

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on 26th July 2015 in the Triangle workshop.

Present: Dave Brooks, Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Jane Swan, Gillian Allen, Martin Luke, Geoff Easton, Liz Bell.

1. Apologies: None received.

2. Minutes of last meeting: the minutes of 2nd June 2015 (largely concerning arrangements for the Triangle Summer Fair) were approved and there were no matters arising.

3. Triangle Summer Fair 4th July: Dave reported on the success of the event which attracted our largest number of visitors and resulted in record takings of £888 after expenses, together with donations of £250 and £100 from members of the Tordoff family (relatives of Joe Johnson, a paviour who occupied the site in the late 1800s / early 1900s) who were present on the day.

Some discussion took place as to the reasons for our success which included the number of stalls and activities (BBQ, cake stall and drinks, children's games and drawing competition, book stall and raffle) all of which raised significant takings; alongside information and proposals displays, together with live music and a fine sunny afternoon. Some reservations were expressed over the inclusion of an RSPB stall (which offered some children's activities) but might not be appropriate in future.

4. Recent and future works on the Triangle site: a) **Lowering of towpath wall** to provide greater visibility into the Triangle site. This had just been completed by workers from the house building scheme across the canal as a contribution to the Triangle project, involving repair and rebuilding of parts of the wall and the replacement of the coping stones. The work has not included final pointing of the wall with lime mortar which will be required and may need a stone waller to complete. **Dave** to send letter of thanks to the companies involved for providing the labour required.

b) **Re-instatement of iron railings to gaps in the towpath wall:** is required to retain this feature in four of the five openings (west to east not including the towpath access) the third missing railings, the fourth to be kept as a new opening into the Triangle, and the fifth the unblocked doorway into the former corner buildings. The two existing sets of railings may need slight modification for their re-instatement plus new fixings, with the third and fifth gaps requiring new or reclaimed matching sets. **Investigations required.**

c) **The new entrance into the Triangle (near the canal bridge)** will require making a step down due to the difference in levels of the towpath and the Triangle site, which volunteers should be able to construct. **The large bench made by Rolande (chainsaw carver)** from the felled willow needs to be located and set securely into the ground, as do her **mushroom stools**. A decision needs to be made on **constructing a low stone retaining wall** to the proposed wild flower area and acting as an edge to the proposed path through the site, **or not.**

d) **The number and layout of raised beds** for growing foodstuffs at the far end of the site was discussed, with agreement that this should be phased in conjunction with demand; while the idea of growing dwarf fruit trees in tubs on the raised buttress was called into question on practical grounds but with the possibility of training a vine against the end retaining wall instead and ornamental climbers on the workshop pergola (with a different

location for future BBQs). **Water butts** were also discussed with different models and fixings available but decisions on these were deferred to a date nearer to their being required.

5. Future funding needs: were discussed with an application to **Lottery Awards for All** being the likely major funding source, for which it will be necessary to draw up our detailed requirements and costings. This will need to be done soon in order to progress the later stages of our Triangle project through the end of this year and into 2016.

6. Date of next meeting: Monday 7th September 2015 in the Triangle workshop building. All welcome. (N.B. There will be no August meeting due to the summer holiday period).