

Friends of Marple Memorial Park

Minutes of Meeting

Navigation, Tuesday 29 April 2025 - 6.00pm.



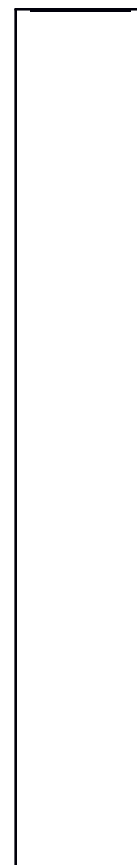
Present: Malcolm Allan, Joyce Reed, Mick & Larry Thompson, Patrick O’Herlihy, Marguerite Pitcher, Greg Pike and Eden Carruthers

- 1 **Apologies:** Diane Jackson
- 2 **Minutes of last AGM for 2024:** these were not distributed to all as they were very lengthy, but the Chair gave a detailed summary which all agreed was an accurate reflection of the minutes of the previous AGM.
- 3 **Chair’s report:** this was read out by Malcolm and covered the recent history with Mark and Gill standing down, Malcolm taking over as Chair and Diane assisting up to the end of this year. All agreed the Diane had done a great job as treasurer and the chair passed on thanks and best wishes from all the members.
- 4 **Treasurer’s report:** a detailed report and audited account and summary was produced and distributed to all attending.
- 5 **Election of Committee:**
All were elected again as committee members with Mick standing in as temporary treasurer.
- 6 **A. O. B.**
There was a discussion regarding the new Woodland Path at the entrance adjacent to the cinema.

Greg Pike spoke to say he represented the Civic Society and that they were determined to assist the Friends in the refurbishment of the town centre benches.

No other matters were discussed.

Meeting closed at 6.40 pm.



FoMMP

Annual General Meeting April 2025 for year 2024

Chairs Report

I took over chair of the Friends group last April, with some very big shoes to fill! The first thing to say is that Mark Whittaker and Gill did a very professional job of retiring from the Friends Group and handing over to myself and others. The Group was left in a superb state. Things, as we know had been very well organised on the administrative side. I was also really grateful for the support of Di introducing me to the rather more arcane aspects of the finances. As you'll see from her own report Di has also decided to step down which she did at the end of December. I fully understand this decision and I'm hugely grateful for the work she's done for the park. We are very pleased she's decided to remain involved.

The Group made some important decisions stimulated by Mark and Gill's retirement. The main challenge is to ensure continuity of the group and to spread the rather large workload that the Whittaker's took on, amongst the rest of us. We made an early decision not to embark on any new major projects and we will continue to review this as we progress. The obvious reasons for this included not having the experience and not being very sure whether we had the resources. In the end, a much bigger factor has been the construction works which have now started on the new Community Hub. This has restricted our work and our flexibility although it has also served to include within the overall project, some of the work we might have considered doing. The best example is the tree planting and wildflower meadow which are underway.

I have been hugely indebted to the volunteers who have shared with me the leadership of the regular task days. Mick, Larry, Patrick, Phil and Helen have all stepped up and done a fantastic job. Patrick has also supported me with secretarial work but as indicated elsewhere, is flexible to do treasurer work as an alternative which is why we are still looking to recruit someone who can do one or the other of these jobs. I am also indebted to some of our volunteers who have taken a lead on horticultural matters; something on which I have no expertise. Joyce and Larry in particular with some useful additional advice from Anne and Jackie, have ensured that this side of our work is still much admired by members of the public. I would also highlight Mick's support and advice in all other administrative matters not least having a second set of keys which has been extremely important on occasions.

We continue to have the support of Stockport MBC where, after a reorganisation earlier in the year, they have given our main contact, Jonathan Headlam the scope to focus more on green space and therefore give us some more of his valuable attention and support. It's worth me adding that my previous work as a councillor has given me a valuable understanding and insight into how the Council operates and this has meant we've been able to nurture our relationship with them and indeed the contractors working on the Hub, who are putting significant additional investment into the Park. Things never go smoothly with a major project like this, and the Council team (TLC) have also been disrupted considerably. To date,

however, we have managed to get through all the issues and frustrations and I'm optimistic that those that remain will be resolved, certainly by the end of the project.

