



Annual General Meeting 14th May 2006

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Amanda Williams (Secretary), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Janet Weatherburn, Pam Davies, Pixie Phelan (NTC), Brandon Mason (NTC), Janet Chapman (Rising Sun Neighbours)

Apologies:, Elaine Elliott (NTC), Stephen Gibbinson (NTC), Keith Taylor, Jan Casson.

Chair's Executive Summary

- The Friends have achieved a lot of projects this year. The front bed project accounted for our largest spend, but the results look good and have received good feedback.
- Litter picking continued throughout the year, with 148 bags collected and over 230 volunteer hours recorded.
- Friends took part in two community volunteer sessions led by Living Woods CIC in partnership with the North East Community Forest, supporting early stage woodland management at Swallow Field. Around 1,000 tree tubes were replaced to support continued growth and reduce grazing pressure
- The Friends contributed to a number of national and local Citizen Science Projects. Including: Gosforth's Wild Web, City Nature Challenge 2026, Plantlife's Waxcap Watch, Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland's New Year Plant Hunt, NorthEast Bee Hunt and the NorthEast Ladybird Spot.
- Also contributed to 2 publications - North East Ladybird book and Urban Flora; Newcastle & North Tyneside.
- Fund raising has remained steady. Calendars sold well . However the cards have not sold as well.
- A History/Heritage research sub group has been set up following positive reactions to heritage posts on our social media.
- Unfortunately the group lost the Allotment area this year (autumn 2005). However, it , thrive throughout spring and summer 2025, allowing volunteers to share substantial quantities of fruit and veg with visitors and to supply some for use in the café.

Claire (Chair) thanked everyone for all the hard work and commitment .

Treasurer's Report

- The regular source of income has remained steady. The Friends are still well supported.
- The price of the calendar was kept the same as last year , however this year we made more money from the calendars because we sold them all at full price. This was achieved by making them available earlier. Eric (Treasurer) thanked all the photographers who contributed their photographs to our Facebook page which makes our calendar such a success.

Eric thanked Catherine Wilson for conducting the Friends audit and accepted her report and observations . However, he asked for clarification on one of her observations - *“Cash from fundraising events is sometimes used directly to meet small expenses, with only the net amount banked.”*

Following the audit recommendations the committee will revisit previous attempts at developing documented financial procedures

The report followed the Charity Commission Directions for Audit reporting, which states that Examiners must use specific phrases and use “ negative assurance”.

Election of officials

The Friends constitution states that all officials need to stand down at the AGM. All 3 officials stood for re-election and were voted in. The Chair informed the Board of their intention to stand down from the position at the next AGM.

Review of Policies

The Friends constitution states policies need to be reviewed at the AGM. The only policy is the Data Protection Policy and that is still fit for purpose.