

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 2013 AT THE PARISH OFFICE, EAST LEAKE.**

Present: Alan Barlow (Chairman), Trevor Jones (Secretary {minutes}), and 16 Members.
Apologies for absence: Stuart Smith, Marie Males, Susan Friday, John Adcock.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 28th November 2012 had been approved by FMP Committee in January and recently circulated to Members. They were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising from these minutes:	None.
Chairman's Report-	See Appendix A .
Secretary's Report -	See Appendix B
Committee Attendance –	See Appendix C
Treasurer's Report -	See Appendix D
Hay bales harvested –	see Appendix E
Arboretum report –	See Appendix F
Nest Box Report-	See Appendix G
Activities Returns –	See Appendix H
Butterfly Record –	See Appendix I

Election of Officers and Committee.

Debbie Slade resigned.

Eric Bryson was elected, proposed by Mollie Jacques, seconded by Tim Slade.

The officers and other committee members were willing to stand again. There were no further nominations.

The Committee for 2013-14 will therefore be:

Chairman:	Alan Barlow
Secretary:	Trevor Jones
Treasurer:	Andy Denker
Publicity:	Mollie Jacques
Elected Members:	Neil Hunter, Andrew Sandford, Lorna Pilbin, Kevin Gibbons.
Co-opted Members:	Marie Males, Eric Bryson.
ELPC Representative:	Richard Jenks
RBC Representative:	Paul Phillips.

OPEN FORUM.

- 1) Eric Bryson asked if an inventory of equipment was available. Alan stated that no formal record was kept. An axe and a pickaxe, found on a Saturday Activities morning, had been added to our stock.
- 2) The archway under the railway in the NW corner of MP appeared to be in frequent use.
- 3) Schools' use of and interest in the park. Mollie had approached Lantern Lane and Brookside schools about involving children in Meadow Park. The former made considerable use of it. They text parents with information from Mollie. Brookside exhibit notices. Children from Lantern Lane had been involved in a tree planting in 2011. Kevin was of the opinion that we should concentrate on 11 minus children. Alan wondered if children could be involved in willow sculptures. Eric thought they might be interested in design. John Roulstone had experience of living sculpture activity. Some children soon became very interested. Problems of neglect could arise when they left school and were replaced by children who had not been involved in the planting. Trevor wondered if a nature trail could prove attractive to children. Paul Phillips pointed out that Notts Wildlife Trust employed an Education Officer who visited schools on request. Trevor would pursue the suggestion.
- 4) Trevor asked if printing of the arboretum leaflet onto A3 brochure paper could be done by the Parish Office or put out to tender on the internet. Mollie said that it was unlikely that any company would produce a leaflet for less than quoted by Adlards of Ruddington

Date of next AGM. Wednesday 19th November 2014.

The formal meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

APPENDIX A CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (ALAN BARLOW)

Before giving my annual report I would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organisations that have facilitated our work this year:

Financial donations

- Arch Communications
- East Leake Parish Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- East Leake Town Lands Trust

Scientific and professional contributions

- Ian Morrissey for his detailed report on the state of Kingston Brook
- David Bridge for his geological report of Meadow Park

Exceptional contribution of time, skill and specialised knowledge

- Conrad Oatey and Neil Hunter

All volunteers who pay their subscriptions on time and help with keeping the park tidy

Publicity and News Letters - Mollie Jacques

Educational materials and Nature walks - Ann Weekley, Kevin Gibbons, Dennis Fox, John Adcock, Robert Hoare and John Roulstone.

The FMP Committee, Lesley Bancroft and Sue Lewis at the Parish Office

Trevor Jones for documenting all the above activity and Andy Denker for keeping us solvent.

My memory of Meadow Park for 2013 is one of surprises ... pleasant surprises. This all started just before Christmas last year. Matt Youdale from Arch Communications came forward with a most generous donation which was then matched by the Parish and Borough Councils and also East Leake Town Lands Trust. We found ourselves in a position to complete our path regeneration programme. We were afraid that all the previous good work would have been destroyed by last winter's floods. Not so, and come spring the meadows sprang to life and gave an excellent showing of wildflowers. Previous years we had sown quite a lot of Hay Rattle and this is now doing well in Meadow Park. It weakens surrounding grasses and allows flowers to raise their heads above the canopy. This in turn attracted insects and butterflies and provided some rare and welcome sightings which will be mentioned in a separate report. We have received some excellent help with our osier bed and 2014 should see some willow structures in place. Picnic benches have been refurbished and Kingston Brook is looking reasonably clear of rubbish. We again applied for a Community Green Flag Award and after an in-depth 3 hour assessment we were able to fly our flag outside the Parish Office for another year.

