

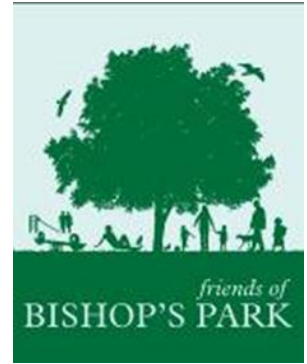
# ***Friends of Bishop's Park AGM***

## **Wednesday 16 October, The Palace Gardener**

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**Present:** Melanie Healy & Rowena Vaughan co-Chair, Isabel Hill-Smith, Isabelle du Bois, Roger Weston, Victor Ho, Jane Swithinbank, Alex Laird

**Apologies:** Simon Lewis, Julie Lacuna, Angela Fane, Sarah Borthwick, Howard Palmer, Linda Bullock, Penny Seabrook, Jackie Tyrrie, Annette Alwin, Harriet Meddings, Bobbie Travis, Ruth Hutton, Alice Roberts, Darren Preston – FFC, and our Council members due to a date clash with a full Council Meeting, Amanda Lloyd Harris, Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler, Wesley Harcourt, Andrew Brown, Donald Johnson



Meeting starts 7.00

### **1. Welcome by Chairman: Rowena Vaughan**

2. Apologies: as above

### **3. Minutes of previous AGM**

- No issues arising

#### **Mins of 2018 - agreed**

Proposed: Victor Ho

Seconded: Roger Weston

### **4. Business Arising:**

We have been asked by the council to put it to the members how the funds received from FFC should be used in order of preference. We will be emailing the membership later in the year to ask for members suggestions and then ask them to vote on the suggestions.

### **5. Chairman's Statement for AGM 16 Oct 2019 by Melanie Healy**

As the first Co Chairs since the inauguration of the Friends in 2001 we welcome you this evening.

To aid to the brevity of the evening I will just go ahead with the Chairs annual statement and accept any questions at the end.

However to begin with – we would like to start with a big thank you to our committee each of whom has actively supported us in so many ways throughout the year; a further thank you is due to many other volunteers particularly, Julie, Christopher the Vaughan and Medd families and of course a big thank you to Acorn for their non-alcoholic aperitifs, Circle Wine and to the Palace Gardener team, who have not only provided the venue but much help tonight.

Now to business, we thought we would let you know about our new initiatives, our continued work and of course, into 2020.

Therefore, our new initiatives:-

**The first** of these was our survey; to find out what you our membership really wanted from us. The most high profile initiative has been organising the crowd funding campaign through Space Hive for the rejuvenation of the Rose Garden. We managed to exceed our target well within time thank you again for your support there. Other new initiatives have been the holding of our first summer social in June. This was well attended on a balmy June evening in the Community Rooms in the Park. We have also started attending the RMS Fine Foods Market more regularly, having a stall at the Palace Gardeners shopping evenings and have set up the regular gardening group in the Park– now meeting on the first Monday of every month. We are also building a new relationship with Fulham Football Club Foundation and with Simon, the founder of the TICL app which illustrates and names many of our beautiful trees.

Our continuous work which we hope to keep improving, involves re-establishing open lines of communication with the Council members interested in the Park, of course the Council officers, Stephen, Richard and Pauline, here tonight. Also, with the Parks and Met Police, hello to Craig and Samson and you our very important members and all those interested in using the Park.

We continue to hold biannual membership walks too, to assess the Park maintenance, needs and to provide another forum to give voice to any concerns.

We are working on balancing our many interests in particular:-

**First:** that we can better represent you our members

**Second:** that we can help the Church Commissioners monitor the covenants over the Park

**Thirdly:** working with FFC to keep open dialogue concerning their development plans and park usage  
 And **Finally** we continue to strive to work with the Council to gain more transparency on matters concerning the Park budget, strategy and planting – which reminds me we will be sending out a plea in November for some volunteers to help plant the new Hornbeam Hedging to go around the playground

On to the work we have planned for the future:-

We will endeavour to be good communicators - sending out regular newsletters, replying to all your emails, keeping you informed through the Park noticeboards, our website, Facebook page and other social media, of events, notifications we have been given and our fundraising initiatives.

Once the Rose Garden is well on the way to being rejuvenated, we will be fronting a fundraising campaign to put some sorely needed love and attention and importantly funds, into the Moat Garden Area.

All our initiatives and work are for you - the users of the park and to remain true to our mission which is, as a reminder:

“The objects of the Friends shall be to secure for the public benefit the preservation protection and improvement of Bishop’s Park as a place of historic and ecological interest and beauty; to promote the conservation of the natural plant, animal and bird life of the Park; to encourage appropriate leisure and recreational pursuits; and to educate the public in the history, natural history and other aspects of the Park.”

Q. What is the TICL app

Brief explanation how it works – the app can be downloaded onto smart phone both Apple and android. It shows where the interesting trees in the park are and a brief description of the tree. The app was developed by Simon a doctor in Putney who with the arboreal expert from Alexandra Palace have ‘mapped’ the park and developed a route around pointing out the trees.

## 6. Membership Report

Current membership 111 subscribers up from 75 last year of which

Paid in October: 63 by standing order

Membership increased this year, aided by the stall at the Farmers Market; open evening at the Palace Gardener and the Summer Party.

