



Friends of Valley Gardens “Harrogate”

Harrogate’s Award Winning Park

President: Martin Fish

Charity Number: 1148369



The Friends of Valley Gardens AGM Tuesday, 26th March 2019 at the White Hart Hotel Agenda

1. Welcome

At the end of the formal meeting there will be a short presentation by Pam Millen of Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Group on biodiversity in Valley Gardens

2. Apologies

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on 3 March 2018

4. Matters Arising

5. Reports

5a. Finance and Membership by Anne Grange

5b. Japanese Garden by Ann Beeby

5c. Old Magnesia Well Pump Room by Andrew Jordan

5d. King Edward VII Memorial Gate by David Mason

5e. Volunteer Gardeners by Liz Chidlow

6. Resignation and re-election of trustees

7. Any other business

8. Date of next Annual General Meeting

9. Report by Kate Dawson of Harrogate Borough Council Parks and Environmental Services Department

10. Other current activities and ideas for the future

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits will be served at 6.00 pm

Friends of Valley Gardens March 26th 2019 AGM Minutes

at The White Hart Hotel Cold Bath Road

Present: Trustee Committee; Liz Chidlow Meeting Chairman, Anne Grange Treasurer, Ann Beeby Secretary and Andrew Jordan plus 33 members

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed members and said how pleased the Friends were to be at The White Hart as they are near the Valley Gardens and had reimagined their outdoor space which received an award from Harrogate In Bloom. Pleased to welcome Pam Millen from Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Group to talk later.
2. **Apologies:** received from Martin Fish President and 18 members
3. **Minutes** from 2018 Annual General Meeting need to have the date added, but were then agreed. Proposed Christine Booth, Seconded David Mason.
4. **Matters Arising:** Concerns relating to dogs in the gardens, it was noted that leaflets had been circulated which address the issue of dog mess specifically we also talked to Kate about dog issues.
5. **REPORTS:** re circulated with the minutes.
 - a) Treasurer's Report circulated. Membership Secretary; Membership stands at 128 (£979) and is mainly by standing order. Gift aid Members were encouraged to sign a Gift Aid form. Gift Aid of £2058 was collected on membership subscriptions and other large donations in 2018.
 - b) Anne thanked the project team for the King Edward VII Gate Project for all their hard work.
 - c) Japanese Garden report circulated; the Chairman commented about an information leaflet designed by Sam Corazzi from Rossett School, also the Website Blog and Instagram Accounts which were keeping the public up to date with progress and activities
 - d) Old Magnesia Well Pump Room report circulated; Andrew Jordan appealed for more volunteers to man the Pump Room on Open Days.
 - e) King Edward VII Memorial Gate; David Mason reported that this was now complete. Going forward it was hoped to be able to replace the short section of wooden fencing with a metal fence which was more in keeping with the project. Some algae which have arisen on the stonework of the wall has been treated. Additional rosettes made at the same time as the new ones for the gates were to be used to decorate the gates to the bandstand.
 - f) Volunteer Gardeners report circulated; Helen Norris asked if gardening days other than Tuesdays could be advised in advance to those who were interested. LC thanked the HBC gardeners; Simon, Paula, Paul and Mike for their support through the year.

