

Chairman
Mr R R Bennett



Secretary
Miss L Wilkins

Treasurer
Miss A Noble

www.pannettpark.co.uk

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Friends of Pannett Park (including Little Park)

29th March 2017 4 pm in the Normanby Room

Present - Bob Bennett, Gill Wood, Ron Wood, Linda Wilkins, Chris Roe, Anne Noble, Amanda Smith, Kath Horsley, Steve Smith, Sorrel Hinchliffe, Hazel Wright (Museum operations manager).

1. Apologies - Joe Plant, Linda Sims, Heather Coughlan, Alan Ritson, Wendy English
2. Minutes of the Friends of Pannett Park Open Meeting, 19th October 2016
The minutes were agreed correct, to be put on the website and the reports circulated to the trustees.
3. Minutes of the Pannett Park Management Committee meetings, 5th October, 2nd November, 30th November 2016 & 4th January, 1st February 2017.
The minutes were presented to the meeting.
They had been available on the website.
4. Chairman's Report - Bob Bennett reported -

Halloween in the park was successful with lots of young people in fancy dress. PNSA performed a spooky promenade play, the Whitby Wyrn. After the ever popular bat hunt one of our bats went missing, to reappear in a Hawthorne in January. I wonder what his story is?

FPP were delighted to receive an NYCC "County Councillor Locality Budgets" grant, of £500, endorsed by Cllr Joe Plant. 80 Rosa "Yorkshire Regiment" were purchased from Roger's & have been planted in the circular beds on the drive. A plaque relating to the roses is to be placed on the museum door below that recording the visit of the regiment to Whitby.

We were all sad to see Peter Hughes leave the museum. We will miss his quirky sense of humour.

A fabulous lantern parade set off from the park to walk through town to the opening of the Christmas Festival. We were pleased to be able to help with stewarding.

The park had about 3 seconds of fame on the ITV winter walks programme in the autumn.

Christmas involved the usual activities in the park. The tree was kindly donated by Lord Normanby, with Wynne Jones, Keeper of the Lit & Phil, performing the official switch on of the lights. It was particularly good to see members of the Lit & Phil, Whitby Nats & WTC there.

Christmas dinner at the Penny Hedge was enjoyed by all.

The FPP tree was displayed in the St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival, with shiny new forks & trowels.

The Pannett Park angels again put in an appearance at the Kidzfest.

After the festivities it was back to more routine matters.

FPP insurance was renewed, through the RHS & NFU.

The celebration clock board has been updated to include 2016 successes.

The clock interpretation board has been updated to include the jubilee clock & is currently with Vinyl Signs for printing.

We are considering additions to the time line - formation of FPP & the Jubilee clock.

10 000 of each of the Jurassic Garden & general park leaflets have been ordered from Adverset. Some new photographs were included in the general leaflet to bring it up to date.

Most exciting perhaps is the developing partnership working between museum, art gallery & park.

After only the first meeting of the reinstated joint marketing group we arranged a joint advert on the park & ride bus. Also we have booked a joint space at the leaflet exchange in Scarborough on 31st March. Hopefully this relationship will continue to thrive.

Maintenance tasks completed include - new double tap fitted in the Community Garden, a replacement plaque fitted at the Lily Pool, an additional board fitted under clock success board.

Three Magnolia soulangeana have been planted to replace the Friends magnolia which was lost.

Changes are planned for the Community Garden, with it becoming a demonstration/taster vegetable garden. A raised bed for growing seeds is to be built.

We are undertaking some research, in conjunction with the RHS & Coventry University, into what colour flowers bees prefer. Dahlia "Mignon" are to be used.

A training visit to Sledmere walled garden, with their head gardener, is planned for 24th May.

Easter in the Park, Wednesday 12th April, will follow the usual pattern.
Any offers of help please?

It has become a tradition to go for fish & chips after open meetings, long may it continue!

5. Assistant Operations Officer's Report - Chris Roe reported -

It has been a busy winter.

Tree works were carried out in South Seas Garden with the removal of a sycamore threatening the wall, & crown lifting of other trees.

A visual tree survey has been completed with particular emphasis on monitoring those identified in the original report at the start of the restoration project. Three trees on the top of the wall in Little Park have been identified for eventual removal but no decision has been made on the time scale.

The *Cupressus macrocarpa* near the semi circular seat is defoliating.

Five *Pinus strobus* were planted in the Scots pine copse.

A hedgerow of whips, *Salix caprea*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Prunus spinosa* & *Crataegus monogyna*, was planted in the South Seas Garden. When mature these will provide shelter & food for wildlife.

Three donated acers were planted in South Seas Garden.

A *Magnolia grandiflora*, donated by Poet's Cottage Shrub Nursery, was planted near the museum in a sheltered corner.

