

THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



THE 28th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Cornerstone Centre at 2pm on Saturday 26th April 2025

Following the AGM this year a fun free afternoon quiz with prizes and Coffee and homemade cake will be available.

To help us with seating and refreshments, please let us know if you will attend the AGM by emailing to: info@fopa.co.uk

AGENDA

- 1) Minutes of the 26th/27th AGM (see below)
- 2) Comments on the Annual Report (see below)
- 3) Agreement of the Annual Accounts (see below)
- 4) Election of the Committee for 2025
- 5) Presentation of the Garden Plan
- 6) Guest Speakers (Andrei Czolak / Ollie Sykes)
- 7) AOB

The following Committee members have agreed to remain:

Ted Davis (Chair), Jan Nichols (Head of Gardens Team), Amanda Bodenham (Treasurer), Annabel Anderson (Safeguarding Officer), Janie Ranger (Events), Annie Mendelow, Andrea Martin,

The following Committee members are stepping down:

David Ryan (Acting Secretary / Website)

If no objections are received all will be elected by block vote. If any members would like to join the Committee please contact by writing to: info@fopa.co.uk

The Chairman for 2025 will be elected by the Committee at its First meeting.

The Committee welcomes new ideas and help with its work

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NO HARDCOPIES WILL BE SUPPLIED.**

THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

THE 26th/27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 26th/27th AGM

**MINUTES OF THE 26th/27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**HELD AT THE CORNERSTONE CENTRE
AT 10.30am ON SATURDAY 20th April 2024**

PRESENT

In the chair: Ted Davis (TD)
Committee: George Dean (GD) David Ryan (DR)
 Annie Mendelow (AM)
Note taker: David Ryan

1. **Apologies for absence:** Jan Nichols

2. With an attendance of forty, including those on the Committee, the meeting was confirmed by the notetaker as quorate.

3. The Agenda, Minutes of the previous AGM, the Annual Accounts and the Chairman's Annual Report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

4. **Proceedings**

4.1 TD proposed that this AGM be marked as the 26th/27th. Due to Covid the recording of AGM had become out of sequence. No objections raised TD confirmed the proposed change was adopted.

4.2 The Minutes of the 25th AGM of FOPA held on Wednesday 1st March 2023 were presented by TD and adopted by acclamation.

4.3 The Annual Report for 2023 was presented by TD. (Copy attached)

4.4 The Annual Accounts for 2022 were presented and adopted by acclamation. TD thanked GD for his work in maintaining and preparing the accounts.

TD proposed a block vote for all the members for acceptance of the accounts and seconded by David Tilson and adopted by acclamation.

5. **Election of the Committee**

TD informed the meeting that George Dean (Treasurer) was willing to continue in the office. Four members have been co-opted to the committee this past year and have agreed to remain Ted Davis (Chair), David Ryan (Acting Secretary), Annie Mendelow and Jan Nichols.

TD informed the meeting that David Ward (Previous Chairman) had informed him that 2023 would be his last year as Chairman as he resigned in October. TD thanked David Ward for his continued hard work.

TD confirmed that Andrea Martin will be joining the committee in the coming year and invited anyone else interested in becoming a committee member to contact him via info@fopa.co.uk

TD proposed a block vote for all the members. This was motioned by Rory Connely and seconded by Stuart Grainger and adopted by acclamation.

6. Vote on Changes to Constitution

TD proposed two changes to the Friends Constitution.

To change the Quorum required at general meetings from 10% to 5%. Our membership has grown to include many not living in the immediate area. Also with a free membership, we have had several members join, yet are not actively involved. This Quorum is in line with similar Friends groups, and the Hove Civic Society.

TD proposed a block vote for all the members. 40 members in favor, no objections, no abstained. TD Change adopted.

To change the minimum required officers from a minimum of four ordinary members, to a maximum of nine members (including Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer)

TD proposed a block vote for all the members. 40 members voted in favor, no objections, no abstained.

TD confirmed the proposed changes are now adopted.

