

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

29th July at 6pm in the Leechwell Garden

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Roma Church, Sue Holmes, Shirley Prendergast, Lu Overy, David Martin, Keith Rennells, Sue Joel, Jenny Lynn Farrell

1. APOLOGIES: Jeannette Willington, Philip Strange

2. MINUTES: the minutes of the meeting of the 24th June were not reviewed

3. MATTERS ARISING

Dave welcomed Sue Joel, a Totnes resident, who had expressed an interest in helping with the garden.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to hear from Jenny Lynn Farrell her plans for the Art Trail event.

4. JENNY LYNN FARRELL

Jenny described her plans (see attached) for the events which will take place in the Leechwell Garden on Saturday 15th August from noon until 4pm. These form part of a Totnes-wide series of events that day. There was some concern about the garden being overcrowded but Jenny said there would be no mass publicity on social media (it is intended for local children) and that she planned to have marshals ensuring that there would be a limit on numbers in the garden at any one time. The plan was for each of the garden gates to be either an entrance or an exit and chalk marked on the grass and herb garden paving would help ensure social distancing. All agreed that it was a great idea and the committee agreed to give Jenny any help she needed (e.g provision of chairs and tables and gazebos). Note that proper insurance and SHDC permission for this (and the other events) will be in place.

5. THE SANDPIT

After Jenny's review we looked at the work Keith and Andrew had done to the sandpit. Since the last meeting two tons of sand had been dumped in the sandpit. Keith and Andrew had then installed a new post to help keep the cover in place and also wooden sleepers along two of the edges. Not only will these help keep the sand in, they also provide seating. All agreed this was a big improvement. Keith had also put up a sign by the lower pools asking children not to put sand in them.

6. POOL AREA

Keith had put up noticed about protecting the meadow grass and warning about the deep water in the pool. It was agreed that another deep water warning notice was needed on the fence above the waterfall (where children often climb up and play). That done it was agreed that the gate into the pool area could be kept permanently open so that people could enjoy the seating and the view.

7. AOB

In the last week two large children's birthdays had been held in the garden and there had been a complaint about noise. After some discussion it was agreed that the noise was considerably less than that from the Grove School when that was open and that we didn't need to take any action.

Keith noted that the SHDC team had cut paths through the long grass as instructed. The lane from the Leechwell to the Garden gate is now badly overgrown with brambles etc. so Keith agreed to ask SHDC to clear it.

Action: Keith to contact SHDC

The Fig Tree by the main gate (donated by Susie Boyd when the garden opened) has grown alarmingly and needs to be pruned.

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NEXT MEETING: No date was agreed at the meeting but Dave will suggest dates (probably in early September).

Action: Dave to circulate dates

Proposal for Midsummer Dream – Saturday 15th August in the Leechwell Garden

Jennie Farrell. jenniferlynnfarrell@outlook.com, 01364-631227 mob. 07955414830

The afternoon activities within the garden aim to run from 12 midday until 4pm. This is a multi-media family interactive platform that will support the re-emergence of the community into an art experience after the recent restrictions of Covid 19.

The activities will be risk assessed correctly and all safety measures put in place to support infection control and minimise any other risks. The areas and the garden will be curated, and all care will be taken to ensure social distancing and hygiene is in place. A correct Risk Assessment will be forwarded.

Open grass space - Bubble Weaving

Using willow, I plan to form the structure for three bubble domes, each one representing one of the three healing wells. The weaving will happen within a roped area (on the ground) and the idea is that families and individuals will use the soaked willow provided to weave in their lockdown story and reflect on aspects of the past six months together. As they weave} they tell their stories} share their memories and regain communion with each other in the practical task of weaving in the willow. When the spaces are finished, they can provide play spaces or meditation spaces for the following 2 weeks until the end of August when I will come and dismantle them. All materials are biodegradable and can either be composted or repurposed. All safety measures will be in place with hand sanitiser provided and the option for masks included. No more than a family unit or three individuals will be in each space at a time.

Bridge Space – Poetry Reading

After some discussion it was agreed that Heath's Garden might be a better site for this.

Herb Garden circular seating.

A platform for young local musicians including Bird Collyer and possibility of Misu's harp students. Scheduled in mid-afternoon.

Under the Willow Tree - Stories for Younguns. 3.30 Pm

Half an hour of classic storytelling at the end of the day. Focussed on early years children and told by experts (me!)

Sound Art Radio

A pre-recorded and mixed program from the Sound Art Kids club to be broadcast live from the garden. Focussing on some fun historic facts about the gardens and the need for healing in the past with reflections from the youth on how this last six months has changed our/their world.

The aim of this project is to reconnect our local community and families through the exploration of sharing through art and listening and to give the platform of creativity back to the young and to weave our own cultural perspective today with history/reflection, music poetry and craft.