6. **Resignation and re-election of trustees:** Ann Beeby reminded members that it was agreed at the meeting in October 2018 that the Friends would be run by a Trustee Committee following the resignation of Jane Blayney. The Trustees had been in place since January 2019 and were all willing to be re-elected. Proposed all Trustees be re-elected; Peter Blayney, Seconded Jane Blayney. Voted all in favour.
7. **Any Other Business:** Arthur Phillipson was concerned that the recycling policy should be extended to all litter bins. The Chairman agreed to note this.
8. **Date of Next AGM:** Tuesday March 3rd 2020 Members were asked to approve the venue as The White Hart, and the time of the meeting at 5.00pm
9. **Kate Dawson:** Harrogate Borough Council Strategic Development Officer; report attached. Peter Blayney raise 4 points: i) A query regarding HBC payment of £19,000 towards the King Edward VII Gate project, Anne Grange said she could advise PB of the details; ii) Asked KD to pass on his disquiet at the failure to fell the 'Handkerchief Tree' near the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room; to check if the roof of the bandstand was still leaking, and to repair the Pau Whenua in the New Zealand garden. Anne Smith asked if the Park Ranger worked over weekends, and was told that his hours were from 2.30pm till late but to be aware that he covered the whole Harrogate District.
10. **Other Current Activities:**
 - a) Andrew Jordan reported that FOVG are investigating the provision of a new map of the gardens by Evelyn Sinclair illustrated mapping from Cumbria.
 - b) Jane Blayney reported on the possibility of a Tree Trail leaflet and further information products relating to the history, horticulture and mythology of trees in the Valley Gardens.
 - c) The Friends continue to give guided walks and tours of the gardens.
 - d) The Gardens are on the route for Britain in Bloom 2019 and judging is likely to be in early August.
 - e) The Chairman asked the members to put forward suggestions for activities, outings etc for the membership; for example the idea of having social visits to gardens which we could not normally see.

The meeting closed at 5.55pm

FRIENDS OR VALLEY GARDENS
AGM 26 March 2019

TREASURER'S REPORT

I will quickly run through the abbreviated accounts for the financial year to 31 December 2018.

Most income items are self-explanatory but a full breakdown is shown on page 7.

The one heading which is not itemised is the £2,595 listed as Net fundraising events the income of which is split as follows

- £1,607 was raised by opening the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room
- £900 by holding the Ikebana Evening
- £88 by holding tours of Valley Gardens

Most expenditure items are listed on page 7. Again these should be self-explanatory.

Obviously the major expenditure in 2018 was £62,953 for the King Edward VII Memorial Gate (KEG). Plus in 2016 and 2017 we spent £2,177 on the Gate making the total paid by FOVG £65,130. In addition we had £600 of concrete donated and a number of items/services were paid for or provided free of charge by Harrogate Borough Council making a total project cost of approximately £85,000.

After paying all invoices we were left with a balance in the account at the 31 December of £9,632. These funds will be used to produce new FOVG leaflets as well as conserving and enhancing the Gardens.

I would like to thank all those people who continue to help us raise money for our various projects. Particularly Jane Blayney who fundraises tirelessly and with great enthusiasm.

My final thanks go to the family of Richard Dobson, who in January this year donated £600 which had been collected in his memory. Richard passed away in December and will be greatly missed as he was a long-standing volunteer gardener.

The bank balance as of today (26 March 2019) is £11,004

Of that

£600 is ringfenced to be spent in memory of Richard Dobson. His family will decide what it is to be used for.

Other financial commitments are

£400 towards set up costs to enable Jane Blayney and Anne Smith, both ex chairmen of FOVG, to produce a Valley Gardens Tree Trail Leaflet.

£156 accountants' charges

A small amount may be required to replace the timber fence with a steel estate fence at the KEVII Gate but it is possible that this will be provided FOC by Kendrew Architectural Metalwork.

Also a small amount will be required to fit rosettes to the bandstand gates. The rosettes have already been purchased.

Japanese Garden

Bank balance as of today (26 March 2019) is £3,406

£900 was raised at the Japanese Garden opening and the Ikebana evening but this was paid into the FOVG general account.

We should receive the final instalment of £8,920 from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) by the end of this year, although it is anticipated that we may only receive £7,100, as the cost of some items eg the pagoda and lanterns, have been covered by donations from NYCC, Harrogate flower club and other sources.

We owe HBC £8,920, which will not be paid until we have received the final tranche of money from HLF. Any necessary accounts will be produced at the end of this year.

Anne Grange, Treasurer

FRIENDS OF VALLEY GARDENS
AGM 26 March 2019

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the end of last year we had 128 members, some of whom are honorary members. The majority of members pay by annual standing order. This makes keeping track of membership fees much simpler and we try to encourage people to pay this way. The total raised in 2018 was £979.

