

# LGS Forum at Ryelands Park

*Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, 6.00pm, Old Mans Rest, Ryelands Park , Lancaster*

## Agenda

- 1) Apologies for absence: Abi Mills
- 2) Attending: Friends of Ryelands Park members: Den Bray, Steve Wearden, Jean O’Neill, Shirley Bell, Den Bray, Kamilla Elliot. Plus Pete Turnbull (Friends of Barley Cop Woods); Stef Gray (Lancaster City Council); Rachel Hodgson & Joy Greenwood (Friends of Williamson Park); Gill Davies (Friends of Greaves Park); Ian Procter (Fairfield Association). Jean is also a Friend of Lune Bank Gardens.
- 3) The history of the Friends of Ryelands park was outlined by members, followed by a walk round (despite the rain).
- 4) Updates:
  - Fairfield – Ian reported on the paths project and the impact of Storm Gareth. Honey fungus is now a possible problem in Pony Wood, so that the opening of the newly restored path is delayed. Ian also reported on the Woodland trust “more hedges” project, including subsidised purchase of saplings.
  - Williamson Park – The current focus is on the Friends’ Garden and the new Queen’s Garden. Also, Friends are engaged in cleaning the cascade. The general maintenance of the park is largely carried out by council workers.
  - Greaves Park – Friends are still working on developing the walled garden as a community garden, including promoting more wildlife, and planting a new hedge. There is a constant battle with areas of brambles, although they want to retain some for wildlife.
  - Lune Bank Gardens have had success with planting wild garlic to suppress bramble growth.
  - Barley Cop Woods – the paths are being restored, initially using wood chip only, then using brash underneath, and now using a honeycomb base. The focus is to avoid “braiding” of the paths as walkers seek a mud free route. There may be some issues with ash dieback, but a lot of new saplings are coming up.
- 5) There was a discussion with Stef about council support and roles of volunteers - not maintenance. Stef reported there is plenty of wood chip for use on paths in the parks, and the rangers should be able to help. Stef is the contact person for all groups.
- 6) It was agreed that a map showing all the different Friends groups would be useful. Stef agreed to organise this, hopefully for Heritage Open day. It was also suggested that a walk from park to park would be a great idea for Heritage Open day, including a sponsored walk to raise money for the park groups.
- 7) It was discussed that no reps from Morecambe Parks currently attend these meetings. Kamilla agreed try and contact the previous reps and ask if they want to be removed from the list – or can suggest other reps. Note: This may be in part because recent forums have all been held in Lancaster—we need to consider Morecambe locations.
- 8) Date of next meeting: May 16th from 2-5 pm at Greaves Park, starting at the South Scouts Hut.