7. Guest Speakers

TD invited local councilors Jilly Stevens and Andrei Czolak to speak at the AGM. Both were very pleased with the turnout of residents and supported the Friends group. They chose to discuss an on-going issue in Brighton and Hove of Drug Abuse and the affects in our area.

The talk raised several questions about policing, funding including council tax value and CCTV in the area. To which the councilors responded in a live debate with several take-away actions. Both councilors concluded by encouraging everyone to vote for the upcoming Police Commissioner and will confirm the date of the local action meeting they would like residents to raise their concerns at.

Both councilors are happy to continue conversations around this subject and other concerns or items you would like to raise and have provided contact information below;

Jilly Stevens
Elected Labour Councillor
Brunswick and Adelaide Ward
email: Jilly.Stevens@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Andrei Czolak
Elected Labour Councillor
Brunswick and Adelaide Ward
email: andrei.Czolak@brighton-hove.gov.uk

8. Any Other Business

TD informed the meeting that he had not received any formal requests for AOB but opened up the meeting to the floor should those present wish to raise any issues.

Questions raised about the condition of the Balustrade at the bottom end of Adelaide Crescent by David Tilson. Funding is the issue as always, however Andrei Czolak is going to look at options available.

9. The business of the meeting being completed, the meeting concluded at 11.40am. The next AGM will be held on a date to be arranged. Tea/Coffee and Cakes (provided by Andrea & Annie) and an opportunity to meet fellow members followed.

FOPA 28th Annual Report

Another very busy year for the Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide, with a noticeable increase in activity both behind the scenes and in the community. Last year we set out to re-invigorate the gardens, improve the streetscape, host more events, and grow our community. With council resources ever reducing, the demands on our community to step up is every increasing. I hope this report can summarise all the things we have done in the past year, and hope to achieve in the next.

Firstly, it is with much sadness that we have lost George Dean this last year to cancer. George stood on the committee as our Treasurer for many years, and continued to work till the end, to keep our accounts in good standing. George will be remembered for his dry wit, a sharp garden edge, and most of all for his kind generosity. One of our garden projects this year is to re-invigorate the Adelaide rose garden and it will bear a dedication to George for his contribution to FOPA and the community.

All committee officers but one have chosen to stay on next year, while three new officers have joined us this past year. We welcome Amanda Bodenham into the role of Treasurer, Janie Ranger as Events Organiser, and Annabel Anderson for taking on the role of Community Safeguard Officer. David Ryan will step down from the committee, having been responsible for our communications, website and news articles, graphic design, and also acting as Secretary and chief note taker.

We thank David for his excellent work the last two years, helping us to build our brand, and for reviving our web presence. Many successes would not have been possible without his visual design and graphic work on all our posters, and meticulously keeping all our meetings minutes. Thank you David for all your work and for and keeping us all well informed.

With David stepping down as Secretary, I invite members with experience in website, admin or good record keeping to step forward and help us to continue our work for the community.

On our Streetscapes, we have seen some recent repair work to the lanterns on the west side of Palmeira Square. One lantern is still awaiting parts, and will be repaired soon. We have been in communication with Bella Sanky about the lower Adelaide wall and its long overdue decoration and repair. We have requested one extra bin in Adelaide, and have been told the whole Waste and Recycling removal scheme is up for renewal.

FOPA is working with a local architect this year, to investigate getting a proper set of steps built in place of the desire path that leads into Adelaide Gardens, and will set out to have all the pavement bollards re-painted. We welcome the overdue plan of works to improve the roads around the Floral Clock.

Following an online opinion survey, we have opted in for the controlled application of weedkiller to our pavements, excluding it's use any of our green spaces. Soon we will see a new double red route applied to Western road that will help with traffic flow.

Our Gardens have been the biggest of our efforts to restore, improve and maintain them at the failing of council resources and the dissolved Palmeira and Adelaide Garden Fund. Under the lead of committee officer Jan Nichols, a garden sub committee was formed to plan and execute many improvements to our green spaces.

With support from Annie Mendelow, Andrea Martin and myself as trained garden volunteer leaders, Catherine Melia as our RHS certified consultant, and member Lynne Reed helping with volunteer admin, we've set about an ambitious schedule of works.

