

2018 Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Mycenae Gardens held its sixth Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 22nd March 2018 at 7.00pm 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 2018.

Committee members present: Mark Barnes (Chair), Dick Allard (Minutes), Jo Brodie, Colin Gillespie, Mark Johnson-Brown, Mara Lemos-Stein. 7 General Members attended.

Apologies were received from Eileen Bell, Margaret Ellis, Lorelie Wilson, Ann Hill..

1. *Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting*

Mark Barnes opened the meeting by welcoming all those present. The Draft Minutes of the previous 2017 AGM, which had been circulated on the website and as hard copies, were approved and adopted, there being no comments.

2. *Chairman's report*

Mark started by discussing the forthcoming planting day (Saturday, 26th) – which had already been twice postponed because of snow! The first task was to plant the shrubs in the bed outside Mycenae House, around the already planted tree (and although these shrubs had been waiting 3 weeks, most were still in good condition). The other tasks were to restore the existing rope fencing, to place ropes around a further 2 or 3 shrubs (as recommended by teachers), and placing willow hoops around bulbs.

A major problem is that the ropes keep getting cut. We will continue to replace with new rope (200 metres have just been delivered), but in the longer term, an alternative would be solid wooden barriers. Mark also noted that in the Dell, Shirley and Dave had been using metal ropes to protect newly planted bulbs.

We have so far been unable to identify either the perpetrators or their reasons. We hope to get the support of parents to check whether anything is happening after school, although the damage may well be occurring later in the evening. As an example of other measures, it will be important to ensure that the forthcoming Easter Egg Hunt (organised by the Westcombe Society) keeps away from the bulbs. On the positive side, we may be able to use some extra funds as a result of the improved financial balance.

The proposal for a Woodlands Blue Plaque had received something of a set-back from academic research arguing that Angerstein was a slave-owner. However, Angerstein's art collection was the foundation of the National Gallery, and investigations by their Historical Curator indicated that these findings were misleading, since Angerstein's only involvement was as a trustee in bankruptcy. She had therefore written to the authors asking for copies of their primary sources. It had also been suggested that the application might be affected by Steiner's proposed new building. Adrian had reported that the proposals were still at the pre-planning stage, and in any case the proposed location was outside our remit.

3. Treasurer's Statement

Colin reported that, as of March 1st, the balance to be carried over was £739.98 (compared with £49.56 from the last AGM), although after taking account of outstanding expenditure, this will fall to something in the £600's.

4. Elections to Committee

Tim and Colin were retiring by rotation. Tim was not seeking re-election, but will stay for the hand-over of the Website and the mailing list. Colin's re-election was agreed nem-con, as was the election of one new member, Amanda Douge. Amanda (an Australian) moved to the area 4 years ago, and teaches at the Blackheath Conservatoire. She fell in love with the Gardens, and has made a short (2-minute) film illustrating what happens when individuals spend time with trees. In addition, Jo Brodie, who has been serving on the committee as an appointed member, dealing with the use of IT to communicate with members, was also elected to the committee, and will take over Tim's role.

5. AOB

Some of this, relating to the forthcoming planting day and the blue plaque, had been covered in item 2.

Caroline Owens asked about the impact of the proposed Steiner development, involving the introduction of classes for 12-14 year olds, would have on increasing the use and wear of the Gardens. Mark responded that there would be little change, as the older classes would use the Heath for sports activities. The main problem would continue to be unregulated activities after school hours. Dick asked whether such after-hours activity could be monitored, perhaps involving parents .

The meeting ended at 8.00pm.