Meanwhile the regular work of the park has continued and we are grateful for the financial support we have received from a number of sources. It is hugely rewarding to see the amount of money members of the public put in our collecting box whenever we do a task day. These amounts are highlighted in the accounts. What means just as much to our lovely volunteers is the many expressions of thanks and praise that they get, whilst working in the park, from people passing by. Indeed we have a fantastic group of volunteers who give their time freely and always seem ready to do the one or two extra tasks that crop up outside the task day. The community owes every one of these volunteers a huge debt of gratitude.

The decision not to undertake projects has meant that we were able to relinquish the 50/50 club which has been a brilliant fundraiser for us but is not essential for our ongoing finances. We are delighted that Kevin Murray has taken over the running of this project on behalf of the Carnival Committee who distribute the funds raised to a wide range of Marple community initiatives. We are a group that will continue to benefit from that. We also continue to receive donations from a wide range of sources and it is fair to highlight the very large donation of £1,000 given by TMT the contractors who refurbished the inside of Hollins house. We were notified of this donation at the end of 2024 but have only been able to bank it into our accounts in 2025 (so it doesn't show in the accounts you see at the AGM). You will see that funds are still very healthy and we have, during the year, paid off any outstanding bills for projects that have been undertaken, including the moving of the football goal posts, with the option to move them back again, and the outdoor exercise equipment.

For the future, we've seen plans for the reinstatement of the junior playpark and are delighted to see it will include some new equipment and some different activities which will be right up to date. The new Hub is not due to be finished in 2025 but we hope to see the development and growth of the new trees that have been planted whilst we will continue to extend our planting of such things as snowdrops and daffodils to give wider coverage within the park. We also hope to enjoy the support of Rotary with some woodland planting. We have other smaller projects which include the refurbishment of the boules court and a new leaf mould bay.

One of the key tasks I undertook was to ensure the continuity of the group after Mark's departure and, one year on, it is safe to say we have achieved that so far, even attracting some extra volunteers. Whilst the group accepts it cannot achieve all that Mark achieved over his years of leadership, we are committed to ensuring the sustainability and continuity of this group which is so important to the Marple community and makes such a big contribution to the local area.

Malcolm Allan

April 2025

Friends of Marple Memorial Park

Treasurer's Report for FY 2024

This report covers the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Banking

At our last AGM in April a number of changes were proposed in order to simplify the group's banking arrangements and transition to a single account with Santander.

The process itself has been complicated but has been successfully completed.

Barclays Account (closed in September 2024)

Our main Park Fund account at Barclays has been closed and all funds migrated to the Santander account that was previously used for the 50-50 Club only. This option was chosen due to the increasing difficulty in managing the Barclays account since the closure of the local branch.

Page 1 of the Summary Report outlines the income, expenditure, transfers and closing balances for this account over the FY. This is underpinned by a detailed spreadsheet.

Santander Account (now our only account)

The final draw of the 50-50 Club took place on 5th April this year. Many subscribers chose to donate their residual subscriptions and a few requested a refund, these were all actioned.

Total income from the 50-50 Club in 2024 was £1,170. A summary of all transactions is included at the top of Page 2 of the Summary Report and is underpinned by a detailed spreadsheet.

Once final prizes had been paid out, Park Fund income and donations transferred to the Barclays account and refunds made, the Santander account was left with a balance of £10 on 15 April.

On 4 May the Santander account started to be used for day-to-day banking activities.

Towards the end of May forms were submitted to change Officers on the Santander account from Mark Whittaker, Mick Thompson and Micaela Wood to Malcolm Allan, Diane Jackson and Mick Thompson. This process was completed by early July with new Officers operational.

