



Statement from the Trustees

A Special General Meeting of members was held on 30 January 2019 to determine the future of the Friends, the reasons for which are detailed in the minutes and accompanying documents of this meeting (see also those of 16 May 2018 and 19 September 2018) which may be accessed via our website www.friendsofgrappenhallgarden.org.uk. The members attending agreed that the activities of the Friends at the garden should cease and the charity be wound up. Residual funds were to be given to Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council (G&TPC) for use only at the garden, and the Trustees were tasked with ascertaining the best method of achieving this.

At a Trustees meeting on 18 February 2019, the various options for distributing the funds were discussed, after which it was agreed that the Trustees would remain in place and accept individual requests from G&TPC for funds for specific projects/purchases for the garden, after which the Charity would be wound up. With the intervention of the COVID pandemic, this has taken longer than anticipated. Since January 2020, the Friends has given funds to G&TPC amounting to almost £21,000, with a balance of £2653 remaining (of which £750 has been promised for the purchase of roses for a new rose bed).

With the recent death of our Chair, the remaining Trustees have decided that now is the time for the remaining funds to be given to G&TPC and for the Charity to be closed.

We would like to thank all our past members, volunteers and the public for their support since the Friends was launched in March 2007, and especially to those volunteers who were elected as the Executive Committee to manage the organisation, and subsequently as Trustees when we became a charity. The role of the Friends at the garden should not be forgotten. We established the first café, run solely by volunteers, ran lots of family events, publicised the garden around Cheshire, and raised funds of around £100,000 between 2007 and 2018. Of this, around £37,000 was given towards the glasshouses restoration and new kitchen facilities.