We also encourage members to complete gift aid forms if they are eligible. We can claim gift aid on membership fees and large donations, but only if we have received a signed gift aid form. If there are any members present who have not signed a form, please see me at the end of the meeting. Our claim for gift aid in 2018 was £2,058.

Based on the figure of 128 our active members are approximately 20% of our total membership.

We always welcome new members so if anyone present is not already a member we have application forms available.

Anne Grange
Membership Secretary

FOVG AGM 26 March 2019 - Japanese Garden Report

The last twelve months have been busy with planting, maintenance and events in the Japanese Garden. This year we have put in a total of 151 full volunteer days, calculated from the hours worked, and this equates to £22,627.50 in volunteer labour. This is a phenomenal achievement, for which we are extremely grateful; without this dedication and enthusiasm the Japanese Garden would not be looking as good as it does; so a big thankyou to all our volunteers.

At the commencement of this project we set out our objectives and a time table to follow taking us up to December 2019 as part of our grant application. We are on track with this, the main shortfall being visits to the garden by junior school students, which we are currently working on. Grove Academy's 'Time Out' Garden within their school grounds, which was included in our 'schools' projects, is currently delayed. This has run into difficulty owing to the financial problems the school is facing due to the threatened reduction of funding for the school by NYCC, for which we are still awaiting the outcome. As you will be aware we did have one incident of vandalism during the year which damaged one of the lanterns, however this was quickly dealt with, and Heritage lottery agreed to cover the cost of the repair within the grant. The lantern has been strengthened significantly, and we hope this will be sufficient to prevent any further issues.

Guided walks and school visits have included the Japanese Exchange students from Rossett School and the Friends of Rivington Terraced Gardens who also have a Japanese style rock garden and lake to restore. Additional events in the garden have been organised by the Yorkshire Centre for Wellbeing on Duchy Road for Tai Chi and Yoga, and Harrogate and Nidderdale Art Group sketching in the garden.

I feel sure that all of you who were able to come to the opening ceremony on October 17th by Ambassador Tsuruoka will have happy memories of a very successful day. A thank you to those businesses who supported the two day event, and enabled a profit of £900 to be raised for the Friends by our Sogetsu Ikebana Demonstration at Ashville College on the following day. During the rest of 2019 we will be concentrating on the evaluation of the project, it is only when this is completed that HLF release the last 10% of the grant. We are indebted to HBC for all the help and support they have given throughout, and in particular the fact that they have supported the £8900 which will only be settled when the final monies are received. As part of the evaluation we would welcome any comments you may have about how you view the restoration and the difference you feel it has made to the Valley Gardens as a whole.

Ann Beeby

Friends of Valley Gardens Gardening Volunteers Report 2018 (January to December)

In 2018 the volunteer gardeners helped the Council gardeners throughout the year on 34 days. This covered at least 164 volunteer gardening sessions and an average of 5 people per session. We were very sorry for the loss of Richard Dobson as a faithful gardening volunteer.

The volunteers concentrated on the Japanese Garden planting in March /April, September and October 2018 and maintenance. We did some gardening on a Saturday for the March/April planting but after that kept to weekdays. The garden looked wonderful when the Japanese Ambassador opened it on the 17th October 2018.

A busy year made more demanding by the very hot summer, necessitating hosing in places, particularly where new planting had occurred.

We also helped with maintenance on the dahlia bed, annual bedding and some work in the Peat and Scree Gardens and herbaceous beds, plus grass edging and hedge pruning. Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Group cleaned the bird boxes out in the Peat Garden in November.

It was very welcome to get the help of a student from Leeds Beckett University, Landscape Architecture and Design Course, a Horticulture student placement from Askham-Bryan College and a member of staff from Yorkshire Building Society.

We helped with the Rose Bed planting at the King Edward VII Memorial Gate in November.

We were very pleased to receive the Yorkshire In Bloom Platinum Award for the third year running. So well done all gardening volunteers.

