

**Martineau Gardens
Annual General Meeting**

22nd October 2016

Present: Peter Beck, Lorna Brown, Tim Bruton, Vina Campbell, Ann Chancellor Davies, John Gale, Roxy Gale, Rosalia Hatwell, Margaret Holmes, Caroline Hutton, Robert Kornreich, Peter Moodie, Sue Moodie, Mary McCormick, John Newson, Sue Roberts (chair), Glenys Thomas, Tom Walkling, Jane Woddis,

Apologies: Elisabeth Fisher, Raena Green, Carola Klein, Louise Mackuin, Joyce Rimmer, Elizabeth Robinson, Bill and Susie van Marle, Jennifer Young,

1. Sue Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. Everyone introduced themselves
3. **Apologies** listed above
4. **Minutes of the 2015** meeting were accepted, proposed by John Newson and seconded by Tom Walkling.
5. Caroline Hutton introduced the **annual report** Roxy Gale appreciated what an attractive document it was. Sue Roberts commented on the waiting list, that though it showed that there was a demand for the service, we must find a way of dealing with it, either by increasing capacity or by referring potential volunteers on to other projects. Vina Campbell asked about whether we moved volunteers on, Caroline explained that we had decided to not have 'placements' but build a supportive community. This was acknowledged to be a complex issue and the Trustees will continue to explore ideas for addressing it. This will be helped by the arrival of a new Trustee, a senior clinician, who will be joining the Board.
6. Tim Bruton introduced the **Annual Accounts**. He explained that with no statutory income, we had done well to increase our income, which had given us some stability. Members could see some of the physical improvements around the Gardens. He explained that the bulk of the creditors were cash set aside for rent. 'Public engagement' is the work we do to deliver our charitable objects and to communicate what happens. 'Charitable Services' are activities we charge for, such as education. We have between 30 and 40 Charitable Trusts who support us with grants of £100 to £5000 a year. Acceptance was proposed by Tom Walkling and seconded by John Newson.
7. **Election of Independent examiners:** BVSC were approved
8. **Margaret Holmes** and **Glenys Thomas** were re-elected to the **Board of Trustees** proposed by Tim Bruton and seconded by Peter Beck
9. **Developing projects:** The **refurbishment of the Pavilion** will go ahead this Winter, we have enough funding to do the first stage of making the walls and roof sound. Peter Beck asked if it would help to make the Pavilion 'a listed building'. The answer was 'probably not' since there might then be restrictions placed on what we might do with it. It was suggested that like the pledge for the

wood stove, we could produce a 'Pavilion warming' list for supporters to buy specific items.

Developing a suitable **Impact measurement** system has concerned us for some time, and with the help of our new administrator, Jane Bradshaw, we hope to make progress this year.

Environmental Education has been funded for the first time, so we will no longer have to subsidise the work to the extent previously necessary and we can employ Juliette Green for 3 days a week for part of the year.

10. **AOB:** There was a general discussion about the challenge of fundraising. Martineau Gardens has one part-time fundraiser and whilst he is doing a great job there is a limit to how much he can develop a broad portfolio of fundraising activities, e.g., growing a supporter fundraising base. The possibility of a establishing a lottery or major raffle was discussed but whether or not this is a good idea depends on the return of investment achieved. Another consideration is that such activities do not qualify for Gift Aid. All present were invited to share any ideas they had for raising income, e.g., growing the Martineau Gardens Membership Scheme was proving a particular challenge. John Newson reminded the meeting that the Big Lottery was undersubscribed in Birmingham and Caroline Hutton agreed to pick that up.

The staff and Trustees were thanked for their hard work

Minutes by Caroline Hutton
Approved by Board of Trustees 24 November 2016