

**Minutes of the Fifth AGM of Friends of Landscape Library and Archives at Reading (FOLAR), at University of Greenwich, on Wednesday 23 May 2018, 17.00 – 18.00**

**Welcome** from Chair, thanks to Ed Wall and University of Greenwich for venue and support

**AGM Attendees:** Diana Armstrong Bell (DAB), Guy Baxter (GB)\*, Penny Beckett (PB), Helen Brown, Annabel Downs (AD), Tony Edwards (TE), John Evans, Robert Holden (RH), Marylla Hunt, Edward Hutchison (EH), Colin Moore, Helen Neve, Mari Taylor, Tom Turner, Carole Wright, *Peabody community gardener*.

\*MERL/University of Reading staff

**Apologies:** Phillada Ballard, Ed Bennis, Ruth Benson, Dominic Cole, Merrick Denton Thompson, Lionel Fanshawe; Karen Fitzsimon, Valerie Joynt, Sheila Harvey; Virginia Hinze, Kristof Fatsar, Mark Loxton; Hal Moggridge, David Parker; Barbara Simms, Helen Tranter, Richard Tranter; Tim Waterman; John Whalley; Adrian Wikeley, Jan Woudstra.

**1. Minutes of fourth AGM** (1.3. 2017) approved at meeting; proposed HN, seconded DAB.

**2. No Matters Arising** from 2017 AGM.

### **3. Chair's Report**

- FOLAR **Mission Statement** produced (ref annex below) and approved by committee
- 2018 fifth year of **FOLAR seminar/symposia** (14 April 2018), first as whole day event; v successful (waiting list, happy delegates at end of event) and relevant topic *British Agricultural Landscapes: past present and post BREXIT*. Grateful thanks and complements to RH
- Three FOLAR committee meetings since last AGM, 1 MERL 2 London; one LI-MERL-FOLAR liaison meeting June 2017, 1 meeting PB and CEO
- FOLAR members involved in
  - Gardens Trust Conference *Mid to Late 20c designed landscapes Overlooked, undervalued and at risk?* 5 June 2017
  - attended MERL annual lecture
  - invited to contribute to LI meeting on Humphry Repton centenary proposals 2019 – awaiting more info from LI on this...
- **FOLAR bursary** 2018-19 - to be decided at next FOLAR committee
- Social media connections with multiple organisations and individuals organised by Karen Fitzsimon for which many thanks
- **FOLAR Website** - to be decided at next FOLAR committee

- Tom Turner thanked for recording FOLAR symposium, link to be added to FOLAR website
- Successful use of Eventbrite (symposium and this AGM/talk) thanks to HN for setting up
- **Acquisition Pilot Study** HM small scale experiment to cover post 1970s acquisition, invited 4 practices to participate, 3 positive responses, and all will engage
- **FOLAR submitted successful bid** for £1k LI fund, to be match funded by FOLAR, to continue oral history project (beginning with Ian Laurie and Michael Lancaster's interviews, 2011 Lindsey Abbot interviews and details of 2018 project to be decided at next FOLAR committee

#### 4. Treasurer's Report HN (ref annex below)

- Modest but healthy balance
- Need more members
- Small donation (£50.48) gratefully received from LDT closure

#### 5. Election of members on FOLAR Committee

- Chair: Annabel Downs proposed PB seconded TE
- Treasurer: Helen Neve proposed AD seconded HB
- Secretary: Colin Moore proposed HN seconded PB
- Membership Secretary: Helen Brown agreed to continue, proposed CM seconded AD
- Other members of Committee: Robert Holden, Hal Moggridge, Phillida Ballard, Penny Beckett, Diana Armstrong-Bell, Kristof Fatsar and Jan Woudstra all proposed AD seconded HN

#### 6. Future Plans: to be discussed at the next FOLAR committee meeting; work plan to be developed from Mission Statement.

#### 7. AOB:

##### 7.1 Guy Baxter (MERL)

- Expressed gratitude to FOLAR for their efforts during the first 5 years of the archive being at MERL.
- Considered that the archive and library were settling in and now progressing with exploration of how to expand collection and how the archive is used,
- Congratulated FOLAR, particularly RH, on the success of the study days as one of the most successful engagement events for the archive, attracting excellent speakers and significant numbers of attendees.
- MERL are in negotiation with JSTOR and LI to make back issues of Landscape Design and Landscape journals available to those with subscription (and hopefully to all LI members). Will be widely accessible but not quite easily freely accessible by all.

- Expressed particular thanks to PB for her efforts as first Chair of FOLAR and her key role in the transfer of the LI library and archive to MERL.

#### 7.2 Edward Hutchison

- A small group of LI Fellows had prepared a report to go to LI Board (following invitation to do so by CEO) requesting funding (£12K) for a pilot study for a project to get archive information from practices on-line. The proposal was consistent with the LI Business Plan and was presented at a Fellows meeting in January 2018.
- Disappointed that the proposal was not submitted to the LI Board as intended, but to the Finance and Risk Committee which advised the Board to reject it.
- Expressed concern that the LI's support for the library and archive is inadequate.