## 7. Treasurers Report Presented by Isabel Hill-Smith Hon Treasurer

### THE FRIENDS OF BISHOPS PARK

#### Receipts and payment account for the year ended 31st December 2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Receipts for the year</b>		
Subscriptions & Donations	£755	£830
Net income from AGM	£9	£7
Book sales	£480	£475
	<b>£1,244</b>	<b>£1,312</b>
<b>Payments for the year</b>		
Printing, post, stationery, web (Note 1)	£251	£59
Dues & subs	£0	£0
AGM room hire & other charges	£0	£90
Donations (Note 2)	£0	£150
	<b>£251</b>	<b>£299</b>
<b>Surplus of receipts over payments</b>	<b>£993</b>	<b>£1,013</b>

#### Balance sheet at 31 December 2018

## Accumulated funds

At 1 January 2018	£3,677	£2,665
Surplus of receipts over payments	£993	£1,013
	<b>£4,671</b>	<b>£3,677</b>

## Represented by

### Cash & investments

Bank account	£4,671	£3,677
Deposit account	£0	£0
Sums owed by third parties	£0	£0
	<b>£4,671</b>	<b>£3,677</b>

## Notes

- 1 Leaflets, posters, newsletters
- 2 FoBP facilitated a £20,000 sum for Rowberry Mead from Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea

Accounts prepared by Isobel Hill-Smith, Honorary Treasurer

Proposed: Roger Weston  
Seconded: Jane Swithinbank

## 8. Election of Officers – proposed by Christopher Hancock

Co Chair - Melanie Healy & Rowena Vaughan  
Deputy Chair - Roger Weston  
Secretary -  
Treasurer - Isobel Hill-Smith  
Committee - Victor Ho, Isabelle Dubois, Jane Swithinbank, Alex Laird

Proposed the committee endorsed by the room

Abstention: Pauline McCormack

## 9. AOB

Q. Bishop's Mansions AGM 14th Oct 2020 – avoid the date for next AGM for FoBP

Q. Wayland Ward-Smith: are there any trends in crime?

A. PC Craig : ASB is being tackled, where groups of people gather drinking and smoking. Police are trying to deal with this. Robbers in the park have dropped.

Q Are there cameras in the park

A Yes, at the entrances to the Park and at Swallowbank. These cameras have helped identify people. They are temporary. Have to apply for the cameras to be there. The cameras have been there for around 2 years.

A Pauline: often complaints but sometimes people don't report the ASB issues; want to encourage people to report it to the Parks police, reporting is necessary so that there is evidence of issues so when applications are made there are reports to back it up.

A PC Craig: Please get people to phone the 101 non-emergency numbers which helps build up picture of where the high priorities are which helps when we request either funding or resources for this area.

Q Are the police and council aware of the rough sleepers at the end of the park and under the bridge. Issue with what is left behind after rough sleepers being there. Makes it difficult to get disabled people down there

A PC Craig: Yes they are – using the outreach team.

Q Also issue with the allotment being broken into

Q Three issues reporting incidences. People ringing 101 take too long to get through, and the same time that on line doesn't work. Third problem is, when you go through to 999 or 101 once you've given the details it takes a long time for the details to filter through. Consequence it doesn't get through to the local level council and police.

PC A Samson: there are several challenges for those not used to using smart phones or computers. If people find this difficult use 999, this will be responded to.

- 10. **Speaker Alex Laird author of Root to Stem** – a holistic approach to cooking using the whole plant and the consequential health benefits.

‘My Inspiration came from the idea of having a World Garden where the plants can be used for health benefits. My book Root to Stem is a book about how to use plants for health. Plants also defend its self from insects, attract insects, and communicate with other plants. Macro, micro and phytonutrients there are 1000s in each plant harnessing this is essential for our health. This is how the plants nutrients work as medicine. Rosemary is a good example of phyto-nutrients, anti-fungal, anti-inflammatory etc. Grape seeds, skin and pith are where the phyto-nutrients are. This is why you need to eat it all including the skin. The colour of the dark grape is a protector against UV light. There are anti-fungal components to the seeds. Where the sugar has been bred in and the bitter has been bred out = so eat the seeds and skin of everything. Need to eat a more plant diverse diet which we don’t now. There are over 30, 000 plants listed as edible. We humans can smell toxicity often in plants which is a very good indicator what not to eat. We have been taught that the Yew berry is poisonous, in fact the pulp is sweet and delicious, just don’t eat the seed which is toxic, it has Taxol in which is used in chemotherapy for cancer. I wrote Root to Stem to encourage people to eat the whole plant so have included recipes with healing properties. We taste not only with our tongue but all down our gut and respiratory tract where there are bitter taste receptors all the way down. Bitter tastes have been shown to stimulate white blood cell responses increasing our ability to heal ourselves. Rosemary is a most amazing herb, there are about 500 different components to Rosemary, many of which contribute to better liver function, extremely useful at the first sign of a throat infection (or thyme) just chew them.’

Highly edited version of the talk given by Alex, but gives a flavour of the many interesting facts and details she spoke about.

**Attending 30**

**Meeting ends 8.00 pm**

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Signed

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Date