A *Prunus* 'Kanzan' replaced one that had died.

New planting on the museum walls began with the addition of *Trachelospermum jasminoides*, *Wisteria sinensis* 'Alba', *Rosa* 'Geoffrey Smith', *Actinidia kolomikta* & *Garrya elliptica* 'James Roof'.

A "Pannett Park" arch has been made by James Godbold for the Union Steps Entrance. We are hoping to improve two of the entrances from Chubb Hill with the addition of stone pillars.

A small pond has been developed near Jurassic Garden to provide a wildlife habitat.

A small amount of HLF money remains, to be spent over the next two years. The park has continued to develop & thrive since the completion of the capital works.

PCSO Lynne Butler has returned to working in Whitby & regularly patrols the park. Improvement to CCTV coverage of the park is being investigated.

The park apprentice, Richard Trotter, is proving to be a good, steady worker. His reports from Askham Bryan show a steady improvement.

6. Volunteer Gardener's Report - Gill Wood reported -

Notes from a Volunteer Gardener October 2016 - March 2017

October. The main drive border was cleared of weeds & dead herbaceous matter. Peony Steps bed was tidied & Jasminum officinale removed where it was overwhelming other planting in herbaceous borders. Work continued relentlessly on St. Hilda's terrace border. Winter pruning of the roses was carried out throughout the month. Hyacinth bulbs donated by FPP were planted in the bedding displays.

November. Herbaceous tidying continued & work began on clearing the unwanted Ionicera along Union Steps. Jasminum officinale & J. nudiflorum was removed from the Museum terrace walls. 210 Narcissus 'Actaea' were planted in the Community Garden, 1000 N. 'Mount Hood' near Jurassic Garden with some donated narcissus, & N. 'Carlton' filled a gap near the curved seat. Work started on clearing Union Steps shrubbery & rockery. Cornus were tidied. Climbers were checked for wind damage & Buddleia pruned at the Lily Pool.

December. Work continued on Union Steps rockery & shrubbery with pruning & raking off, prior to levelling the slope & turfing the area with an underplanting of crocus. Crocus tommasinianus 'Ruby Giant' were planted on the bank near the play area with the help of pupils from St. Hilda's Roman Catholic Community Primary School. This was in support of the RHS Greening Grey Britain campaign & the Rotary Club 'Purple4Polio' campaign. Suckers were removed from hollies & cornus, & low growing branches removed from the Quercus ilex at the play area. Leaves were cleared from borders & the bank. Perovskia in Twin Rockeries was half pruned to prevent wind rock. A pleasant morning was spent making table decorations in the tool shed & help was given planting Rosa 'The Yorkshire Regiment' in the Rose Garden.

January 2017. Work recommenced after the Xmas break in early January. The Commemorative Garden was tidied & work began on clearing old fern foliage from the Bagdale fernery & Jurassic Garden. Suckers were removed from hollies above Jurassic Garden & another holly trimmed where overhanging a path. Peony Steps shrubbery was hard pruned to regenerate overgrown planting & Ilex 'Golden King' was added. The Lily Pool had its annual gentle clean & tidy, & monitoring of wildlife was carried out. Over-wintering tadpoles & other wildlife were found.

February. The Lily Pool area was checked over & donated water lilies were added. External rose beds were weeded. Clematis pruning was undertaken & climbing roses checked. Bins & boards were given a spruce up. The shrubbery to the rear of the Lily Pool was hard pruned & tidied. Twin rockeries were weeded and the planting managed. Sedum & other over-wintering herbaceous

plants were cut back & the Buddleia globosa was pruned. Grasses were cut down & general weeding carried out. The Community Garden bed was weeded & edged off.

March. Milder, dry days meant that work continued apace starting with a Big Spring Clean in South Seas Garden for Keep Britain Tidy, benches were teak-oiled, litter cleared & general gardening undertaken. New planting was watered, toads & other wildlife at the Lily Pool monitored, hydrangeas pruned & ivy removed from a wall in the South Seas Garden. Help was given with planting Garrya elliptica 'James Roof' on the museum wall, 4 Lonicera periclymenum 'Serotina' on the Community Garden arches & 3 Magnolia soulangeana in the Jurassic Garden. Work started on pruning Cornus & the climbers were checked. Weeding took place around the play area.

Many thanks as always to the SBC team for their continuing support.

Vol. gardening hours for 2017 to end Feb. are 211. Total since 2005:15,698.

7. Friends Events in the Park

Easter in the Park - Wednesday 12th April, 11 to 1.30

Pannett Day - Wednesday 26th July 11 to 3

Yorkshire in Bloom judging, July

8. Date of next meeting

AGM - Wednesday 22nd June, 4 pm, Normanby Room