

# **Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park**

Minutes of the Meeting dated 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

## **Members Present**

Paul R. Swift      Matt Wilson      Laura Archer      Ian Broomhill      Janet Grimley  
Peter Wood      Linda Wood      Marian Staniforth      Christine Rathod      Ann Spalton  
Martin Harris, NCC Parks Technical Officer.  
Hilary Thumpston, Greenspace Development Officer.

**Apologies:** Mavis Broomhall

## **Welcome**

Paul Swift welcomed members and opened the meeting.

## **Memorial for Alex Staniforth**

Paul Swift and Peter Wood are looking at a memorial for Alex. Possibility of doing something striking in the sunken garden. Plant a bed up ourselves and have a plaque put in place. Peter is a horticulturist and a landscape architect and will have some good ideas to propose.

## **Saturday Morning Two Hour Gardening Session**

Paul mentioned the successful two-hour gardening session which took place every week on a Saturday morning, which began in July 2021 and has now closed until Saturday 22nd January 2022. They have had between 4 or 5 people each time. Also, photographs of the Saturday morning gardening sessions have been posted on to the Friends of Woodthorpe Park's website. Paul also mentioned a tree that is dead and trunk is covered in ivy! He stated that it was a health and safety issue and it could injure someone if it came down.

## **Hilary Thumpston**

The new Greenspace Development officer. She has about six parks which she oversees and Woodthorpe Park is one of them. She oversees the general maintenance and management of the sites. She was asked how they would be developing the park. She stated that there would be hard and soft landscaping and tree management issues. She was asked about possible challenges for future development. She stated that she is still getting to know Nottingham at this stage.

## **Martin Harris**

Apart from mentioning the state of the council's budget which could have a bearing on future public activities, Martin stated that the suggestions raised at the Future Parks Accelerator/Focus Group workshops are as yet not in the public domain because they are all still under discussion. The focus group looked at what the park could look like in ten- or fifteen-years' time. Possibly improving the Plant Shop, playground and outdoor areas and how we tie in the history of the park. Paul stated that the focus group was very interesting and that people were bubbling over with ideas.

## **Woodthorpe Grange Park's Centenary**

- Paul mentioned that 2022 is the centenary year for the park, with June the 1<sup>st</sup> being the centenary day. He suggested that there could be a whole week of events for this celebration. We could have art on the park or various other stalls and activities planned for this time.
- The day of the centenary needs to be celebrated. It would be good to have the circus and or the fair around the same time.
- The possibility of having a plaque in memory of Jesse Boot was mentioned. Paul has stated that he would approach Boots about this possibility.
- Perhaps we can be open to the public opinion about what could be included on the day! The park needs to be showcased.

- Tree walks and history walks included in this too. What this space has to offer the environment in other words the effect that it has on our lives.
- The BBC and Notts television could also be approached regarding the centenary.
- The council communications team could be approached about six months before the event and they could possibly advertise this.
- Eventbrite could also advertise the events of Woodthorpe Park.
- Sherwood open gardens could possibly also advertise the events.

### **Promoting the Friends of Woodthorpe Park**

Business cards for the park was discussed and Paul has acknowledged that we have them and they can be put out for the public to take away from the Friends stand that is on display at various events that take place in the greenhouses adjacent to the Plant Shop. The list for becoming members of the Friends was also revisited with talk of a small fee and with possible discounts at the park's Café and Plant Shop.

### **Any Other Business**

Paul talked about the continuation of the Saturday gardening session and also brought up the possibility of litter picking regularly on Woodthorpe park too. A programme with a logo for Woodthorpe Park could be displayed in the various notice boards on the park. However, further discussion on these matters was needed. More business cards would need to be ordered. It was decided that it was too late to produce a commemorative calendar for the centenary year.

### **Date for the next meeting**

Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January will be the next meeting at 6.30 p.m. at the Grange.