We thank all fifty four of our garden volunteers who have put in almost 1000 of labour hours in the gardens this year, with a special commendation for Stuart Grainger who works tirelessly to keep things looking as they do.

The B&H Food Partnerships food compost bins continue their success, with the recent addition of a fifth bin. FOPA is working to possibly add a garden waste compost area to reduce the amount of bio-mass leaving our gardens, to reduce the workload for the council gardeners who haul away all our garden waste and leaves. We are improving the soil in many of our borders, adding ever more locally sourced mulch, compost and horse manure to the rosebeds. Last year almost 5000 new bulbs were planted, and we are now seeing the burst of colour in the gardens, and on the Palmeira Substation. FOPA will run a dog mess awareness program soon, as we've seen an increase in dog foul on our streets and in our gardens.

We thank Rosie Keegan for maintaining our bird feeding program, keeping all our feeders topped up with seed, and maintaining the feeders over the winter months to improve our local songbird population. Should anyone like to help through donations to keep this program alive, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Jan will later make a more detailed presentation of all the improvements we made last year, and the plans for this and the next coming year.

We are always looking for more volunteers to come forward, so please let us know if you want to get out gardening, or even help with events, or the plant foster program. We also invite your generous donations towards the gardens, to keep our green spaces looking as they do.

We continue to pursue the city arboreal team to tend the trees in the gardens, as they are long overdue of pruning and maintenance. Last year we lost three trees to Elm disease, and two Poplar trees on the west side of Adelaide died as a result of drought conditions. Much of those Poplars however remain in our garden in the form of a newly created fern stumpery.

We are working with the council and Hove Civic Society on a new scheme for the Floral Clock Gardens, as the current annual planting scheme is long outdated for our changing weather patterns, the clock is beyond repair, and new life is needed in the area, so very central to the city's character. Perhaps more on that from Ollie Sykes.

On the Events front, this year we saw the return of a program of events thanks to the effort of our new officer Janie Ranger. Janie opened her house for both a Halloween Coffee morning, and also a Christmas coffee morning. Both made it possible to meet many of our members over cake and coffee, and welcome new residents and members in the area. Janie also organised the very successful community summer picnic and organised the bottle tombola. All events raised funds towards our activities. This coming year, we will hold a summer fete in the gardens, and also the quiz to follow this year's AGM. If there are other events you'd like to see, please don't hesitate to get in touch, and help Janie to carry them out.

This year we welcome Annabel Anderson to the committee as our Community Safeguard officer, a new yet very important role for our community.

Thank you Annabel for working with the council and the Police to resolve many of the Anti Social Behaviour issues, like graffiti and drug dealing in the gardens. ASB has been reduced in recent months, and we welcome Andrei Czolak to say a few words about that later. Andrei and Ollie have worked to start The Local Action Team (LAT) meetings again. Once a quarter, we meet with the other groups, local councillors, PCSO's and the community to discuss the many issues in our community.

Some of Annabel's work will be announced at the AGM, with the launch of our community contacts handout poster, and also an invitation for members to join the new Neighbourhood Watch program for our area. We also thank Sophie our PCSO for keeping our community safe.

Our fundraising activity this year has been a real boost to our activities, as you will see from Amanda's accounts report. In addition to our many generous resident donations, and funds raised from events, we were successful in several grant applications, Namely the Pebble Trust, the Community Lottery Fund, and a grant from First Central Insurance. We also thank Trisha Gaskell-Watkins for her generous donation from the Brunswick in Bloom fund.

We hope to find help from our membership to join the committee as a Fundraiser, so that we can work with the local business community to find more funds, and also continue applying for grants. If this is a skill you have, please let us know.

So a very busy year behind us, and another one coming up with much to achieve!

Most of all, I thank all of our members for their continued support. FOPA will soon be 30 years running and I am always inspired by the rich variety of members we have here. Personally speaking, I couldn't imagine anywhere else better to live and be.

Ted Davis
Chair

Treasurer's Report for 2024

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of our dear friend and former treasurer, George Dean, earlier this year. George's contributions were invaluable, and he will be deeply missed by all his FOPA friends.

