

Annual Report for 2016

This is to update all our members on the events in 2016 and what your committee has been involved in on behalf of FOPA.

One of these items is that the group formerly known as BARG (Brunswick & Adelaide Group) has now been renamed BTA (Brunswick Town Association) and has its own constitution. The group still joins together one or more representatives from each of the local associations, and acts on behalf of all these groups. BTA has a voice on the CAG (Conservation Advisory Group) and the changes have made it easier especially in regard to the paperwork. It now only requires the one copy of BTA's documents each year.

Probably the main issue that FOPA has been involved in for the past year is in connection with the Council's planned changes on how they will collect refuse from Palmeira & Adelaide, and in fact Brunswick Square as well. As I am sure you will all know, plans are in place to stop any basement collections and only to use the large black refuse bins placed around our area instead. We had believed that we could keep the weekly recycling collection as it is, but now understand that there will be bins for this too. We are hoping that our suggestion of reduced numbers of refuse bins will be accepted. It is certainly not ideal, however, few of the old basement cupboards are suitable for the amount of rubbish to be stored each week. It is to be hoped that the bins and the area around them will not attract litter.

On the garden front, our garden representative aims to act as a liaison with the Council gardeners and FOPA, communicating with both to offer suggestions and occasionally funding for plants. The Council has reduced the amount of time the gardeners can spend in Palmeira & Adelaide now and we hope the gardens will not deteriorate because of this. One of their jobs is to clear all litter in the gardens before they can do any actual gardening which is such a shame, and not very pleasant for them either.

One success in the gardens has been the hedge planted at the top of Adelaide crescent garden a few years ago, with members help, it looks very healthy now. Also new trees have been in place along the east side of Palmeira Gardens and seem to be coping with the weather there.

The LAT (Local Action Team) meetings are well attended by two of our committee members and they continue to work with our Councillors to resolve any issues, with travellers setting up camp in the gardens, for example. Swift action can usually resolve this without too many problems.

This group have also been looking into many of the local traffic issues, especially in regard to the delivery vehicles for the local stores. They have definitely been successful in influencing good outcomes on this thorny issue.

We were all very sorry to see our local PCSO, Julie Wornham leave the Police. She had been looking after our area for a long time and had been such a help on local issues, and had the advantage of knowing so many local people. FOPA wished her well and contributed to a gift for her. She had attended most LAT meetings and had been a great contact for us all.

On the social side, unfortunately we had to cancel our Christmas Party this year but are hoping to hold one next year. No coffee mornings were held in 2016, and if anyone would like to hold one do please contact the committee, it would be very welcome.

Also just to say that Ella who has been a committee member for some time has decided to step down from FOPA, and we will miss her input, she has been very much involved in all that we do. Especially regarding the web site and production of newsletters, all of which has been much appreciated.

Fortunately another committee member has taken on the web site for FOPA along with sending out any communications to members, but at the moment we are not sure about newsletter production.

Should any of our members feel they would like to become involved with the Friends of Palmeira & Adelaide committee, please do say so and make contact, maybe at the AGM in January. You would be most welcome.

Once again thank you to you, our members, whose support we value, and to all the committee members as well, for the time spent supporting this association which is so much appreciated. The committee members deal with membership, finance, minute taking, communications, planning, gardens, social events, any issues with the roads and lighting, and the local action team and so on, all in their own time which makes the committee run very smoothly - as well as anything else I have forgotten.

With best wishes for a happy new year.

The Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2016

FOPA Account Income and Expenditure 1.12.15 - 31.12.16 (cut off 30.11.16)

INCOME	
Donations - Cash/Cheques/Standing Orders	£ 200.00
Christmas party 2015	£ 383.00
Bank interest (Police Property Fund)	£ 0.35
TOTAL	£ 583.35

GENERAL EXPENDITURE	
Southern Water Garden Supply (December 2015 to June 2016)	£ 31.50
AGM January 2016	£ 83.44
Cornerstone meetings (Room hire January, July, October)	£ 60.00
Christmas Party 2015	£ 518.52
Gardeners Christmas present (*has not been taken)	£ 12.75
Donation to Julie Wornham (PCSO)	£ 25.00
Donation to Brighton in Bloom	£ 70.00
UK2 Webhosting	£ 85.68
TOTAL	£ 886.89
EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	£ 303.54

FUNDS IN BANK (as at 30th November 2015)	
HSBC Current Account	£ 1,242.53
HSBC Police Property Fund	£ 525.12
TOTAL	£ 1,767.65

FUNDS IN BANK (as at 30 November 2016)	
HSBC - Current Account	£ 932.63
HSBC - Police Property Fund	£ 525.47
TOTAL	£ 1458.10

Sue Hitching, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, 12th December 2016