

NEWS & VIEWS

Susan Harr
Editor

Christmas now seems a distant memory, but the Trustees' event on 16 December was well attended, and provided much needed seasonal cheer. Our thanks to Mike Tindall, who organised the event and brought delicious stollen bread, mince pies and hot mulled wine; also to the Kelvin School pupils who most ably accompanied and led us in the carol singing.

AGM

On 5 February we held our AGM, and thanks are due to those who braved a very cold night. We welcome Antonia O'Mullane as our new Vice Chair; other officers were re-elected.

Our Chair, Helene O'Mullane, gave an interesting report of the year's activities through late 2016 and 2017. These included the talk by **Dr Marian Shaw** on her book about her great-great grandfather, Zachariah Pearson, after which she kindly accepted our invitation to become an official patron of FPP.

HERITAGE LOTTERY: 2ND GRANT!

As well as the main Heritage Lottery Funding grant of some £3.2 million, FPP has also secured a £3,000 separate grant for learning projects on the park and its history (*see further below*). It is hoped we can organise a Pearson Park "family day" in the spring to present certificates to participants in the Heritage Learning days. These projects, it is hoped, will encourage future generations to take responsibility for caring for "their" park, in contrast to the unfortunate vandalism of last summer.

The Pearson Park Trust have invited us to the unveiling of a BLUE PLAQUE commemorating Zachariah Pearson

It will be installed at 64 Pearson Park (the last address before he died).

Afterwards, Dr Marian Shaw, our Patron, will give a short talk in the Conservatory.

Dr Marian Shaw



DATE: Tuesday, 6 March

TIME: 11 am

VENUE: outside 64 Pearson Park, and then in the Conservatory

**Zachariah Pearson: Man of Hull, Marian Shaw, The Grimsay Press, £15.95*

HLF NEWS...

It seems that the Conservatory will be the first of the Heritage Lottery refurbishments, and that work is due to begin in April. Moreover, as the main work will apparently be done off-site, with pre-made panels, doors etc, this will merely entail assembly in situ and should take only about a month to complete.

Obviously, internal work might then have to be carried out but we hope that the Conservatory, now in quite a forlorn state, will be up and running before too long. Watch that space!

HERITAGE LEARNING PROJECT

Led by Jane Avison, of Heritage Learning, and ably assisted by our Chair, Helene O'Mullane, and complemented by Hull City Council's Urban Forestry Officer, Tim Beckley's, material, children from local schools have been encouraged to recognise and learn about the trees in our park.

One child was astounded to hear that the tree she was investigating was over one hundred years old!

continued on page 2



Enthusiastic participants set off to look for trees and collect tree rubbings and samples

These afternoons in the park have been tremendously successful, with excited school pupils, warmly wrapped against the wind, collecting samples and carrying out tree rubbings, as well as becoming aware of the history of the park in terms of its tree plantings and growth.

Of particular interest, perhaps, was a Spanish Oak Tree, one of some evergreen oaks of the *Quercus x hispanica* variety planted along a main path in the mid 19th century.



Children and some parents gather at the Spanish Oak Tree.

Thanks are due to both Jane and Helene for giving up their time, especially in view of the weather, which

was not always clement; also to the schools for their participation and, of course, to the delightful children themselves.

FUTURE EVENTS

Bat walk—There will be a bat walk in May; definite date to be announced.

Poetry in the Park—we invite you to write a poem/poems centred on Pearson Park, or at least on parks in general. This will lead to a poetry open mic style reading in the summer; *further details to be announced.*

Photography in the Park competition—further information in May newsletter, but start thinking now—get your cameras dusted down and ready! You could capture any subject to do with the Park—flora, fauna, statuary, features of the park, its history... There will be an exhibition of the best photos in the (we hope) restored Conservatory towards the end of the summer. Judging for prizes will be by a professional photographer.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2018 ARE NOW DUE

Please send or take subs to Friends of Pearson Park, Avenues Centre, Park Avenue, HULL HU5—where FPP now has a 'post restante' facility. *Our renewal form now allows payment by standing order.*

NEXT MEETING

We would remind members that ordinary general meetings are now quarterly, in tune with the seasons. Next meeting therefore: **7 May, 7.00 pm at ARTLINK on Princes Avenue.** Subsequently: Mon 6 August, and Mon 5 November. All at 7pm at Artlink.

FINALLY ...

Did you know that FPP now has a Facebook page (*logo on page 1 of this newsletter*)? As well as quarterly newsletters, you can now catch up on all that's happening with the weekly postings.

Type **@pearsonparkfriends** into Google to find a list of links to pages on our Facebook site. Do feel free to post your own thoughts and reactions.

MEETINGS AND CONTACTS

Meetings are held quarterly, on Mondays

Our next meeting is on Monday 7 May 2018
at 7.00 pm at **ARTLINK, Princes Avenue, Hull**

Chair

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