

**Friends of Headington Hill Park AGM**  
**April 26<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
**Headington Hill Hall, Oxford Brookes University**  
**Minutes**

Attendees:

Marion Ackrill, Diana Bell, Alison & James Boulton, Richard Bradley, Manuela & Rudi Broekens, Rosemary Clayton, Christine & David Colbeck, Giles Darkes, Jane & Patrick Denby, Mary & Ray Fitzpatrick, Ian Gourlay, Sophie Huxley, John Marjot, Margaret & Trilokesh Mukherjee, Cathy Pickin, Rosemary Pocock, Andrew Pritchard, David Radford, Martin (Nicholas) Richards, Amaryllis & Simon Roper, Wendy Steyn, Elizabeth Teague, Mark Tuggwell, Marianne van der Vaart, Jerry Woods, Elizabeth Yates

Apologies for absence:

Judith Argles, Chris Bell, Charlotte Bullock, Mike Gardiner, Alison Murray, Marie Power

Chairman Ian Gourlay offered everyone a very warm welcome

\*Approval of the minutes of AGM April 25<sup>th</sup> 2019: unanimous

\*Approval of year end report 2020/2021: unanimous

\*Election and re-election of committee officers: unanimous

Ian Gourlay – Chairman

Alison Boulton – Vice-Chairman

Treasurer – David Colbeck

Secretary – Marion Ackrill

Membership Secretary – Patrick Denby

John Marjot - Publicity

Christine Colbeck - Social

Elizabeth Teague - Minutes

**Chairman's address**

Ian Gourlay thanked all Friends who contributed financially and practically, and Brookes for the use of their splendid music room. He remembered three dedicated Friends who had sadly died in recent times; Sylvia Lymbery, Alistair Buchanan, Ann Buchanan. In special memory, flowers were hoped to be planted (Sylvia) and the tree *Eucryphia x nymansensis* 'Nymansay' (Alistair), was already planted. Additional thanks went to David Colbeck for his tireless work for the park, including liaising with Oxford City Council and Brookes, and to Marion Ackrill for her hard practical work in the park.

Tree Week, December 2021, was recalled; a Mongolian lime had been planted by Anneliese Dodds MP (Oxford East).

Guest speaker David Radford, Oxford City Council, was kindly welcomed.

## **Treasurer's report and accounts**

David Colbeck reported on the figures and current balance: £1944.71. The Mongolian lime was purchased by the Residents' Association, London Place, in honour of the late Alistair Buchanan, and planted within the park. The figures April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 were approved; the accounts to be signed off by the auditor.

## **Projects report**

David Colbeck described several imaginative proposals to increase and improve accessibility to and within the park, including a decorative gateway to/from the grounds of Headington Hill Hall; improved path surfaces at Cuckoo Lane and St Clements; existing scrub replaced by attractive landscaped planting at park entrances; and a new welcome board with tree trail at the Cuckoo Lane entrance.

CIL funding was available for much-needed improvements, though dependent on Oxford City Council providing underlying maintenance funding.

David Colbeck had met recently with Chris Bell (OCC) who said there was currently no maintenance money available except for grass mowing and dealing with any dangerous trees.

Liasing with OCC and Brookes will continue.

## **Volunteer ranger report**

Marion Ackrill described her first six months' work under the general supervision of Carl Whitehead, Oxford Direct Services. She wished to help strengthen the park's outstanding character as an informal arboretum and to increase both quantity and variety of flowering ground cover. She thanked especially Ian Gourlay and Christine and David Colbeck for their help and leadership.

## **Brookes University: Headington Hill Hall campus report**

Jerry Woods, Director of Estates, described plans within the campus, including a new, raised path meeting Cuckoo Lane at a slightly lower point than currently, and a history board linking information to the park.

Support for FoHHP improvements at its Cuckoo Lane entry may be offered, as it is very close to Brookes' planned new entry point. It was hoped to complete the raised path by Christmas 2022.

## **Civil War fortifications in the park**

David Radford, OCC Archaeologist, gave an interesting account of his research into possible lines of battle within the park. He described the information available online, and the use of lasers directed from a plane to detect buried ditches. He felt it was not possible to detect traces of battle lines

above ground in the park, except in a certain light and at a certain angle!

Ian Gurlay concluded by thanking everyone for attending and inviting them to enjoy the drinks and canapes beautifully organised by Christine Colbeck. It was a hugely convivial evening.