picking – no one wanted to take on organising picks, but it was left to members to occasionally take a bag and picker on their walks.

Himalayan Balsam - left till the next meeting to decide how to proceed, depending on volunteers and Park staff involvement.

**Next Meeting: Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup> – 10.00am . In the Meeting Room**

**Bird Feeding**

**Please Note : These are the volunteers so far. If you can help please let Maureen know.**

w/c Date Sundays	FOTP Volunteer	w/c Date Sundays	FOTP Volunteer
Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pat and Pete	March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Shaun and family
Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>	Shaun, Adele and family	March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pat and Pete Ashton
Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>	Keith	March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Keith
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ronnie	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pat and Richard Colbran	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>		April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Pat and Pete Ashton
Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ronnie	April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Shaun and family

**Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> is Easter Sunday when we have our Easter Egg trail. Please let Maureen know if you are able to help. Volunteers so far are: Margaret: Susan: Keith: Pat and Pete: Anne M: Pat C: Ronnie: Maureen: Andrew.**

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