The Barclays account remained operational pending Officer changes and clearance of outstanding payments and receipts but was dormant by early July. The transition to Santander was fully completed with the transfer of remaining funds of £18,402.20 on 5th September 2024.

The lower part of Page 2 of the Summary Report outlines the income, expenditure, transfers and closing balances for this account over the FY. This is underpinned by a detailed spreadsheet.

Local Giving

The group decided to continue with Local Giving at the last AGM and the £180 annual fee was paid in April. A total of £604.40 in donations and Gift Aid have been received in the year, so, while high, the fee remains worthwhile. A breakdown of Local Giving income is included on Page 3 of the Summary Report and this is also underpinned by two detailed spreadsheet downloads.

Petty Cash

A Petty Cash account has been operated by the Chairman for the first time this year.

An income and expenditure report is included on Page 4 of the Summary Report and this is also underpinned by a detailed spreadsheet analysis too.

Year End Accounts

Page 5 of the Summary Report shows the individual Barclays and Santander income and expenditure reports merged into a combined summary for the whole FY year.

Page 6 of the Summary Report shows the same report with a comparison to 2023.

All aspects of these reports are underpinned by detailed spreadsheets.

Headline Figures:

Total income in 2024: £3,506.46

Total Expenditure in 2024: £10,322.68

Final balances: £10,540.74 in Santander + £87.78 Petty Cash = £10,628.52 retained funds.

Status of accounts

The 2024 Year End accounts are now completed and this report is ready for the next AGM.

The group may wish to arrange for an independent review in advance of the AGM.

Handover to new Treasurer

I am stepping down from the role of Treasurer for personal reasons effective from the publication of this report and wish to complete handover of responsibilities as soon as possible please.

The Chairman and Secretary are currently authorised to operate the bank account independently and I will endeavour to support the group during the transfer period as much as I can.

If necessary I will assist in the administration of the bank account for a period, if others are unable to, but will only make payments at the clear written direction of the Chairman.

Key points to note and consider during the handover include:

- Handover of the Local Giving account will need the help of Mark Whittaker, who has continued to support me on the administration of this account.
- Physical accounting records will need to be handed over.
- Digital accounting records will need to be transferred from the existing Dropbox account.
- There is a small amount of partially bagged coins to handover.
- Collection boxes in shops will need to be taken over.
- I will need to be removed from the banking authorisation and new Treasurer added.

There are also a couple of items I am uncertain of:

- Prizes totalling £300 were won in the Stockport Council Greenspace Volunteer Awards. These funds have not been received and I am not aware of how they are managed.
- Funds of £1,000 awarded by the council's contractor working on Hollins House have not been received and I am not aware of how this is to be managed.

Friends of Marple Memorial Park

Income and Expenditure Account for the period

1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Barclays account

Income

50-50 Club Income (incl donated prizes / donations)	£1,170.00
Local Giving donations	£286.49
Treasure Hunt Income (Nurture Nursery)	£250.00
Marple Bands donations	£105.00
Marple Carnival Donation	£100.00
Collection Boxes	£53.78
Donations under £100	£50.00
Easy Fundraising	£16.85
Donations collected in Park	£7.22

Total income for period **£2,039.34**

Expenditure

Covid Memorial	£400.00
Flagpole repairs	£200.00
Local Giving Fee	£180.00
Public Liability Insurance	£170.10
Tools and maintenance materials	£34.00

Total expenditure for period **£984.10**

Summary

Bank Account balance at start of period	£17,346.96
Add income	£2,039.34
	<u>£19,386.30</u>
Less expenditure	£984.10
Barclays balance prior to closure	£18,402.20
Transferred to Santander account	£18,402.20
Final balance in Barclays (September 2024)	£0.00

Santander Account**1 January 2024 to 50-50 Club close-out on 15 April 2024****Income**

Transfers In (cheques and cash)	£211.00
Income from Subscriptions	£1,355.00
Total income	£1,566.00

