

2016 Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Mycenae Gardens held its fifth Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.30pm at the Greenwich Steiner School, Woodlands, 90 Mycenae Road, SE3.

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Minutes that will be submitted for approval at the next AGM in 2017.

Committee members present:- Eileen Bell (Chair), Shirley Broughton, Colin Gillespie, Ann Hill, Tim Hoe, Mark Johnson-Brown, Fran Russell.

30 General Members attended.

Apologies were received from Maggie Ellis, Jean-Jacques Aune, Annie Hart, and Lori Wilson.

1. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Eileen Bell opened the meeting by welcoming all those present. The Minutes of the previous 2015 AGM were approved and adopted.

2. Chairman's report

Eileen reported that 2015 had been a busy year with work taking place in the Dell and Gardens. The Management Plan had been accepted and adopted by the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The sculptures (by the late Brian Taylor) which have been on display in the Gardens since the summer have been much enjoyed. Mark Johnson-Brown mentioned that most will be moving to another exhibition in April, but the horse will stay, although maybe in a different location.

PARKSfest 2015 went well. Mark J-B added that he is delighted that funding has again been secured (for the third successive year) and this year's event will take place on July 10th in conjunction with the Friends of Mycenae Gardens and the Greenwich Steiner School. The grant this year is £1800 and Mark would welcome help on the day and any ideas for activities and improvement.

The Friends website has been revamped by Tim Hoe, and new information has been added. The site is updated regularly.

Eileen then invited Tim Hoe to describe some of the volunteering work that has been done during the year. Tim delivered a very informative and enjoyable talk of the autumn work in the Dell, with many 'before and after' images as well as plenty of shots of happy volunteers hard at work, enjoying the camaraderie. Local community volunteers were joined by some who came via the Team London volunteering website. The main focus in the Dell has been to widen the path to an agreed width,

whilst keeping the natural character of the Dell. Brambles and nettles were pruned back, bins were relocated, and areas by the east and west entrances were cleared and planted with bulbs and woodland plants, including donated ones. A tidy woodpile was made to encourage insects. A Wildlife Information Board, showing birds, plants and insects photographed by Joe Beale, and designed by Yu-Hsuan Lin, has been installed at the Mycenae Road entrance. Tim ended with photos of its unveiling by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, in January 2016, accompanied by the Mayoress. More information about the year's activities can be found in the Spring 2016 newsletter at <http://mycenaegardens.org.uk>.

3. Treasurer's statement. The accounts were distributed by Dr Colin Gillespie. The amount carried forward was £1,102.85. £695 was received from the Capital Clean-up Grant, all of which was spent. The balance to be carried forward is £833.71.

Eileen offered condolences to Colin on the loss of his wife, Janet.

4. Elections to Committee. The Constitution required two committee members to retire. Tristan Kappo-Webber wished to leave the committee but Tim Hoe was willing to be nominated. He, together with Mark Barnes, were duly elected, there being no other nominations. Eileen invited them to introduce themselves.

Tim Hoe said he is closely connected to the Greenwich Steiner School, with 2 children attending the school and his wife being a teacher, and that he considers the Gardens and Dell to be lovely spaces. By serving on the committee and helping with its work enables him to give something back in appreciation of the surroundings.

Mark Barnes has lived in the area since 1981 and his children used to play in the gardens and grotto. Since 1986 he has lived in a house that backs onto the Gardens. He served on the group that drew up the Friends' Constitution. He said he is impressed by the work in the Dell and PARKsfest and is looking forward to serving on the Committee.

5. AOB: Eileen thanked Joe Beale most warmly for the huge amount of work he and his wife Yu-Hsuan have done and gave him a gift as a token of appreciation. Eileen then thanked David Jarvis for the great work he has done in installing the Information Board and the work he has done 'out-of-hours' in the Gardens and Dell. Eileen gave him a book written by Joe as a token of appreciation.

Eileen invited suggestions regarding putting one or two benches in the Gardens. Four images were shown of possible options. The plan is to suggest one for consideration by the Ward Councillors from the Localities Fund so any ideas would be welcomed.

The next volunteering day is Saturday 19th March to aerate and decompact the area under the plane trees and then lay wood chip on top. GoodGym volunteers have offered to help. Robert Goring says he may look for a mechanical aerator.

Eileen invited questions from Members. David Jarvis suggested re-establishing the shrub beds because paths have been made through them and the beds are getting very worn. David also mentioned re-edging the renovated shrub beds with willow hoops and this was agreed. He suggested starting with the mid-line bed, and two near the road. Mark suggested identifying the beds on a map. Eileen said the suggestions would be acted on. Wendy Fidler asked if the final Management Plan had ever been sent to members. Eileen replied that it is on the website and Tim will forward the final version to members.

6. Guest speaker – Joe Beale. Joe gave a presentation entitled ‘Birds and other wildlife in the Mycenae Woodland Dell’ in which he described the birds he recorded during 6 visits to the Dell between February and July 2015. He recorded 26 species, and there were 7 confirmed breeding species (wren, robin, dunnock, blackbird, blackcap, long-tailed tit, and great tit) and 2 possible breeding species. Five more species were breeding nearby - coal tit, song thrush, jay, magpie, and blue tit.

Joe then compared his findings with those of John Burton, who lived in the locality and made observations in the Dell on 29/5/1949. In the intervening years there were 2 losses - willow warbler and spotted flycatcher. These summer visitors have declined nationally. There were, however 7 gains - stock dove, blackcap, magpie, ring-necked parakeet, coal tit, long-tailed tit and nuthatch. Others remained steady (gold finch, chaffinch, green finch, dunnock, great spotted woodpecker, wren, woodpigeon, robin, song thrush, jay, carrion crow, great tit, blue tit, blackbird).

Joe also recorded 4 species of butterfly - holly blue, speckled blue, comma and small white - and several bee and hoverfly species. The Dell is a good habitat for mosses, beetles and fungi.

The evening ended with an entertaining Quiz in which Joe showed 10 photos of birds, butterflies, moths and stag beetle. The winning team scored an impressive 9½ points. Refreshments followed.