This year's financial report, covering the period from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024, has been prepared by our new treasurer, Amanda Bodenham.

The full accounts for 2024 are as follows

FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT 1st JANUARY - 31st DECEMBER 2024

DETAIL		INCOME	INCOME TOTAL	PAYMENTS	PAYMENTS TOTAL
Bought Forward 1st January 2024			£ 1,132.23		
Income	Sum Up Card Donations	£ 410.00			
	Stripe Website Donations	£ 250.00			
	Stripe Website Donation Error	£ 55.00			
	Cash, Cheque & Bank Transfer Donation	£ 260.00			
	Brunswick In Bloom Donations	£ 180.00			
	Pebble Trust Grant	£ 1,000.00			
	Lottery Grant	£ 2,850.00			
	First Central Services Grant	£ 300.00			
	August Garden Event	£ 605.48			
	Halloween Coffee Morning	£ 281.00			
	Christmas Coffee Morning	£ 326.00			
	Website Contra David Ryan	£ 144.00			
			£ 6,661.48		
Charges	Sum Up			£ 9.61	
	Stripe			£ 7.14	
					£ 16.75
Gardening Expense: Water Point/Business Stream				£ 90.23	
	Bags and Miscellaneous			£ 83.46	
	Plants. & Compost			£ 1,353.52	
	Stones			£ 84.00	
	Tabards			£ 96.65	
	Tools Bought and Sharpened			£ 89.94	
	Fencing Flower Bed			£ 52.48	
	Birdfood			£ 95.45	
					£ 1,945.73
Admin Expenses	Room Hire			£ 69.00	
	Printing & Stationery			£ 132.78	
	Notice Board			£ 32.30	
	First Aid			£ 51.28	
	Flags			£ 69.83	
	Website Contra			£ 144.00	
	Garden Event Expenses			£ 51.56	
	Christmas Coffee Morning Expenses			£ 79.50	
	Refunded Stripe Donation			£ 55.00	
	Presentation Tickets			£ 40.00	
					£ 725.25
			£ 7,793.71		£ 2,687.73

Additionally, I have provided a brief comparison of costs between 2024 and 2023:

FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT COMPARISON 2024 vs 2023

DETAIL		INCOME 2024	PAYMENTS 2024	INCOME 2023	PAYMENTS 2023
Income	Donations	£ 1,299		£ 980	
	Grants	£ 4,150			
	Events	£ 1,081			
		£ 6,530		£ 980	
Charges	Sum Up/Stripe		£ 17		£ -
			£ 17		
Gardening Expenses	Water Point/Business Stream		£ 90		£ 91
	Plants. & Compost		£ 1,354		£ 578
	Garden Sundries		£ 317		£ -
	Tools Bought and Sharpened		£ 90		£ 135
	Birdfood		£ 95		£ -
			£ 1,946		£ 804
Admin Expenses	Room Hire		£ 69		£ 32
	Printing & Stationery		£ 133		£ 20
	Other Admin		£ 248		£ -
	Website		£ 144		£ 144
			£ 594		£ 196

Fundraising & Income

This year, the committee has made great strides in fundraising. Through a variety of events, completing numerous grant applications, and receiving generous donations, we were able to raise a total of £6,530 (after event expenses). This marks a significant increase compared to the £980 raised in 2023.

Expenditures

In addition to raising funds, the committee has also been active in spending them wisely. A larger planting plan led to £1,350 being spent on plants and compost, and an additional £317 on other garden sundries. We've also invested in a birdfeed monitor, which has introduced the new expense of bird food. Although the cost of tools has slightly decreased from 2023, overall gardening expenses have risen from £804 to £1,946.

With more events, organizing volunteer cleanups, and updating notice boards, the administrative expenses have increased from £196 to £594 (excluding event expenses).

Stable Costs

Two costs have remained constant this year: our water bills and website expenses.

Financial Health

Thanks to the hard work of the committee and our generous community, we ended 2024 with a healthy bank balance of £5,105. The committee has already started planning for 2025 and has begun allocating these funds for future projects.

Amanda Bodenham (Treasurer for Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide)