

**FRIENDS OF MONTGOMERY STREET PARK
AGM 1 JUNE 2011**

TREASURER REPORT

SUMMARY

The Friends group achieved a surplus for the third year running, thanks to the effort of many members and volunteers, particularly our August event coordinator Sarah Pratico, and the generous donations of many local businesses, organisations and individuals. We made a profit of £329 this year. Although this is bit lower than last year (£464) mainly as a result of additional costs, this is still very positive. At 31 March 2011 we had £2,511 in the bank which can be used to invest in our park and organised more community events.

The results can be analysed as follows:

INCOME

We raised £2,438 in income this year, which is more double than last year. The main source of income were the two main events organised during the year : the picnic in May 2010 and our summer fair in August 2010 which together raised £1,594.

We also received a grant of £800 from Leith Decides (i.e.: the Council) to plant our community Orchard which we did in January in conjunction with Leith Walk Primary. Although we supported a successful Council application for a grant from WREN to replace the fence with wide steps, the money has been received by the Council, who will manage the work. As a group, we have committed £500 toward the cost of the work. This is not reflected in the accounts .

Finally we received £44 in membership fees. The amount has been reducing over the years and we have found it difficult to administer a yearly membership scheme. This is why there is a proposal under a separate item of this AGM to move to a one off/life membership. Hope many of you will join! We have now set up a Pay pal account on our website which should make it easier to join and donate.

EXPENSES

Our total expenses amounted to £2,111 which is near enough three times the amount we spent last year. This includes £860 for the cost of planting the orchard, which we did not have last year.

The main increase is in the costs of running the events which amounted to £1,251. We had two main events compared to one last year which mainly explains the increase in costs.

The first couple of years, we kept the costs to the bare minimum as we had very little funds. We relied heavily on the generosity of our local businesses. This is difficult to sustain in the long run and as we are financially better off, we invested in more pergolas, bag to store them and flasks for tea and coffee.

We also offered more free activities during the events which cost money but improve the events for example, the poetry tent.

Additional costs were also incurred this year in relation to First Aid and the supplies of tables. The rent shown in the accounts is for let of the park and room hire for AGM and meetings.

On the plus side we save money this year on the following:

- Public liability insurance by joining Greener Leith - £180 save
- Software for maintaining the website- £170
- Crocus bulbs for our Plant it event r- £150 which this year were donated by the Council (and then mainly eaten by squirrels).

The above costs do not include the substantial time and effort spent by members, volunteers and local business on organising event and supplying prizes, baking, printing, design, equipment, storage, refreshments etc... Events would be much more costly to run if it was not for this.

ACCOUNT VERIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION

The accounts will be shortly independently verified by Helen Linton, FCCA. Once this has been completed, they will be posted on the website. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me via the website.

CONCLUSION

On behalf of the committee, I would like to say a big thank you to all of the people and businesses who have supported us over the last few years, either by giving their time, contributing money, prizes and giving us in kind donations. Hope you can continue to do so in the future.

Finally, thanks to the Council for the Orchard grant, the bulbs and their support. Special thanks go to Ritchie Somerville, our previous Community Park officer who supported our group in the various events and the WREN grant application.

Christine Rigouleau
Treasurer
01 June 2011