

Minutes of Friends of Waterlow Park AGM 17-5-23 at 7.30 p.m. held at Lauderdale House

Attendance – 27 (including 7 committee members)

Apologies: - Tony Baker, Sally Payton, Catherine Budget-Meakin, Simon Woods, Bridget Greeves, Pat Bishop, Brian Haddon, Margot Huish, Elaine Parker, Vivien Priestley, Patricia Leman, Richard Shipman.

Fiona Brown, Chair of FoWP, introduced keynote speaker, garden designer, **Catherine Heatherington**. Catherine spoke about gardens designed to nurture wildlife. She emphasised the importance of food, shelter, and water. In addition, she recommended using a diversity of plants and the layering of plant heights as well as ponds and woodpiles within the domestic garden. She also discussed the introduction of non-native trees in the face of climate change.

25% of land use held by private gardens.

Q&As

A.G.M. minutes from 2022 proposed by Louise Sibley and seconded by Ginnie Cumming.

Extracts from the Annual Report by Chair of FoWP, Fiona Murphy. *The full report is available under the Reports section of the website.*

The Chair emphasised that the FoWP and its website represent the voice of Park users.

During this last year FoWP contributed £2400 towards the conservation and cleaning of the shepherd and shepherdess sculptures located near Lauderdale House as well as the repair of the two eagles.

During the coming year the intention is to clean and repair the statue of Sir Sydney Waterlow who donated the Park as a garden for the gardenless.

An application has been made for a CIL grant towards the cleaning of Sir Sydney's statue as well as a grant towards new equipment for the Toddler's Playground

In the Spring of 2023, the Park was visited by a U.S. member of Waterlow family who was introduced some of the FoWP members.

The 2022 FoWP table at the Fair in the Square offered the sale of potted sunflowers planted by volunteer gardeners in aid of Ukraine, this resulted in a profit of £800 which was donated to Ukraine via the **Disasters Emergency Committee**.

Pop-up Proms were held in August 2022 and were made possible with a grant from Camden Festival Fund and financial support from the Friends. This year's planned free Pop-up Proms are again supported by a grant from Camden and FoWP and will be the third. These will take place on the first three Sundays afternoons of August 2023.

Dog users' misbehaviour – Camden plans to impose fines (PSPO) and these are now in place.

The pétanque pitch surface re-adjustment has been requested.

The project to install drinking water fountains is still in hand.

The Trees and Views Group continues to keep watch on the maintenance of the view of St. Paul's from the Park.

Tree labelling of 70 species within the Park was completed in the Spring of 2023.

BBQ responses from the FoWP website are mostly positive.

Aims for 2023-24 include a test run for free basketball and installation of disability access from the High Street, north entrance.

Archway Campus and Tower proposal. FoWP members have been asked to respond to this planning application and its impact on the views over London from the Park.

Membership Report – Louise Lewis

Membership fee remains £5 a year but with the addition of members donations, this generated £1200 during the last financial year. Currently there are 162 paid up members.

Horticulture Report- April Cameron, Patricia Walby

Volunteer gardeners meet twice a week and provide what is estimated to be the input of two full time gardeners. The volunteers work mostly on the ornamental beds as well as preparing plants for the three plant sales per year which help to keep the FoWP finances healthy.

The new bed featuring prairie planting outside the Orchard was designed by Peter Reader.

In the Autumn work will begin on the renovation of a bed near Lauderdale House to commemorate the late Dr. Christine Farrell, ex co-chair of the Friends.

A prairie bed was planted outside the orchard designed by Peter Reader.

Kitchen Garden Report- Valerie Doulton

All plots are occupied with no one on the waiting list.

Biodiversity – Ginnie Cumming

A report was produced in May 2022 and another in 2023 mapping further progress. The survey group meets every alternate Saturday afternoon (see FoWP website).

The Biodiversity Group has agreed to move forwards with improvements to water gardens in the Park.

Relaxed mowing has been agreed with idverde.

Ian Henghes -Chair of TAG (Trust Advisory Group).

Ian explained the function of TAG (which includes a trustee from Camden). He explained how to find out about TAG via its website including information about its governance, politics, and procedures.

He gave a vote of thanks to all involved in the maintenance of Waterlow Park. He also thanked FoWP, Lauderdale House, Lux and Camden, idverde. He introduced the new head gardener, John Whittingham.

AGM Business

Finance Report by Treasurer Marcia Beer *(the full report is available in the Reports section)*

For the year May 2022 to April 2023 income was £9,500 with of expenditure £10,700. The balance taken forward will provide for activities in the coming year.

Proposed by Ginnie Cumming and seconded by Ceridwen Roberts.

Committee member Elections – the Constitution allows for members to serve a term of three years plus a further two years and then can be rolled on annually until a replacement is elected.

Only one new candidate has come forward – Vivien Priestley (not present). The constitution allows new members to be co-opted. No candidate presented themselves from the floor.

Final Q&As

Ceridwen Roberts requested a fuller explanation of the Mound to be displayed on an information board on-site, but Camden is not in favour of this idea. April Cameron suggested putting an information QR code on a small post by the Mound.

PSPO order and dogs - Martin Payne, from Camden Green Spaces, responded. He stated that the new Head Gardener of Waterlow Park, John Whittingham, is keen to address out-of-control dogs.

The fountain has been cleaned.

Katherine Ives, Director of Lauderdale House, thanked April Cameron, Patricia Walby and the volunteers for Lauderdale House gardening.

Final thanks and closure at 9.30 p.m.