7.3 Guy Baxter (MERL): Advised that MERL had not submitted a bid to LI for specific project funding. The current annual £15K funding from LI enables the archive to tick over. MERL will be applying to LI for small sums eg for improving storage. However, will be considering how to fund larger projects like digitising the archive, moving the website forward.

7.4 LI Conference Valuing Landscape (6-7 September 2018) and IFLA Europe General Assembly (8-9 September) at Univ Greenwich

7.5 PB was thanked by FOLAR for her sterling efforts as the first Chair of FOLAR and was presented with a bottle of bubbly

### **8. FOLAR AGM 2019:** TBC, October 2019

# FOLAR MISSION STATEMENT

## WHO WE ARE

*FOLAR is a friends group of Landscape Architects and other interested parties tasked with supporting and advising MERL, on behalf of the LI, with regard to maintaining and developing the archive and library.*

(ref Deed of Grant LI / University of Reading)

## VISION

To champion our landscape heritage and support the continuing evolution of the landscape profession by means of the archive and library, thus enabling the past to inform the future.

## MISSION

To assist MERL in conserving and developing an archive and library which reflects the diverse nature of landscape architecture and the highest standards of intellectual and creative thinking.

## OBJECTIVES

- Champion and encourage the use of the archive and library, both in the LI and beyond.
- Identify and advise MERL on potential acquisitions.
- Advise and support MERL on funding opportunities and grant applications.
- Encourage the cross pollination of ideas between LI / MERL / FOLAR, in the UK and abroad.
- Promote the landscape profession to the widest contemporary audience by means of the archive.
- Assist MERL in developing a digital and media strategy to engage new and existing audiences.
- Foster forward looking ways of using the archive to enrich contemporary approaches to landscape design, science and management.
- Develop the 'Art of Landscape Architecture', highlight / showcase / discuss landscape influenced by the Arts.
- Draw out the key movements and trends in landscape architectural thinking over time, with a view to informing the development of radical new ideas.
- Promote landscape both rural and urban as a positive benefit for all who inhabit this planet.
- Promote the assembly of knowledge and materials to enable and inform the celebration, in 2029, of the founding of the Institute of Landscape Architects, now known as the Landscape Institute.

# FOLAR

## 2018 AGM

### Treasurer's Report

It is a pleasure to report that FOLAR finances are modest but in a healthy condition.

A cursory glance at the figures for 2017/18 appear to show little change in comparison with income and expenditure in the previous year. The group is growing in stature, ambition and experience, however, and considerable planning and activity, which has been undertaken during the last 12 months may show a significant change to the group's financial situation, over the next 12 months. Already the income for the current financial year is nearly 4 times that received during 2017/18 while costs have only risen 25% in the same period.

FOLAR's main event of the year has been the 2018 spring symposium on 'Agriculture, Past, Present and Post Brexit' which was well attended. As with the previous year's seminar, this event actually took place early in the current (2018/19) financial year, and the statements of income and expenditure, shown below, include partial income and expenditure from both the 2017 seminar and the 2018 symposium. We do have final figures for the 2018 symposium, however, and the outcome shows a modest profit of £485. This is in comparison with the break-even out turn, achieved for the 2017 spring seminar.

Membership income for the 2017/18 financial year has decreased to £340 (down by a third on the previous year). This was in part due to problems experienced simultaneously by the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer, but has also stimulated debate within the committee, on whether FOLAR should be a membership organisation or look elsewhere for income.

On that note, it is pleasing to report a successful outcome for our first grant application. The Landscape Institute has awarded FOLAR a grant of £2,200 towards the first phase of an oral history project. Although the application was made early in 2018, the money was not received until the current financial year, and is not, therefore, reflected in the figures below. The grant was awarded on the basis of £1,000 match funding from FOLAR, and we are budgeting for this contribution to be spent in the current financial year. We are also pleased to announce a small donation from the Landscape Design Trust, which is very welcome and for which we offer many thanks.

Finally, I am delighted to report that a member of FOLAR has made a generous (£500) donation to MERL to part fund a research bursary, which will make use of the landscape archive. An option for FOLAR is to match fund the donation to create a more significant contribution to research. We would welcome your views on this.

The 2017/18 figures are summarised in the following tables.

<b>Bank balance as of 01/4/17</b>	<b>£2,452.00</b>
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**Income received:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Income</b>	
Membership subscriptions (for 2017) x 8 @£20	160.00	
Membership subscriptions (for 2018) x 4 @£20	80.00	
Event income – tickets for seminar 2017	165.00	
Event income – tickets for seminar 2018	270.00	
Book sales	161.00	
Donation from LDT	50.48	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£886.48</b>

**Expenditure:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	
2017 Event expenses (speaker's travel x 2)	299.80	
2017 Event expenses (catering)	157.14	
Publicity (website hosting)	64.66	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£521.60</b>

<b>Bank balance as of 31/4/18</b>	<b>£ 2,816.88</b>
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