

# **Friends of Darwen Cemetery Public Meeting at Darwen Vale High School**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

**Apologies:** Diane Walsh, Cllrs David and Karimeh Foster, Cllr Brian Taylor, Jayne Myers, Cllr Dave Smith, Paul Dargan, Patrick O'Reilly

**Present:** Rosemary and Len Jackson, Terry and Pat Garsden, John Clemens, Alan Briggs, William Briggs, Colin and Joan Briggs, Brent Stevenson, Tony Foster, Maureen Roberts, David Shorrocks, Diane Davies, Lawrence and Jake Gilbertson, Susan Riding, Jill Marr, John East, Ann Stokes, Roy Cox, Anne Lamont, Kath and Mick Walsh

John East thanked Sue Riding for leading a tour of the new school and for arranging for the meeting to be at the school. A powerpoint presentation with music of photographs from the past years events and working parties produced by Roy Cox was played during the meeting. John East thanked Roy for his contribution.

1. **Notes of the last Public Meeting (26<sup>th</sup> September) agreed.**  
Matters arising – none.

2. **Financial update** Rosmary Jackson presented Diane Walsh's report.  
£2,000 received from Crown Awards (to be used with the money received from Darwen Archaeology Society to complete section B). We have paid out £294 for trustee insurance, £65 for the printing of thank you cards. We have £6252 available for projects.

**Fundraising update** – Jill Marr presented a report on fundraising activities (see attached report)

- Section B completion – money raised from Crown Awards and DAS. BwDBC asked to contribute any shortfall.
- Horticulture Society bid – to be reviewed December
- A4A application completed – awaiting advice from Samira Al-Obaidi.
- Santander – applying for equipment – muck truck
- HLF bid for commemorating start of WW1 – progressing well. Have got good support and will need to have detailed plans and budgets.

Roy Cox asked if the Grave Space Maintenance Scheme could be added to the bid. Lawrence Gilbertson from the Royal British Legion spoke in support of this bid. They would perhaps like to see a service at the side of each war grave on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their death.

3. **A report on the work undertaken by the Working Parties was presented by Mick Walsh (see attached)**

- The Wildlife Garden was completed by March to comply with the Big Lottery's deadlines. Maintenance work is ongoing. We are grateful to the help we received with logistical problems moving heavy items – Brent Stevenson, Diane Mayer. Anne Lamont has become an expert resetting the curbs and upstands.

- Ashton Memorial/CofE section. Helped to clear area of dumped rubbish/soil by Your Call (with skips and wagon to remove waste) and open it up as a meeting/parking place.
- Section C – completing cut back of rhodies, removing stumps of dead shrubs started in 2010. To complete in 2013.
- Thursday Group now working on Lark Street lime avenue clearing invasive rhodies.
- Invasive weeds. FODC have been tackling the Balsam and BwDBC have contracted Lancashire Wildlife Trust to work on the Knotweed.
- Other groups such as Probation Payback have assisted with jobs identified by FODC.

Have learned a lot in the past year and are finding better ways of tackling the problems. John thanked Mick for all his hard work this year.

4. Grave Space Maintenance Scheme proposal (paper attached). Tony Foster presented the proposal for FODC to maintain family grave spaces for a fee. Brent Stevenson offered to train volunteers to wash down headstones as another service. Can also offer to put on Christmas wreaths for a donation (made by Anne Lamont).
5. Bill Briggs, BwDBC gravedigger gave a very entertaining talk on the life of a gravedigger.
6. Diane Davies, Jill Marr and Tony Foster launched the competition for 11 – 18 year olds to design an information centre to be built in the cemetery to contain the names of WW1 soldiers, as part of the HLF bid. Expression of interest need to be forwarded to FODC by 20 December. Lawrence Gilbertson (RBL) offered his help as he has a WW1 trench for a museum when he was in the Royal Engineers.
7. Any other business – none.

Time and date of next Public Meeting – AGM Wednesday 24 April 2013 at 7.00pm venue to be announced.