

FRIENDS OF CASTLE GREEN

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Castle Green Pavilion, Hereford on
Wednesday, 24th September, 2014 at 7.00pm

Present:

Margaret Jones, Jean Ellis, Olwen Anstee, Michael Mable, Amanda Attfield, Ursula Attfield, Clarence Attfield, Jonathan Sheldon, Andree Poppleston, Colette Priestley, Marianne May, Pete Redding, Denise Jones, Dee Jones, Helena McArdle, Paddy Nugent, Susanna Grunsell, Heidi Macdougall, David & Susan Weaver, Brian Cheasley, Richard & Patsy Weston, Annabel Oxford, G. Lewis, Ege Parker, Rebecca Huggett, Leo Caithness, Christine Nobel, Jean O'Donnell, Annie Lilwall, Mark Hubbard and Lisa Richardson.

Apologies:

Arthur & Yvonne Etheridge, John Faulkner, Keith James, David & Angela Wyllie, Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe, Colin & Jennifer Holmes, Sara Siloko, Julie Orton-Davies, Julie Brown & Dave Quine, John Kennedy, Richard Priestley, Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes, Sue Griffin, Arthur Lee.

Minutes

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as being a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed by Amanda Attfield and **seconded** by Mark Hubbard. Carried unanimously.

Matters Arising

None

Report from the Chair

Mark Hubbard had resigned as Chair during the year due to the pressure of business commitments but would take this opportunity to outline his association with the Friends. From his first visit at 6 weeks old to his great aunt living next to the Pavilion, through adolescence and the last 14 years living in the same house, Castle Green represented a place of safety. Herefordshire Council were applying for a lottery grant for Castle Green & in 2004 a public meeting was called to form a community association to advise on the best use of the grant. Ten years later, Castle Green has grown from a little used public space to hosting a full programme of events. Parks & Countryside are not a statutory obligation for the local authority so it will be progressively up to the Friends to think ahead, plan ahead, be inventive & generate enough income for the park to survive. In the longer term, to aim to take over the Pavilion & ultimately the whole central parkland of Hereford. Mark was remaining as Vice Chair and Events Director.

Meet The New Team Members

Amanda Attfield believed strongly in the aims & objectives of the FOCG and was proud & privileged to be the incoming chair of the Directors, all working people and all volunteers. 2013 had been a very successful year with all the events generating a surplus including the outstanding November Fireworks event which helped both the school and contributed to our excellent catering kitchen. 2014 saw the first River Festival in 40 years and the Herefordshire Food Festival moved to Castle Green, prime examples of working in partnership with other organisations. Our first year occupying the Pavilion has shown we can make the building earn its keep & given us the confidence to appoint someone part-time as Occupations Manager. Grants had been obtained for WW1 activities and for IT equipment being used for free drop-in sessions held weekly in the Pavilion & building on

this FOCG is working towards taking over the Pavilion as a Capital Asset Transfer. Huge thanks to the outgoing directors, incoming directors and all our volunteers, including Annie Lilwall who had taken up the task of Membership Secretary during the year and Heidi Macdougall & Sara Siloko who were working on obtaining grant funding. Jonathan, our finance director of 4 years, now needs to stand down so we do need to find someone in 2015 to take over.

Paddy Nugent had been involved with FOCG for ten years, starting as a volunteer marquee erector and has progressed to being Director with responsibility for the Building. The first step is the CAT of the Pavilion to FOCG. We should be open and transparent, engage with the community and be self-determining in our actions. The timetable starts with this meeting, 5-6 years for the full (financial) process but by 2021, full restored. Following 'conservation through occupation', the Pavilion should become living & vibrant, serving all parts of the community. At the end of the meeting, everyone was invited to 'post-up' their specific ideas for use of the building to help with the final ideas.

Annabel Oxford lived for the past 18 years in Green Street & always loved this area of Hereford. Initially she volunteered for educational activities and was now responsible for community engagement, working with people to maximise the use of the building for the community. She organised the IT drop-in sessions and had worked with the WW1 funding to organised projects with the Hereford Record Office, exhibitions, and the Canary Girls at the Courtyard. The next grant application was to use the kitchen to work with the community through food

Treasurers' Report

Jonathan Sheldon reported that the statutory accounts have been filed, copies of the abbreviated accounts were available and that Friends of Castle Green had become a Community Interest Company on advice from Herefordshire Council. He circulated graphs illustrating the sources of the company's turnover over the past five years. Income from the events fluctuated – the theatre was heavily weather dependent, sometimes didn't happen or generated a loss. The summer fair was variable while the Christmas fair was more stable, the Easter car boot was added in 2011 and the Fireworks was new last year. Turnover had grown from £6k in 2009 to £23k (plus the Pavilion) in 2013. The trading surplus had grown from £1k in 2009 to £12k in 2013, less £4k from the Pavilion. A prudent level of reserves meant that potential loss-making events could be undertaken and essential fixed assets funded. The Pavilion was paying its way but provision of £5000 + VAT was made for some urgent repairs/re-decoration. The surplus was used to fund support costs, insurance, membership costs not covered by subscriptions, event assets such as chairs/tables/cable trays etc. (£6k over the years) and fixed assets such as the kitchen (£7k in 2014).

From the floor: What was our fund raising strategy – Big Lottery / Heritage Lottery / Reaching Communities Fund. Fundamental to all that was the Capital Asset Transfer of the Pavilion building. Heidi Macdougall & Sara Siloko had volunteered initially and were now working on the funding strategy not only to restore the heritage but for thriving community use of the building. Hereford's economic thread now runs from the Old Market development to the city centre, to Castle Green and across the new bridge to Rotherwas Industrial Estate.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Amanda Attfield, **seconded** by Lisa Richardson and carried unanimously

Election and Ratification of Directors

The appointment of three Directors to be ratified was proposed and seconded as follows:

Chair: Amanda Attfield Proposed by Heidi Macdougall & seconded by Pete Redding
Community Engagement: Annabel Oxford Proposed by Andree Poppleston & seconded by Colette Priestley
Building: Paddy Nugent: Leo Caithness & Heidi Macdougall

The re-election of the following was proposed by Rebecca Huggett, seconded by Michael Mable

Vice-Chair: Mark Hubbard

Treasurer: Jonathan Sheldon

Board Secretary: Lisa Richardson

All were carried unanimously.

Any Other Business

River Festival: Rebecca Huggett thanked FOCG for their help in making the River Festival the success that it was and advised that the date for next year was Saturday, 2nd May, 2015. Mark thanked Leo & Rebecca for organising such a marvellous day of community engagement with the parks on both sides of the river working together. Rebecca asked for more people taking part in river activities next year & suggested targeting local businesses.

The Riverbank: Andree Popplestone asked who was responsible for the riverbank now has nothing at all had been done this year. Mark replied that there had been transition problems with the changeover from Amey to Balfour Beatty and undertook to go over the agreement with them.

Victoria Bridge planting: Colette Priestley reported that the annual planting was very good now in the flowerbeds around the access to the Victoria Bridge. Mark replied that they were now planted with perennials but that future maintenance will be minimal and we shall need volunteers for a 'garden army'. An article would go out in the FOCG newsletter.

The Chair declared the meeting closed, thanked everyone for coming and invited them to enjoy supper and remember to write down their ideas for the Pavilion

Date & venue of next AGM: To be arranged.