

## Monthly Meeting | 31 March 2012 Minutes

### Present

Erwan Guillo-Lohan (Chair)  
Ashley McCormick (Treasurer)  
Hamish Liddle  
Andreas Lang  
Lydia Thornley

Chris  
Fiona Bloom (Secretary)  
Torange  
Ollie Redfern

### Topics

*Update on charity registration, fundraising update, events update, finance update, infrastructure update, outreach, communication, any other business.*

#### Charity Registration

- First submission has not been passed as Charity Commission believed that not all of FOAG's aims are charitable and due to concerns about FOAG's advancement for the future.
- Lydia has worked on some answers to the questions forwarded by the Charity Commission - Erwan is to circulate this to the Trustees for comment.
- Trustees to respond by 14 April 2012 so that new application can be submitted before Easter.

#### Events

- Spring Event
  - The old strawberry beds have been planted in tubs to go onto the Honesty Stall
  - Avant Gardening will be there creating 'Up-Cycle' window boxes. Members are asked to bring along any objects they think will be suitable e.g. ice cream cartons, old shoes. It has been decided that mixed leaves will be planted. Hamish will pick up compost and seeds for this.
  - The Bug Hunt will be run by Petra and Hamish. Lydia will print labels for Hamish once he has organised these. Hamish will organise prizes.
  - There will be a Q&A Table with Hamish.
  - Tea, cake and savoury snacks will be available.
  - An email will be sent to the gardening list to ask members to help with set up, baking, striking at the end of play.
- Summer Event
  - Do we want to be part of Chelsea Fringe? It is an arts and gardening event from 19 May to 10 June 2012. The cost is £22.50 if FOAG signs up before 08 April or £25 thereafter.
  - Gordon will lead a circular walk which will start and end at the gardens.
- The Ministry of Food has not yet responded regarding the demonstration at the Harvest Event.
- It was discussed whether FOAG could continue to use the old postcards. It was decided that they would not be used and that more should be ordered. It is yet to be decided whether to have the sponsors printed directly onto the card or to have them added on a sticker as they are updated to avoid waste. The Tudor Trust is a silent sponsor and should not be mentioned. FOAG needs to check with the Council if they should be mentioned.

### Finance

- Ashley is still not a signatory of the account or able to access the online banking.
- Hamish will give receipts for the greenhouse materials and compost to Ashley by next meeting.
- Dasha has the petty cash tin - Ashley will collect this before the Spring event.
- Loos will cost £44.50 plus VAT per week. This will be invoiced but needs to be paid for four weeks in advance.
- Ashley and Hamish will discuss shopping list from February inventory and decide which items are most urgent. Once the total takings from the Spring event has been finalised the remainder of the list will be discussed.
- Dasha will continue to pay Hamish's invoices until Ashley is a signatory on the account.

### Infrastructure

- Toilets will be delivered on Monday 02 April.
- Louis has sourced a waterless compostable toilet at a cost of £800 which is half of the annual toilet hire fee. This will be discussed further when more details are available.
- A hose pipe ban contingency has been proposed to run multiple taps along the back wall of the garden so that watering cans can be used instead of the hose. It should be noted that any taps used should be plastic.
- Andreas has worked on the plans for the cooking area but Billy has not yet responded regarding costs. Andreas has now contacted others for quotes for the work and will update at the next meeting.

### Communications

- Ollie will add Ashley, Lydia and Fiona B as administrators on the Abbey Gardens Facebook account.
- The Abbey Gardens blog will be linked to Facebook and Twitter to save on having post to each individually.
- Alison has written an article on the gardens for the RHS magazine.

### Outreach

- It has been decided to discuss opening the gardens for specific groups outside of gardening club sessions. A list of possible groups will be researched.

### Any Other Business

- English Heritage will be visiting the site on 09 May at 09h30 to inspect the site. Nina and Andreas will attend this.
- 9 gardening club members have signed up for the West Ham Greenhouse visit.
- The Abbey Gardens have been registered for London in Bloom 2012.
- The mushroom hut will need painting.
- Bob has contacted Torange to see if the gardens would house his bee hives. It has been agreed that he can visit to see if the gardens would be suitable for bee hives.
- Charlie would like to use the gardens for his birthday party in August. It was discussed which weekend would be best and it was decided that he could choose from Sunday 19 or Sunday 26 August.
- Garden Radio
  - Charlie and Loothfur requested a wind up radio for the garden. A vote was taken and it was unanimously decided that this would not be organised at present.

Next meeting 05 May 2012.