

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES' GARDENS

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 25.01.11 at 71 Rodney Street, Liverpool.

Present:	Robin Riley	Chairman
	David Garner	Deputy Chairman
	Emlyn Williams	Treasurer

Gwen Backwell, John Backwell, Richard Scott, Maureen Williams.

Apologies were received from Ann Wolff.

1
MINUTES of the meeting held on 12.10.10 were accepted as a true record.

2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Fungi
Richmond Dutton is currently away so no progress has been made.

Ferns
Richard Scott has been unable to progress this to date. Funding remains available.

Early gravestones beneath the Welford Porch
The Chairman and Glyn Marsden have examined the stones and realized that the 5
inch thick ones were originally part of the platforms at Exchange Station. They are in
good condition. Those which actually are gravestones have cracked and there are 37
of these. Glynn Marsden as Liverpool City Council Conservation Manager has
suggested that the cracked gravestones be moved and in their place appropriately
coloured tarmac be laid. Certainly this would be welcome to the Cathedral and the
cost of relocating the gravestones would be very much reduced. The Chairman is to
draw up a plan and once costed will ask the Tanner Trust whether it would be
prepared to assist with costs.

Rebecca Lawson's Garage
Both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman have a key to access storage.

Tree Felling
The tree fund has accumulated £600 to date which would cover 2 days work by tree
surgeons. More funding is needed as it is estimated it would take up to 12 days to
complete the project. The West bank is in particularly bad condition and would need
clearing beforehand by volunteers.

The Oratory
Glynn Marsden will speak to the Museums regarding spraying of the pebbles. The
contractors have not been doing this despite it being in their contract.

Night Vision Investigation

The Chairman received a complaint about this group which is run by a Vicky Morgan and a Jane Lune. They organize dark practices, lighting candles and trying to raise spirits in the Garden at night. They attract some 60 people a time and charge £40 a head. It was agreed that the City Council should handle the problem and the Chairman has duly reported the situation to Derek Dottie.

The South End of the Gardens

Many of the plantings by Mr & Mrs Backwell have been dug up. Members were reminded that plants etc which do not survive should not be replanted but alternative strategies sought.

The Tanner Trust

Lucy Nottingham of the Trust has contacted the Chairman. The Trust is keen to donate £3000. The Chairman suggested the donation be put towards:- the gravestones, repair of the blind arches either side of the spring and refurbishment of the spring.

He will visit the site with the firm Remstone and give a specification to Glynn Marsden.

Lucy Nottingham will be coming to the North West in August and the Chairman will arrange she visits the Oratory as well as the Garden.

The William Brown Memorial

The original William Brown gravestone has been identified and the Chairman hopes that it can be sympathetically integrated into the memorial in place of the rather brash brickwork. The family are donating £500 towards the cleaning of the tomb.

Glendales have cleared all fallen leaves and the snowdrops are coming through very nicely.

3

TREASURER'S REPORT

There has been no recent expenditure. All invoices have been settled. Standing orders are still being received and the Treasurer will write to the Friends who have not renewed their subscription.

The balance in the account is £6000.

Accounts will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

4

SCYTHING EVENT

The organizers of the Kurt Schwitters scything event contacted Richard Scott at the Wildflower Centre. They are keen to hold a two day event in the North West this year. The City Council have fields available and are very keen that Liverpool parks host the programme. A meeting to consider this further will be held at the Wildflower Centre on March 2nd.

5

THE BRADSHAW LECTURE

Members wondered whether too many bodies were chasing too few quality lecturers at the present time. It was agreed that there would be no harm in making alternative suggestions. Mrs Backwell suggested a talk on the history of the Gardens. Geoff Woodcock by email suggested a visit to the wildflower site at Rainford. Others wonder as to whether a visit to a centre of special interest or to a site where Tony Bradshaw had made a real difference would be more appropriate.

The Chairman was encouraged by the propositions put forward and asked that members think about them and expect to make a decision at the next meeting of the Committee.

6

WILD IN ART

David Garner in his role as Chairman of Liverpool parks has received a document informing him that between 14.02.11 and 20.03.11 the Council intends to highlight artistic installations in several parks. Precise details are unknown, but it is likely that in St James' Garden loudspeakers will be installed. David has been assured that security will not be a problem.

7

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting will take place on Wednesday 02.03.11 at 7pm in the Western Rooms at Liverpool Cathedral. The guest speaker is a keen arboriculturist, Canon Robert Brunswick. He will expect a small contribution towards his charity work in West Africa and this was agreed.

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DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING of the Executive will be Tuesday 29.03.11, 6pm, at 71 Rodney Street. It was agreed to invite Mike Faulkner in his role as website manager to this meeting.