



Wendell Park
Gardening Friends

WENDELL PARK GARDENING FRIENDS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 14 October 2019, 6.30 pm

The Duchess, 320 Goldhawk Road, London, W6 0XF

PRESENT

Mrs. Caroline MacMillan (Chair), Mrs. Frances Stephens (Vice Chair), Mr. Simon Grange (Treasurer), Mrs. Sarah Heaton (Secretary), Charlotte Morgan.

**Tim Corn (Gardening Friends of Cathnor Park), Emma Chandatana, Colin MacMillan
Caroline O'Neil,**

MP Andy Slaughter was able to join the Committee after the meeting

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Lisa Homan, Rory Vaughan, Rowan Ree. Catherine Remy, Nicola Pyne, Luke Ridley Cathnor Park Gardening Friends

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 1 OCTOBER 2018

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 1st October 2018 were agreed to be a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their dedicated work during the year. Frances Stephens, who has given so many hours to the park and has almost taken root, Philip Stephens for his hard work removing ivy from the north border and overhanging branches, Simon Grange for so much digging, installing fences and updating the website, Sarah Heaton for her marvellous planting plans, expertise and maintenance supervision, Charlotte Morgan for publicity, Lucy and Thomas Grange for their gardening efforts and Colin for watering during the summer months.

Stefan Czeladzinski, Biodiversity and Horticultural Office at LBHF was warmly thanked for his continuing advice and support, Stephen Cassidy, the Park Gardener and the Council's contractor *idverde* for providing a digger for the north border and removing surplus weeds, leaves, branches and other horticultural waste. It would not be possible to name all the volunteers individually who have given their time, energy and also plants but they are all most sincerely thanked, particularly Molga for her regular hoeing. There was special mention for the children who enjoyed watering during the summer months.

Hammersmith Community Gardens Association have given plants, also Sycamore House (Hammersmith United Charities). The 28th Hammersmith Scouts Group planted bulbs last autumn and pupils from Wendell Park School grew seeds for their section of the Cobbold Road bed and also planted bulbs early October 2019.

Barnes & Sons, Undertakers in Askew Road, donated gardening equipment and several residents brought home made cakes to volunteers working in the borders. The complimentary comments from residents is much appreciated by all the group and there is a splendid community spirit in Wendell Park

The Group had a table at November 2018 craft fair in the Library and also Kite Studios Frances Christmas Fairs. WPGF had a table at the May Madness Fair on Starch Green, Wendell Park School Playday in Cobbold Road and School's Out in the Park in July. These activities generated funds and also interest in the group with more residents becoming members. Frances Stephens attend the Well Being Day at the Library though poor weather prevented her taking a group for a tour of the park.

Caroline MacMillan spoke at a Spacehive presentation which resulted in *idverde* arranging for volunteers to start painting the railings of the park and also remove ivy from the north border and vicarage garden. Simon Grange attended another Spacehive event and had useful conversations with other gardening groups.

WPGF obtained cotton bags with 'I Love Wendell Park' from the school and now sell these at £4.

Five committee meetings were held during the year, in addition to others in homes or on site in the park. Bulb planting late autumn 2018 resulted in a colourful springtime display and digging, weeding, trimming, pruning, watering, replacement of lost plants and visits to garden centres continued throughout the year

The north border was cleared of ivy towards the end of 2019 and planted at the end of November with more plants arriving in March, this has proved to be a very successful winter border and the low fencing deters even the larger dogs. The eastern end of Cobbold Road bed continued to be expanded for Wendell Park School and the sunflowers, cornflowers and nasturtiums gave a pleasing display during the summer. The herb garden and rhubarb planted at the western end were a great success though the rosemary did not do so well under the trees at the far end. A few plants and bushes were lost including one of the birch trees in the dog exercise area and another in the south border and some plants 'disappeared' but theft does not seem to have been a big problem fortunately. Damage from dogs and footballs continued but children now mainly play goals east to west rather than south/north so that has eased some plant damage to the south border. The area under the trees around the bench on the south path continues to be a challenge.

More snowberry was dug out of the west end of the south border and after mulching the new plants have settled in well, war on stubborn snowberry continues.

Volunteer mornings were held from 10 am until Noon on the first Saturday of the month from March to October, volunteers also helped with autumn leave removal and watering during the hot summer months. There was excitement in July when a swarm of bees settled in a tree

over the north border, these were removed by a representative from the Bee Keeping Association.

After the tap installed in the north east corner was vandalised it was necessary to use a more secure lock which solved the problem, a tap in the south western corner of the park would certainly make watering easier.

In June the Group were recognised for their work by receiving a Civic Award from the Council for Improving the Environment together with £500, they were able to give a donation to Hammersmith Community Gardens Association and also Sycamore House (Hammersmith United Charities). This was followed by the news that the park has been awarded a green flag by the UK Government Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government by Keep Britain Tidy. In October the group received wide publicity on the council website and also in the local paper. They also feature in the Council's Ten-Year Management and Maintenance Plan 2018-2028 for Wendell Park. 420 saplings have been ordered (free of charge) from Woodland Trust for delivery in March 2020 and these will be shared around the borough.

Plans for the future include building up a regular team of volunteers, extending the borders and continuing to enhance the park and so give enjoyment to everyone.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the bank balance at Metro Bank stood at £5,554.34, the group has no other assets or liabilities. Income from sales during the year totalled £294.30 and a donation of £500 was received from the LBHF when the group received a Civic Award. The largest outlay during the year was £1,678.38 for seeds and plants, equipment totalled £551.42, General Liability £218.03, fertilizers £150 and computer hosting £23.50. Simon Grange has purchased for £19 a debit/credit card reader which can be used for membership fees and sales.

During the year Simon has updated the web site and the database is now running more efficiently. An Instagram account has been opened and in two days there were 15 followers and it was agreed that Charlotte Morgan take on responsibility for this, in addition to monitoring the Twitter account.

The Chair thanked Simon for keeping the group's accounts in good order and updating the web site.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary, Sarah Heaton, who is also the group's horticultural consultant, reported that after extending the south border by clearing more snowberry, it was planted with sun loving herbs, shrubs and perennials such as silver leaved Artemisia, roses and rubekia. During half term more bulbs were added throughout the border including daffodils and alliums.

After digging out the north border in November 2018, and inspired by Professor Nigel Dunnet, structure was given with key shrubs including variegated hollies, witch-hazel, M. Stellata, Ceanothus, Cornus, Camelia's ornamental quince, skimmia, lonicera nitida Baggenssens God. These were under-planted with bulbs and perennials including ferns and asplenium, hellebores, carex grasses, brunnera, wood spurge and trans-planted dog tooth violets. A willow rod edging was initially installed but this was replaced with a studier

edging which protects plants and shrubs very well. Compost was added to all beds to improve the soil.

In May the bees liked our plants so much a swarm gathered and experts were called in to remove it. The summer was very dry and involved much watering.

It was very rewarding to receive a Civic Award for Improving the Environment and also the Green Flag for the park.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

General discussion took place with Tim Corn who has recently helped form a group of friends for Cathnor Park. This park is open twenty-four hours a day and has suffered from anti-social behaviour and especially drug dealing, cutting back overgrown bushes has helped but more needs to be done.

Emma Chandatana commented how her children had helped with planting bulbs recently (despite the wet weather) and suggested growing cucumbers, beans and courgettes in the Cobbold Road bed. It was agreed that if some roses bushes were moved to another location this would give more space to widen the range of vegetables and herbs.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The 2020 meeting will be held in October of that year, date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 19.38pm