

Friends of Towneley Park

Minutes of meeting held on Monday March 26th 2012

1. **Present:** June Evans, Pat Colbran, Pat and Pete Ashton, Keith Buchanan, Brian Broxup, June Pritchard, Susan Barker, Tony Kitto, Andy Buck, Rob Richards, Maureen Frankland, Ronnie Pollard, Margaret Crane, Sylvia Hagan, Roger Leach,

2. **Apologies:** Jill Urquart, Margaret Brindle

3. **Meeting – January 25th 2012:** Minutes passed as a true record.

4. **Matters arising:**

- The play equipment for Riverside play ground is STILL awaiting inspection by the manufacturer before it can be installed.
- Maureen thanked all the volunteers who kept the bird feeders well stocked at Riverside over the winter months.
- The display at Skipton Building Society in St James St. is now in place and will remain until the middle of April. It shows the results of their donation to the group for planting bulbs with local schoolchildren and general information.
- A meeting with members of our group, Simon Goff and a representative from the Environment Agency (EA) to discuss the ongoing footpath problems at Fullede is arranged for after this meeting.
- The new car park area (the old all weather pitch) can now go ahead as originally planned. EA no longer consider this site as a possible flood protection location for the town. It will be landscaped and have marked parking bays which will be "pay & display"
- Maureen distributed a contact list of members and associates for general information. Tony Kitto noted that his contact phone number was incorrect, but did not want his number on the list. It will be removed from the master copy.

5. **Financial Report. 25th January – 25th March 2012:**

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Cllr, Briggs (Grant for Spring Newsletter)	240.00	Bird Seed	29.98
Additional income from Christmas Tree Event	20.00	Black bags for balsam collection (12)	41.71
G.P.A for Balsam project and Easter expenses	500.00	Print costs Newsletter)	351.00
	760.00	Total:	422.71
Balance at 25th January:	2840.22		
Total :	3600.22		
		Current balance:	3177.53

Cash in hand: Notelet sales, £4.00, Donations for Scooters: £3.00

Still to pay: £3.59 for Easter Eggs.

A cheque has been sent to open our Account with Charities Aid Foundation (C.A.F.) for £1500.00 from our current balance. When this is processed, the remaining balance at Barclays will be transferred and that account closed.

Grant money still spoken for: Skipton B.S. – Bulbs £271.63

Coo-op Scooter maintenance; £1190.20

G.P.A. Balsam / Easter: £458.29

Also a promised donation to the Brass band Concert: £200.00

We need to explore the procedures for reclaiming VAT on purchases and Gift Aid donations to the Friends of Towneley Park.

6. **Reports from BBC Officers were sent out with the Agenda.**

7. **Management and Maintenance:**

- Andy informed us that the litter bins at Woodgrove would soon go ahead, but funding still had to be found for the two proposed seats.
- The grass on Fullede would be cut just before the annual Fair in July. In the meantime, just the edges to be trimmed.
- The Green Flag application has been submitted – result soon!
- BBC is hoping to apply for the Green Heritage award next year.
- The wild flower areas at Woodgrove has been re – seeded mainly with poppies which will help with the bee project at Offshoots.
- The golden gravel in the park is still causing problems – blocking drains, and awkward for push and wheel chair users.

8. **Current Projects:**

- **Gardening Club** – Next working party on Thursday 5th April at 10.00am (meet at entrance to Offshoots)
 - **Website** – Tony Kitto has set up a very attractive site – www.fotp.btck.co.uk Do have a browse. Items can be added by going to towneleypark@gmail.com. Photos can be put on Flickr. films on U tube Lots for us to learn about!
 - **Newsletter** – Spring edition now out and looks very good and informative. Members took packs to distribute to various locations. Ken Darwen asked that we also take some of the Towneley information leaflets as their regular delivery doesn't start until later.
- Pat C agreed to seek funding for the next two issues.

- **Spring Visits with Schoolchildren.** These will take place on March 28th, 29th and 30th. Lisa and David from Offshoots are to talk to the children about the “Bees in Burnley” project. We will take them to scatter wildflower seeds on a prepared site near to Hanbrig entrance, and also visit the areas where bulbs were planted last autumn. The volunteer list to accompany the groups was confirmed.
- **Himalayan balsam project:** Susan Barker is preparing a leaflet and map with locations of areas needing most attention to be printed by BBC Graphics. June E. has purchased several very heavy duty plastic sacks to be placed ready to be filled. Expenses are funded by a grant from Green Partnership. All members and public will meet at Riverside car park on 31st May (10.30am) to start the onslaught, and volunteers can then have sessions whenever they have time to spare.
- **Easter egg hunt and Hat parade: Sunday April 8th 1pm – 4pm.** Arrangements are well in hand. Pat and Pete have made the clues ready to hang along the route, and will buy the traditional “crème eggs” The route sheets are printed, and Pat C will bring the clip boards and pencils. June Evans is organising the Hat Parade and prizes. Councillors, Margaret Brindle and Jeff Sumner have kindly agreed to be the judges. Margaret Crane will make hats with the children. Graham Gavaghan will make labels to give to all the children who take part. We just need a fine bright day!
- **May Day, Monday May 7th 12noon – 4pm.** We will have (1) plant and bric-a-brac stalls. (2) Information and leaflets to promote the Himalayan balsam project (funded by a Green Partnership grant) to be given out. 3) Volunteers to issue the mobility scooters. (4) an IPod walk for anyone to join, starts at 2pm from the Hall shop.
- **Deer and Fountain progress:** We are trying to source funding to have two wicker deer placed in the Italian Garden. Peter Woodhead (Towneley Hall Society) is investigating the fountain re-instatement. A small group will meet as things develop.

9. Activities:

- **Roger Leach** is preparing a DVD of stories associated with the Towneley family. Members were invited to a preview by Sylvia at her home (19 Applecross Drive) on Tuesday April 3rd at 2.00pm, or members can borrow a copy to see at home. One to be left at the Hall for Tony.
- **Maureen** circulated a list for volunteers to issue the scooters on summer weekends. She will compile and distribute, and will produce posters to give times when scooters are available. These will be placed in the shop mobility and Jay-Care etc.
- **Susan Barker** (also a member of the Lancashire Gardens association) is interested in the history of the Gardens at Towneley. She invited anyone interested to join her study. Tony Kitto referred her to studies already stored in the Library. The object would be to finally produce a pamphlet for general distribution.
- **Litter picking:** Louise may organise on her return from NZ. Maureen to contact PCSO Emma re litter picks with Unity.
- **Bee Project:** The gardening group will scatter wildflower seeds near the playing pavilion.
- **Plant Sale from the Italian Garden:** Will take place end of May/early June when the summer bedding is done – watch out for posters in the notice boards.
- **Sunday June 17th 2pm – 4pm: “Brass in the Park”** with Stacksteads Brass Band.

10. AOB:

- **Defibrillator:** Brian asked if there was any action yet. The proposal (to have one available in the Hall) had been passed to Ken Darwen to progress this important provision.
- **Tony Kitto** drew our attention to the potential of applying to become a Green Heritage Park in 2013 and the need to ensure Heritage is at the heart of many of our activities during the year.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday May 17th 10am

Contacts: Chairperson, Maureen Frankland (432423) emailmaureenfrankland159@btinternet.com : Secretary, Pat Colbran (426449)

PLEASE NOTE: The meeting to discuss plans for Christmas 2012 has been postponed from Thursday April 5th until later in the year. A new date will be announced at a future meeting.