

THE FOLLY FELLOWSHIP, MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP		
Sunday 4 th November 2018 @ 10.30 am, held in Lydiard Park		
Present: 30 members (including two Trustees)		
Apologies: were received from two members. Four further members had paid to attend but did not do so.		
Welcome	Mary Bright (MB) welcomed all members and thanked Andrew Plumridge (AP) for an amazing Symposium day on 3 rd . MB explained the purpose of this meeting was to feedback ideas following on from a meeting held at AP's house which was attended by Trustees (excluding Tony Hooper), Gloria Powell (Membership Secretary), Peter Godfrey (trips), Rita & Pieter Boogaart (Europe), Alan Terrill (webmaster), Jonathan Holt (magazine editor) and to gain the views of the membership.	
Accounts Update	Iain Gray (IG) spoke about the accounts to 31 May 2018 which will be uploaded to the website and show a net deficit of £1,671. He explained the travel costs for attending Jonquil Phelan's funeral, publication costs (two journals in one year), donations and his reluctance to increase subscriptions prior to 1 June 2018. Various members asked questions about storage, accountancy, legal and professional fees, public liability and secretarial expenditure which were answered. Alistair Fairall (AF) queried the accruals being the same for 2017 and 2018 – to be clarified. Income could be generated by legacies; Gilly Drummond (GD) suggested the FF investigate becoming a CIO and consider partnerships with say Garden Trusts, Georgian and Victorian societies. Gift Aid continues to help income.	IG/AT IG
Membership Update	Gloria Powell (GP) referred the meeting to her report on the website which, despite new members, shows a decrease. She stated that only two or three members had cited the increase in subscriptions for their decision to leave. A discussion took place about "the life" of life membership and a sliding scale was suggested. Janet Hallett asked if the FF could go back to a single membership – to be considered. Graham Hebden pointed out the anomaly of it being cheaper for people who are only interested in attending events to go as a guest rather than joining the FF. Sidney Blackmore suggested a copy of the magazine be placed in each Landmark Trust property; IG stated that application forms were in situ. GD suggested using social media.	MB
Ram Alley Update	IG updated the meeting on the sale of Ram Alley which will put a further £10k into the funds, and the conditions attached to it.	
Brownes Folly Update	AP spoke about Brownes Folly and the difficulties in keeping it from being vandalised. It is hoped to obtain grants to make it safe as there are 11 species of bats roosting near it. GD suggested contacting Natural England. SB asked what attempts had been made to engage the local community (Avon Wildlife Trust uninterested) – AP in regular contact with parish council.	AP
Winterhill Way Meeting	AP explained that over the last 30 years attitudes to and awareness of follies had changed and he wishes to see an inventory to ensure their protection and get across to the government how important they are. The FF need to find a repository for books, models etc. (i.e. like Lindley Library). TV/radio article possibility for 30 th birthday?	
New Structure for FF	MB talked about how the FF used to have Trustees and an executive committee, and the possibility of going back to regional co-ordinators. Suggested an audit of members' skills and knowledge. MB read out the results	MB

	of Alan Terrill's (AT) questions to those people looking at Folly Fancier. AF suggested one person be in charge of membership and publicity. Norma Hebden suggested job descriptions for officers.	
Journal	AP pointed out that the journal is very different to the magazine and asked the meeting how they feel about it – a discussion followed about its makeup including the possibility of making it available online within a member restricted area.	
Magazine	Jonathan Holt (JH) spoke to the meeting about the possibility of a mailshot to see if members would prefer more/less magazines vs journal. Gwyn Headley pointed out that 63% of the FF expenditure is on publications and it should stay that way; suggestion to put old magazines in doctor surgeries etc. IG asked the members if there would be a negative reaction to advertising in the magazine – no.	
Website	Receives around 50 hits per day. Could it be password protected for a member's only area? AF suggested a blog. Suggested a "join here" button be put on each page of the website.	AT AT
Planned visits 2019	Peter Godfrey is planning an Edinburgh trip. AP talked about plans for Highgrove (Bannermans), Woolbeeding (Bannermans) and Goodwood visits. JH has organised a trip to Ireland on 8/9 June with the help of Primrose Wilson, Follies Trust. Members invited to suggest places. Rita Boogaart requested the date for the 2019 Garden Party asap.	EW
AGM	No AGM for a long time due to diminishing numbers attending in the past but looking to attach it to a visit. Duncan Noel-Paton will find out if Woolbeeding would be able to help? NH would like the AGM to be held at a place not normally open to the public.	
	SB thanked everyone for all their hard work. The meeting closed at 1.03 pm.	