Our enthusiasm is challenged by the endless problem of littering and dog fouling. I have calculated that at least 20% of the volunteer hours this past year have been spent in rectifying the effects of unauthorised activities in the park; damage to benches, clearing the brook and dismantling a den.

Looking forward I think we now have a good infrastructure in the park and we do get a lot of appreciative comments. We have an excellent relationship with the Parish Council and have secured some funding for ongoing maintenance. This was virtually impossible to raise by other means. The Youth Parish Councillors we look forward to working with next year.

Chris Packham said recently that one of the rarest animals seen in the UK countryside is the human child. We all work to make Meadow Park a safe and interesting environment. I would like to see more young people appreciating this resource.

Thank you all for your continued support.

** See ACTIVITIES RETURN and EXTRA HOURS RETURN, prepared by Alan, at the end of this document.

APPENDIX B SECRETARY'S REPORT (TREVOR JONES)

Current membership stands at 111. This includes 8 new members, but total membership is 10 down from last year. Some of the loss relates to people leaving the village, some finally retiring and a very small number to the increased membership fee.

Membership drives in the past have attracted a few, but they did not stay long term. I am not sure that we could attract many more members without altering the nature of our organisation.

There are two aspects of FMP – (1) interest in nature and (2) public duty in maintaining and improving the Park. With regard to the latter, perhaps people who pay their taxes feel, with some justification, that they do not need to additionally contribute time and effort. My big worry is the absence of young members. An explanation offered is that modern children are too busy. A junior division might work if membership was regarded as “cool” and there was an enthusiast to run it.

Most households are on the internet and it is easy to communicate with them. 13 are not - paperwork was delivered by hand by Deb.

The situation of two communities, one on the internet and one not, also applies to the Committee. Two Committee members, both Parish Councillors, cannot be contacted by email.

If we had a formal committee, of the type set up by government, we would have a flower specialist, tree specialist, plant pathologist, mammal expert, safety expert, possibly a psychologist etc, replaced when one leaves. A committee composed of volunteers is not balanced.

Ann Weekley spent three hours every month for the ten years 2003/2012 recording flowers in bloom in Meadow Park. A total of 132 species were recorded, although not all appeared in any one year. She has had to discontinue the work and this leaves a gap.

Ann's records provide a benchmark for the future. Two other benchmarks produced this year are David Bridge's "Geology of Meadow Park" and Ian Morrissey's "Kingston Brook, Meadow Park, East Leake – Ecological and Physico-chemical Investigation 2012", a repeat of his 2002 survey. These are both quality documents. David Bridge is not a Member: help sometimes comes from unexpected sources. Ian is a Member; he grew up in the village and works as a principal environmental scientist.

There could well be other expertise in the village. However, on a short and medium term basis nothing can be achieved without enthusiastic practical Members.

Thanks to Deb for deliveries to Members and arranging the social side of this event and Alan for setting clear objectives, obtaining finance and leading from the front.

APPENDIX C - COMMITTEE MEETINGS ATTENDANCE

Meetings attended

5	Alan Barlow (Chair), Neil Hunter.
4	Trevor Jones (Secretary), Andy Denker (Treasurer), Kevin Gibbons.
3	Andrew Sandford.
2	Debbie Slade, Mollie Jacques (Publicity), Lorna Pilbin.
1	Richard Jenks (ELPC rep), Marie Males.
0	Paul Phillips (RBC rep).

APPENDIX D - TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR ENDING 31/10/13 (ANDY DENKER)

2012/13 Proved to be another exceptional year for FMP financially.

The increase in subscriptions to £3/year led to Membership income rising by £103 to £597 but it was a further very generous donation of £500 from a local benefactor, Arch Communications, plus three further amounts of £500 from East Leake Town Lands Trust, East Leake Parish Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council [community fund] which raised the total donations to £2012. Sales were again down on last year - £50, and due to not taking part in the carnival there was no income from fundraising. The remaining Grant was received from RBC [wildflower seeds] totalling £192.80.

Overall income was a grand total of £2852.80

Expenditure at £3528.74 was high this year because of the completion of the main project carried over from last year - the path upgrade: £2500.