Liz Chidlow
Volunteer Garden Coordinator
March 2019

Old Magnesia Well Pump Room Report
Friends of Valley Gardens AGM 26th March 2019

- Grateful thanks to the small regular team who keep the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room open, especially John Moor, Pauline Wilby, Anne Broadbent and everyone else who donates their time. So far, we are slightly ahead of last year with £134.93 in donations.
- This is the rota for the OMWPR for the next few weeks, if you could help please send me an email; 7th April, Easter 21st April & 22nd April, 5th May & 6th May, 19th May. Other dates can be found on the FOVG website.
- I will be away for about a month from the 13th April till the 12th May, John Moor has kindly agreed to take control, please give him your full support.
- Jane dropped the excess supplies and a tea urn from the 1940's Day into the OMWPR, as we no longer run this event and we have very limited storage space we decided to donate this equipment to a worthy cause, with help from Carol Houseman from Harrogate Lions we found that a girls junior football team the Killinghall Nomads needed equipment, so David Houseman the team coach collected them.
- The benches in the OMWPR are full, including I think a marquee, if anyone has storage space for these items, we could keep them in case we need them in the future, otherwise we will be looking to dispose of these items to a good cause.
- Harrogate Spring Water has been a profitable way to raise funds in the OMWPR but it is even better if we do not have to buy it. Thanks to, Harrogate Water Brands for donating a quantity of bottled water.
- We now have a dedicated email address for the OMWPR; oldmagwell@friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk I should receive messages sent to this address so please try it out.
- We have offered the OMWPR to the Harrogate and District Biodiversity Action Group to use on a Sunday in summer for a fund raising and education day (subject to HBC approval). At the time of writing HDBAG have not confirmed whether they wish to take advantage of this offer.

Andrew Jordan

andreejor@googlemail.com/oldmagwell@friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk

FRIENDS OF VALLEY GARDENS, HARROGATE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Income		
Membership subscriptions	979	1,119
Memorial Gate donations and grants	7,135	15,320
General donations and grants	1,895	1,856
Net fundraising events income	2,595	12,158
Gift Aid	2,058	2,199
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	14,662	32,652
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Expenses		
Publicity and administration	299	862
Pump Room project	-	42
Donation (ring fenced for Japanese Garden)	-	4,000
Memorial Gate	62,953	732
Miscellaneous	460	1,385
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	63,712	7,021
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Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(49,050)	25,631
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FRIENDS OF VALLEY GARDENS, HARROGATE

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	9,632	58,682
Prepayments and debtors	270	270
	<u>9,902</u>	<u>58,952</u>
Reserves		
Opening Balance	58,952	33,321
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(49,050)	25,631
	<u>9,902</u>	<u>58,952</u>
Closing balance	<u>9,902</u>	<u>58,952</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 20 March 2019 and signed on their behalf by:

A Grange



FRIENDS OF VALLEY GARDENS, HARROGATE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

1 **King Edward VII Memorial Gate Project**

Grant received for Memorial Gate	£
2016 – Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation	10,000
2017	15,320
2018	7,135
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	32,455
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Money spent on Memorial Gate	£
2016	1,445
2017	732
2018	62,953
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	65,130
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2 **Memorial Gate Donations and Grants Received in 2018**

	£
NYCC	1,980
Ironmongers Foundation	3,000
Alan Marcourt	500
P & A Turner	400
T A Calvert	250
Harrogate Civic Society	200
U3A Tour	149
Fundraising	562
Mr & Mrs Green	44
Anonymous	50
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	7,135
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FRIENDS OF VALLEY GARDENS, HARROGATE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

3	General donations and grants	£
	E Barnes	1,000
	CAF	500
	Miscellaneous	395
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		1,895
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4	Miscellaneous Expenses	£
	Accountancy	150
	Trustee/Member expenses	115
	Yorkshire in Bloom awards tickets	105
	Yorkshire in Bloom entry	40
	Membership contributions	50
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		460
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