

# Friends of Windmill Gardens General Meeting 7pm October 16th 2013 St Paul's Church House, 24 Blenheim Gardens SW2 5BZ

## Minutes

### Action points:

Exec to discuss position of vice-chair

Comms to consider estate agent sponsorship

SL organising volunteer trip and workshop

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

**Apologies received from:** Annick Alet, Dawn Edwards, Anthea Masey, Magdalen Rubalcava, Owen Llewellyn, Sandra Watts, Henry Ashby, Kat Sparrow, Lesley Prydd  
**Present:** Alex Gaffikin (Secretary), Jean Kerrigan (Chair), Kim Winter, Penny Steele, Viv Whittingham, Stephen Lawlor, Jill Reyes, June Stillman, Dee Byrne, Chris Patton, Shaun Wilson (Treasurer), Nick Weedon, Annie Jones (from BGRMO), Carly Haslam, Carolyn Weniz,

### 2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last GM – March 2013

**Minutes are accepted as a correct record**

**AGM actions:** We had vacant positions on the Exec and for vice-chair.

**New exec members:**

Anita Thorpe proposed by Magdalen Rubalcava and seconded by Chris Patton

Viv Whittingham proposed by Henry Ashby and seconded Jean Kerrigan: **All agreed**

**New exec to discuss the position of the vice-chair - Agreed**

### 3. Review of 2013 activities in Windmill Gardens



Stephen presented a powerpoint of events this year including the popular Easter Egg Hunt, Mural project (200 participants), National Mills Weekend, Annual Parade and Festival, Art in the Park, Harvest Festival, Big Draw - you can find out more about this year's projects on our website.

*(Left – one of the new FOWG display posters)*

**Advertising:** LZ – we could show a short film at the Ritzy. Thanks to Dee we were one of the top things to do at Time Out for Open House, thanks to her and comms team we have been very well promoted in the press. Wooster and Stock are advertising us as a 'feature'. June handed around a flyer she got from Rivear which shows a picture of the windmill. KW mentioned estate agents boards. Comms to consider.

**Community:** JS – I thought the mural was brilliant at getting the community together.



**Artist:** SL – it should be an annual thing that we had a participatory artist installation. Last year we had the poem, this year the mural. We should think about artists we know. One artist approached us about having a sound thing based on the windmill. Also there is an Opera called ‘The Miller’s Wife’ and they want to do a three part travelling show. It would be an evening event. JK – We will be doing the mill memories project next year with exhibition. Could be more possibilities.

**Projection:** LZ – what about the proposed windmill laser light projection? KW – we haven’t heard anything back about that. SL – we did test it one night but the curve of the windmill distorted the picture.

**Doodle:** KW – I think we were quite stretched for volunteers. LZ – the usual suspects rescue the situation. JK – the new ‘doodle’ calendar system works well. All volunteers can see when we are short.

#### 4. Report from Development and Education Officer

SL - presented the number of schools participating – 13 visits in 2013 so far, 7 more provisional bookings before Xmas

#### 5. Windmill volunteers

SL – on the subject of regular open days and volunteering jobs and timetable. I thought we should ask volunteers to a workshop in November to get feedback. LZ – feedback much more direct and useful. **Suggest Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November.**

SL - **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November invite our volunteers to Upminster Windmill.** They will host us, give us a tour and then give us a presentation about how they organise their open days. SL will send out invites to volunteers within the week. HLF paying for refreshments.

VW – why Upminster? SL – they came and visited us a few weeks ago. They have just put in an HLF bid and came to find out about our bid. And they invited us. JK – they are a bigger windmill, the friends do the repairs and maintenance, they have potential to use buildings that were historically part of the mill, its accessible – end of District line,

NW – the innovation of the strip of paper with a guide’s timetable is useful on open days

## 6. Update on Windmill repairs

JK – Balfour Beatty are doing repairs and we and park's officer aren't very happy. Parks and Green Spaces forum say that lots of people have had problems. So there will be a discussion between contractors and parks groups. At least three occasions when the patent spring is broken. JK raised with Lara the parks officer who will discuss with Paul Selwood, mill wright. It's not functioning properly. NW has made some technical suggestions.