Although expenditure this year was in excess of receipts [-£675.94] the opening balance of £791.89 allowed a total of £115.95 to be carried forward for 2013/14.

There are several projects in the pipeline for 2013/2014 which require funds but there is work going on in the background to raise the funds for these

These accounts were audited Lesley Bancroft [East Leake Parish Clerk].

APPENDIX E SUMMER HAY CUT - BALES HARVESTED. (RICHARD JENKS)

2009: 120 large square bales

2010: No figures supplied

2011: 90 large square bales (Dry summer)

2012: 125 large square bales (6 ft 6ins x3 ftx3 ft). Also 75 round wrapped silage bales (4 ftx4 ft) in November.

2013: 95 6ft.6ins x 3ftx3ft large square bales.

Approximately 3 bales to a ton. Some small areas were not cut, to allow establishment of wild flowers.

APPENDIX F ARBORETUM REPORT (MOLLIE JACQUES).

The trees are mostly looking healthy and are putting on growth, but it is a slow process and one has to remember that most of them have a life-span at least as long as ours. The beech has been a problem. It favours slightly acidic soil (ours is on the clay-ey side) and definitely has to be on a well-drained site – even without last year's floods, the area of Gibson's Field where it was planted tends to be damp. We have lost two specimens since 2011, but because it is an important as well as a beautiful tree, it seemed worth trying again. However, specimen No. 3 has been planted on the highest ground available, not far from the Bateman Road entrance.

Another casualty has been the elm. Dutch Elm Disease has been known for more than a century, but the strain that arrived in Britain in the 1960s was what caused the real damage. The tree in the arboretum appears totally dead, but has thrown up two or three clumps of suckers from unaffected roots. Apparently these, too, will become diseased and are unlikely to survive more than ten years or so. Meanwhile, work is being done to breed resistant cultivars, so maybe a healthy replacement tree will one day be available.

The arboretum originally contained 31 trees, but two more are shortly to be added. Firstly, the committee agreed that it was not satisfactory to have as our representative alder tree one growing at the Manor Farm Meadow entrance, so another will now be sited within the main plantation. Secondly, Neil Hunter has offered a black poplar to go with the white and grey, which will complete that group.

We have three initiatives to report:

Leaflet. John Adcock, Dennis Fox and Mollie Jacques have put together a leaflet to help a visitor get the most out of a walk through the arboretum. It is ready for publishing, as soon as funding can be found.

Sponsorship. For £10 we will inscribe your name and any dedication in "The Arboretum Book". This will help a little towards inevitable maintenance costs in the future.

Quick Response Coding (QR). This will enable our more savvy visitors to access a great deal of information about the trees. Andrew Sandford is organising this project, which is in a fairly advanced stage.

APPENDIX G NESTBOX REPORT (ERIC BRYSON)

A limited survey was carried out on 9/11/2013 due to wet conditions. 11/ boxes were inspected.

Four were used, including one open-fronted box that had an unusual nest in it - domed with lots of pigeon feathers and long grass; this could be chiff chaff.

Three were vandalised - one had just the back plate left and others their roof prised off.!

Another was repaired on the spot. Four were not used.

The remainder could not be reached because it was too wet to climb the trees. Box 4 was rebuilt and sited just opposite York Close (Bateman Road). Box 8 (E side of Sheepwash Brook) was taken home for repair.

We could do with some more replacement boxes – materials needed.

In response to a question from Trevor, Eric said that there was no problem with lice.

