

Chair report notes that may or may not help....

Thanks in general...

First year of charity - issues faced including COVID and working out how we run differently....

Any changes to committee:

Caroline
Rosemary & Hugo

New volunteer leads

Stu
Louise

Money:

Grants achieved:
Propagation Garden - Private benefactor
Betty's 'Trees for Life' - Pollinator project
GGS and Micklegate Ward - Volunteer coordinator

Did we get money from Police commissioner/John Muir?

In addition, just been awarded a Yorkshire Water Grant for approx £17,000 over 4 years to improve the wildlife/beck area and run educational sessions.

Other main earners are events, membership & duck food (elaborate?)

Membership

Since 2018 we have increased membership x4.5 from around 120 to around 650. This has been the combined result of going 'online' with payments, advertising and marketing via social media, new website, posters in the park and blogging for other charities/groups. Around 550 of the members are recurring payments. This means more people are aware of our work and support our aims.

From 2019-20 membership has increased gradually, though there have been a few more cancellations than usual due to COVID. Usually also manage to sell membership and raise awareness via events - not been able to do so this year.

Oct 2018-2019 - 2870.00

Oct 2019-2020 - 3680.00

Moving on to an online improved database with digital membership cards and some forms of automation. A membership push (or increase in fee) is something we could consider if we wanted to raise more funds.

Volunteering

2020 has seen a real push on volunteering that we didn't think would be possible in light of flooding and COVID.

From 15 active gardeners we now have an additional 22 regulars (37) and also additional 'less frequent gardeners.

Litter was 6 and now we have 35

Geese was 5 and now we have 12

Around 20 people registered interest in other areas (funding/marketing/events/centenary etc) - some already expressed interest in more than one role.

Very Young Friends - 3 new people expressed an interest in running these sessions together and will host their first group on Thurs 5th of November.

In total we currently have 74 unique volunteers. This will change and be some drop off, but it's great!

No 'in the park' volunteering from Feb-June due to floods and COVID

Volunteer hours - approx

Gardening: 100

Litter: 130

Goose: 56 hours

Children's events: 416

Events: 10

Grant applications:

Social Media: 120

Website design & Updates: 75

Marketing & Advertising (Design):35

Admin: 250

Meetings: 50

Planning: 70

Support from ECO Team at CYC, and YorkCares groups.

Key projects through 2019-20

Tree Trail

Start of Pollinator Garden

Website

Continuation of Sensory Garden

Rowntree Park Rainbows

Building up educational programme through Forest School (including Home Education sessions)

Improving volunteer coordination- database, systems, policies and procedures, communication etc

Also worked with park Bench Theatre and York Pilates People to have activities in the park. No financial benefit to us as such, but great activities for the community. Pilates people gave free sessions to our volunteers and the Theatre free tickets to volunteers.

Key bit on Education/children's groups?

We invested in the training for FS practitioner. Runs weekly FS for 2-5 year olds. Always sold out and in demand (had to reduce numbers due to COVID). Also monthly Big Kids sessions and Home Education occasional sessions.

Worked with Knavesmire Primary School running sessions in the park. Also had a partnership set up working with Millthorpe working with Pupil Premium Students to be part of an enrichment programme for them. This has been hold due to COVID but due to restart.

Aim is to continue to grow school provision as well as children's outdoor sessions linked to Forest School and general nature/eco and well-being.

General other stuff....

Gardening sessions

July and Aug 'large' gardening sessions run by Stu in conjunction with Eco Team (Jenny etc). There were 4 2 hour sessions with around 35 people involved (20 max a session)

Volunteer coordinator role

Environment Agency

Clementhorpe Flood work due to go ahead. Compound being constructed on the football field around Nov/Dec 2020. . Leaving the 'wildlife area/pond at back and a path to access this area. In negotiation with EA about having info boards along the /path' with info (wildlife or history of park). Also, they usually plant a certain amount of trees to limit eco impact of any work. Dave Meigh informed them he has a tree budget, so suggested working with us on improving wildlife habitats in the beck area. We have/are making suggestions and then Vicky producing a report for her bosses to see if they can get support/funding.

Closure of Terry Ave to start 2021 and for 12-18 months.

Flat

All has gone quiet on this area since March. Cath will update when she knows more.

Products

Range of FRP products on sale still -new tree trails, King of Birds Trail, Mugs, Tote Bags, Prints, duck food