SL – will involve 3 weeks of scaffolding to redo the pitch with another group (not Balfour Beatty). CP – will we have to take sails off? JK – no. But I'm worried that the pitch shouldn't be applied when it's too cold. CP – is one coat sufficient? CH – you can't do concrete and works when it's too cold as it doesn't 'take'. JK – worried about distemper and oiling of floor. There was a group of Friends who wanted to help with maintenance and long term might need those skills. PS – some mills do a mix of council and volunteers doing maintenance. CH – we should have a maintenance schedule for 'non-mechanical' e.g. cleaning, oiling floors, painting distemper inside. CH – sounds like so much needs to be done that we have to go externally. JK – but once major works have been done we should try to get Friends involved. CH – getting young people to have the skills. SL – will spend an extra £9k to cover the quotes.

AG - We had a major restoration project led by architects Dannett Johnson and for our next step we would like to start grinding corn to make flour. The wind mechanism has long since been disengaged from the stones – so we aren't going to try and resurrect that. Instead we have a second mill inside the windmill which runs from an electric motor. Our hope is to use the electric motor and grinding stones to make flour. We have started a fundraising campaign to raise money to do a feasibility study which will cover; engineering and flour production. The most important part at this stage is part 1 engineering, as if we find that running the electric mill is dangerous, damaging or prohibitively expensive then we will stop the project.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

Shaun Wilson presented the treasurers report. Opening balance, £14,894.66, expenditure £10,948.01, income is £12,058.24

## 8. Reports from Sub Groups:

### Comms:

#### Mill Memories project

KW – A lot of the income is ring fenced for mill memories. Carried out 20 interviews. Hired a project manager who carried out a training day in April. Putting together a listening committee to pull out things for an exhibition, publication. RCA are interested in a project to do an exhibit with motion sensors which set off the audio. So it would be in the windmill and you can hear stories. Extended project to April. Launch at the windmill with a celebration lunch in April / May.

**Panels:** Penny and Stephen have been working on new interpretation panels. Could have them up for Halloween.

**Press:** Dee: Wants to get more journalists to visit. Dee asked if SL wants help targeting some education publications.

**Merchandise:** Chris: Sales at Diverse Gifts – Atlantic Road shop moving to Coldharbour Lane going well. Developed some greetings cards. When Anita opens new shop will sell notebooks for £6.50. Agreed new design for a T-shirt. More Tote bags which sell well. Problem is where to store stuff. JS – like tea towel idea. JK – we can sell at our own Christmas party and Brockwell fair. KM – at Brixton makers market we might have some space on Makerhood stall because Brixton Soc might be having their own stall. JR – Herne Hill have a Sunday market. KW – limiting the number of craft stalls. JK – contact picture framer in Herne Hill. CP – but let's not put into another shop in Brixton, give Anita exclusive in Brixton. West Norwood Feast market? New Clapham Library sell things. Brixton Library sell local publications. SWi – should we have a separate volunteer t-shirt? CH – get an iron-on thing?  
AG – high viz jackets with volunteer on back? **Agreed.**

**Events:**

**Christmas do** – JK: Next event is a Christmas Party. Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December here at St Pauls. We can stay till 10 – leave by 10.30. JR – yes events will help with that. Thanks to Nisa for the wine. LZ – shall we have a raffle? Yes.

**Halloween** – SL: Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October. 2pm to 4pm. Pumpkin carving. Planting bulbs along footpath. Storytelling inside windmill at 4pm and 4.30. Put carved pumpkins along path at 4.30. SL – on the day only need a few volunteers. JK – do you want hot soup? SL - Yes please. JR – turn up with your own pumpkin? SL – we bought 15 pumpkins spare in case people just turn up without them.

**Christmas** – SL: Santa's Victorian grotto in windmill for the day. AJ – mustn't clash with the one on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> done by BGRMO.

**Christmas lights** - Magdalen proposing to do Christmas lights again in Windrush Square. JS – they were was brilliant last year.

**Fundraising:**

JK – a new group now formed (JK, SWi, NW and VW). and they have some ideas.

**Parks:**

JK – some dramatic changes. Path is now fixed. We gained a nice bench. Likely to have another bench from Ashby family in situ by start of next year. At AGM discussed parks consultation (see minutes). Meeting for small parks like outs tomorrow night 6.30 in town hall, FOWG represented. Hope to get compost bins and water butts. If anyone has ideas for planting let us know. CP – where will butts go? JK – by 1 o'clock club and buildings but need to be lockable.

**9. AOB: Next General Meeting proposed dates: Thurs Feb 13th or 27th 2014**