APPENDIX H ALAN BARLOW HOURS RETURN

Date	Number of volunteers	Work done	Hours worked
January 2013	12 (ARB i/c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finished hedge laying on north side of Little Meadow • Piled brush in appropriate fashion for shredding in c 2/52 time • Added to hibernaculum • Ad hoc litter picking 	24
February	9 (ARB i/c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slit trench dug in SW corner of Play Field in readiness for insertion of possible 4" drain to take excess water from field direct into Kingston Brook. Appropriate warning tape erected. • Ad hoc litter picking. • Review of bird boxes and assessment of work for autumn 2013. • Review of 'Electric Avenue' and assessment of minor tree surgery needed. 	22.5
March	10 (Andy) (2 new members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digging and preparation of wild flower seeding area in Bateman Field arboretum area. • Pruning shrub border. • General litter pick + the removal of a blockage in the stream. 	20
April	12 (Alan/Andy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition of illicit den, removal of associated rubbish including hazardous broken glass. • Repair to the hedge where stake poles had been removed. • Sowing bee-attractive seed (from Friends of the Earth) in prepared bed in Bateman Field. • Litter-picking mainly in various fields and in the Kingston Brook. Haul included picnic chair and motor-bike wheel as well as usual cans, bottles, etc. 	29 approx
May	6 (ARB i/c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 minutes were spent clearing garbage from Sheepwash Brook • 90 minutes spent removing a dam constructed near the railway arch (wood apparently taken from railway safety fence) • 30 minutes (a) clearing garbage from Kingston Brook (in waders), (b) raking compacted rubbish from under picnic benches 	13
June	5 (ARB i/c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting back American Dogwood in Hall Field by the embankment and also in the adjacent margins across the grass path where seeding had taken place. • Clearing the brook of further debris. • Raking under the picnic bench in Gibson's Field to remove drug packets and waste paper. 	15
July	12 max (ARB i/c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting back overgrowth which occludes some paths 	14 total

	8 x 90 minutes 4 x 30 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismantling new "drug den" in Bateman Field copse • Litter picking 	
September	11 volunteers (AD i/c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 cut & dug out dogwood in Hall Field • 2 trimmed path overhangs & collected several bags of rubbish 	25
October	7 volunteers (AD i/c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting Dogwood in Gibson's Field • Strimming Oak Meadow "flower ribbon" • Holes dug in readiness for planting beech (replacement) and alder (new) in arboretum • NB scheduled bird box repair etc postponed due to rain 	21
November	10 volunteers incl one newcomer (AD i/c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of the existing bird boxes (with the exception of 2-3 which were inaccessible due to slippery conditions for ladder-work). One new box installed. • Preliminary work on the next hedge laying task in Hall Field along with path inspection. • Litter picking – disturbing finds near northern railway arch, e.g. axe 	20
			Total Hours
			203.5
December 2012	9 volunteers	Extended session. Hedge-laying in Little Meadow. repair to (juniper) tree guard in Arboretum, repair to nest box	30

Add December 2012 to get a twelve month picture – i.e. 233.5

APPENDIX H ALAN BARLOW (continued) EXTRA HOURS RETURN

Date	Who	What	Hours
5 February	ARB, MJ	Cleaning up plinth notice board which had a blocked lock having been used as a boot scraper.	1.5
13 February	ARB, TG	With Kevin Piper of Horizon Landscapes to survey paths re post-flood remedial work & new upgrade.	2
21 February	ARB, AD, TG, CO	Laying new land drain corner of Play Field	10
16 March	CO, AD	Clearing and repair to drain system above	1
25 March	ARB, AD, John Roulstone	Coppicing willows, Gibson's Field osier bed	9
9 April	Neil H, Steve	Flail-cutting scrub in Hall Field	3
15 April	?	Bonfire of debris from illicit hut, clearing Sheepwash Brook	?
20 May	2 volunteers	Survey of path network with representative from Horizon Landscapes	2.5
21 May	2 volunteers	Discussion with Sean of Horizon Landscapes. Putting in additional land drain SW corner of Play Field	3
31 May	ARB, AD, TJ	Pre-inspection litter picking. Removal of debris from brook. Trolley to garage for puncture repair.	6
31 May	ARB, AD	Accompanying Green Flag inspector around park and debrief over lunch.	6
7 June	JA, MJ	Mapping arboretum (for leaflet)	3
24 June	JA, CO	Arboretum - adjusting ties, trimming dead/misshapen branches	5
8,9 July	Richard Jenks	Pulling ragwort	6
July	Kevin Gibbons	Cutting brambles, especially round trefoil plantings	3
23 August	AD, CO	Pulling ragwort – Stonebridge Field and in arboretum area	4.5
September	NH	Manual cut round the Oak Meadow "ribbon"	1
September	NH	Erecting fence around the new elm growth in the arboretum	1
October	NH	Strimming in Oak Meadow	2
15 October	AD, ARB	Painting 2 picnic benches & planting replacement beech tree	5.5
17 October	AD, ARB	Wiping down new paintwork, checking beech, inspecting new paths where grass growing through	1.5
?? October	NH, CO, JA	Surveying arboretum re sites for alder and replacement beech (plus black poplar)	3
		Total hours	82.5

