

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park AGM
Monday 8th November 2010
Marple Library**

Present: Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Peter Bardsley, Patrick O'Herlihy.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Improvements to the Park Entrance

Carver Commemoration

A cheque for £1,000 has been received from Marple District Centre Partnership as a contribution towards the new display board.

A cheque for £500 has also been received from Paul Howard Menswear of Market Street as a contribution towards the display to commemorate their 30th anniversary of trading in Marple.

The Group recorded their thanks for both these contributions.

An acknowledgement will be included on the new display on the lines of "This display board was funded by Marple District Centre Partnership, Friends of Marple Memorial Park and Paul Howard Menswear, to commemorate 30 years trading in Marple."

Shelley Signs have sent a replacement panel free of charge for the French Boules Court display and Adrian and Mark fitted it last week.

Mark has begun development of the rough artwork and hopes to have it ready for review by the group at the next meeting on Monday 13th December 2010. Jonathan Long wishes to review the design before the final proof is approved and he will be invited to the meeting too.

Drainage Improvements – Three options have been identified to deal with the drainage problems at the entrance to the park:

New gulley with mains connection:	£5,422.50 + VAT
New gulley with soakaway:	£1,839.50 + VAT
Adjust existing gulley:	£566.00 + VAT

Funding for this needs to be considered.

Existing Notice Board - A new location for the existing notice board that will be replaced also needs to be considered.

3.2 Treatment of Benches and Sculptures

Patrick treated the stocks and all sculptures during the September task day. Terry has obtained a new tin of preservative via the David Lewis Centre for ongoing maintenance.

Initial targets for next year are Jim Heald's bench, the sign above the entrance to the Infants Play Area and the Breathing Places Plaque. No doubt the sculptures will also be ready for more too!

Although the group's priority is to maintain the benches and other additions to the park that they have provided themselves they will consider a more systematic treatment of the other benches in the park in the New Year. A survey will be conducted to establish the extent of the work that is needed.

Bob purchased some black Hammerite paint and touched up the War Memorial "ironmongery" himself to ensure that it was completed before the Remembrance Service. The group thanked him for this and reimbursed the cost of the paint.

3.3 Task Days

Previous Task Days

18 September 2010

Started on painting of the Bowling Green Buildings. Ken Else from the Bowling Club also joined us for this. Treated sculptures and stocks. Tidied the borders of the Bowling Green.

30 October 2010

Continued painting of Bowling Green Buildings and tidied some of the borders in the Infants Play Area.

1,000 purple crocuses provided by New Mills, Marple and District Rotary Club and 1,000 provided by the group were planted near to the BBC Breathing Places area at the rear of the library by the 1st Marple Beaver Scouts. The crocuses are provided by Rotary as part of their national campaign to promote awareness of vaccination of children in India against Polio – the crocuses represent the purple spots that the children are marked with to show that they have been vaccinated.

The crocuses were planted in small circular clumps and it is hoped that they will produce a great display in the early spring. When the bulbs come up the Rotary will be erecting a plaque to explain their purpose and to publicise the campaign.

8 November 2010

An ad-hoc task day was held to complete the painting of the first Bowling Green building.

Next Task Days

27 November 2010

This is the final task day of 2010 and the weather will dictate what tasks are possible. Conditions are unlikely to be suitable for painting and it is not planned to carry out any further painting of the Bowling Green Buildings until next spring.

Free parking for specified vehicles has been requested, although it is understood that free parking in all car parks in the town is available each Saturday up to Christmas from 27th November.

3.4 Park Cottage

A detailed report has been received from Sue Emery of Marple Bands.

In summary, Sue advises that the Bandroom project is progressing slowly. They hope to agree a detailed lease soon and will submit plans for building regulations in the near future.

Renovation of the cottage itself will begin first (as they have almost enough money for this already) and the extension will be added later, when funding has been sourced. It is likely to be next spring before any physical work is started on the cottage.

The Bands are about to begin a major fundraising campaign, the first being a "Santa Cruise" on the Bell from the Ring o' Bells on 11th December. The Friends will be pleased to support the Bands with their fundraising in any way they can.

4.0 Funding

4.1 Status of Funds

Current bank balance:	£4,173
Committed Funds:	£2,127 (Entrance Display Panel)
Working balance:	£2,046

Income since the last meeting includes £57.50 from the Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights, £1,000 from the District Partnership, £500 from Paul Howard Menswear and £100 from Marple Carnival Committee.

Expenditure since the last meeting includes £20 on the Poppy Wreath for laying at the Remembrance Service, £11.85 on paint for War Memorial ironmongery, £30 on two large cans of wood preservative and £50 on 1,000 purple crocuses to compliment those provided by New Mills, Marple and District Rotary Club.

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob advised that main work in the park at present is maintenance of shrubs, weeding and clearing leaves and associated work to ensure that the park is at its best for the Remembrance Service on Sunday 14th.

Bob also advised that the students from Marple Hall have raised £50 to replace plants that have gone missing from the planting that they did earlier in the year. Bob will liase with John Francis at Marple Hall School over this welcome contribution.

Jonathan Long has ordered some new shrubs for the borders near to the cinema that the group helped to clear at the beginning of the year. Bob has also obtained some grasses from the nursery that have been planted in this area.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Bowling Green edging boards

Gill has obtained an estimate from Marple Roofline of £1,600 for replacement of the Bowling Green edging boards with UPVC. This will be passed on to the Bowling Club committee for them to pursue further if they wish, along with an offer of support.

6.2 Remembrance Service

Sunday 14th November assemble at 10.15am. Terry will lay the wreath on behalf of Friends of the Park.

6.3 New Year Dinner

Venue of Hare & Hounds at Mill Brow for 8th January 2011 was confirmed. Micaela will provide more details in due course.

6.4 *Pride in Marple Awards (Post-meeting note)*

The Friends Group has been nominated in the Pride of Marple Awards 2010 and invited to the presentation ceremony at High Lane Village Hall on Tuesday 23 November by Marple Area Committee. Micaela, Terry, Gavin, Gill and Mark will attend.

7.0 Date of next Meeting:

Monday 13th December 2010 at 6pm in Marple Library.