

## Minutes of the Friends of Waterlow Park [FoWP] AGM on Thursday 16 May 2019 held at LUX, Park Centre, Waterlow Park, Highgate Hill

FoWP Chair Fiona Murphy introduced the speaker, Adrian Scrivener, of Central St Martins, UAL, who leads the sculpture strand of the Foundation course with 600 students, half from the UK and EU, and half international.

He described how the Art in Park display had come about. The school had been peripatetic in recent years but they were keen to be active in the Archway area with its links to Byam Shaw, utilising green spaces and drawing on the expertise in LUX. Thanks were due to both LUX and FoWP for facilitating the event.

The focus was on outdoor work and emphasizing the educational experience, bringing in history, the site and methodology. In January the students made a site visit and talked with Lauderdale House and Pam Cooper. In April, Mark Wallinger, Turner prize winner, sculptor of 'Ecce homo' and an installation at Runnymede spoke to students about site-specific art. Approximately 35 students put forward *proposals* with visualisations, drawings and risk assessments. Ideas were then *developed*, tested and adapted with the technical team, and plaster mockups made. *Installation* required packing, transport and cooperation, testing the ability of students to be realistic and to think about engaging with different audiences.

The show *opening* was disappointing in that few Camden representatives attended and people had not seen the advertising. The *duration* was short because of charges levied by Camden: FE funding is limited, materials were expensive and students were paid to attend at the gates. The exhibitors had to take liability. The captions were successful and attracted attention.

*Repeating* the show depends on the timing of Easter and resulting academic constraints. A longer show from Thursday to Sunday would be desirable. The students benefited from talking to a range of visitors who might not be interested in art and from collaborating. Distinctions were achieved by 53% in sculpture – a significant increase – and the external examiners described the park project as 'exceptional'.

The speaker was asked if local people could help support the initiative and expressed concern about the fees charged. FoWP and TAG might be able to press for fees to be reduced.

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The formal business of the **AGM** was introduced by Chair. The minutes of the 2018 AGM and other papers had been circulated.

- 1. Attendance:** 22 members **Apologies:** Louise Lewis [committee] and 10 members
- 2. The minutes** of the 2018 AGM were formally accepted.
- 3. A detailed report of the 2018-2019 committee year** was presented by Fiona Murphy [available on the FoWP website]. Click [here](#) for the full report.

The highlights – and questions raised from the floor - were:

### **Barbecues**

As it is Camden's firm policy to allow barbecues, FoWP has continued to press for better organisation – i.e. signage, publicity, monitoring, rubbish removal – and zoning, which has been accepted and there will be a one-year trial of two zones.

Q: how would success be measured? A: less damage to grass, fewer complaints; restricting activity to zoned areas.

Q: reducing loud music? A: Park staff will be responsible for acting if necessary

### **Sport**

The planned three pétanque pitches would be installed in June. Thanks were due to Brian Haddon who, together with FoWP, had been instrumental in advancing this initiative. He would be offering tuition and advice when pitches were functional.

The lower tennis courts had been marked out for multi sports at FoWP's suggestion. This would include netball but not basketball.

### **Horticulture**

A full description of work done or in hand can be found in the committee report: the mound has been planted with wild flowers; the Swains Lane Lodge garden is maintained by the Thursday volunteers; the kitchen garden is well organised and all beds are tended by community groups; the orchard planted in 2013 had experienced some difficulties from vandalism, inappropriate barbecues and failure to leave the fruit to ripen.

### **4. Finance report**

The Treasurer, Richard Shipman, reported that the year ended with an operating surplus of £1848, slightly down from the previous year [£1929]. FoWP has 160 paid-up members.

Less had been spent on planting – plants were longer-lasting and income had been received from corporate volunteer groups, plant sales and gardening fees. The recital at Highgate School brought in £1104. The celebratory book featuring benches in the park had made a small acceptable loss on a print run of 200. A direct anonymous grant of £2690 had financed the wildflower turf on the mound. Thanks were expressed to this and other donors.

The 2018-9 accounts were accepted. Thanks were expressed to the Treasurer for his hard work during the past year and throughout his six-year tenure which had seen FoWP's reserves increase almost fourfold to £13,920.

#### *Questions and comments:*

FoWP had planned to part finance the pétanque courts but Camden had provided funding in the end. FoWP would purchase a set of boules to be located in the tennis court for players to borrow.

It was suggested a plaque celebrating the Park as a 'Garden for the Gardenless' could be the focus of a regular celebration.

Lauderdale House thanked the horticulture volunteers and organisers for keeping the area around the house looking beautiful.

### **5. Committee elections**

The full complement is four officers and up to six members. Two current members were standing down: in total which meant three vacancies existed. It would be important to refresh the committee with new members bringing in enthusiasm and ideas.

The following were nominated and elected [or re-elected/continuing in role]:

Fiona Brown [Chair]

April Cameron [Deputy Chair]

Vacant [Treasurer]

Marcia Beer [Secretary]

Other members: Louise Lewis, Shona Paton, Patricia Walby, Carole Machin

*Afternote:* At the FoWP June meeting, Ginnie Smith was coopted on to the committee.

### **6. Other items**

Thanks were expressed to the committee and to LUX for hosting the meeting which ended at 9 pm.

Secretary

Friends of Waterlow Park

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