Outgoings

Transfers Out (to Barclays)	£211.00
Paid to Park Fund (50% Income)	£943.00
Paid to Park Fund (Donated prizes)	£67.00
Paid to Park Fund (Donated Subs)	£160.00
Prizes paid to winners (£942 Prizes less £67 donated prizes)	£875.00
Subs Refunded	£70.00

Total Outgoings	£2,326.00
------------------------	------------------

Bank account balance at start of period	£770.00
Add Income	£1,566.00
	£2,336.00

Less Expenditure	£2,326.00
-------------------------	------------------

Bank account balance at 15 April 2024 (50-50 Club Closure)	£10.00
---	---------------

Total 50-50 Club income paid to Park Fund (50% income + Donated Prizes + Donated Subs)	£1,170.00
---	------------------

Transfers in and out due to difficulty paying cheques and cash direct into Barclays account

Santander post 4 May 2024**Income**

Local Giving	£317.91
Donations collected in Park	£285.00
B'Dazzled Jewellery	£167.90
Christmas Craft Fair	£162.10
Donations £100 and under	£160.00
Collection Boxes	£102.00
Carver Theatre Donation	£100.00
Make It Marple	£78.00
Band Room Donations	£75.00
Easy Fundraising	£19.21

Total income for period	£1,467.12
--------------------------------	------------------

Expenditure

Outdoor Gym Equipment	£8,619.96
Wayne Chaisty (sculpture dismantle)	£250.00
Tools & Materials	£148.09
Plants & Seeds	£132.33
Treasure Hunt costs	£124.20
Presentation plaque	£34.00
Poppy Wreath	£30.00

Total expenditure for period	£9,338.58
-------------------------------------	------------------

Summary

Bank account balance at 4/5/2024	£10.00
----------------------------------	--------

Add income	£1,467.12
	£1,477.12

Less expenditure	£9,338.58
------------------	-----------

Add transfers from Barclays	£18,402.20
-----------------------------	------------

Santander account balance at end of period	£10,540.74
---	-------------------

Local Giving Summary

Local Giving Summary for 2024 FY

Total donations + Gift Aid	£636.50
Transaction Fees retained by LG	£32.10
Net donations + Gift Aid received	£604.40

Breakdown

Donations received	£481.53
Gift Aid Received	£122.87
Total donations + Gift Aid	£604.40

Paid into Barclays	£286.49
Paid into Santander	£317.91
Total donations + Gift Aid	£604.40

Local Giving Annual Fee	£180.00
Net “profit” of using Local Giving	£424.40

Petty Cash Summary

Petty Cash FY ending 31 December 2024

Operated by the Chairman

Income

Float from Treasurer	£15.00
Task Day Collections	£362.38
Carnival Collection	£3.89
Treasure Hunt Donations	£138.76
honesty seeds sale	£22.00

Total income for period	£542.03
--------------------------------	----------------

Expenditure

Refreshments	£99.52
Plants & Seeds	£11.49
Tools & Materials	£2.95
Other	£55.29

Total expenditure for period	£169.25
-------------------------------------	----------------

Summary

Opening balance at start of period	£0.00
Add income	£542.03

542.03

Less expenditure	£169.25
-------------------------	----------------

Less transfers to Santander	£285.00
------------------------------------	----------------

Petty Cash Balance YE	£87.78
------------------------------	---------------

Friends of Marple Memorial Park

Income and Expenditure Account for the period

1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Bank accounts

	2024		
Income	Barclays	Santander	Totals
50-50 Club Income (incl donated prizes / donations)	£1,170.00	-	£1,170.00
Local Giving donations	£286.49	£317.91	£604.40
Donations collected in Park	£7.22	£285.00	£292.22
Treasure Hunt Income (Nurture Nursery)	£250.00		£250.00
Donations under £100	£50.00	£160.00	£210.00
Marple Bands donations	£105.00	£75.00	£180.00
B'Dazzled Jewellery	-	£167.90	£167.90
Christmas Craft Fair	-	£162.10	£162.10
Collection Boxes	£53.78	£102.00	£155.78
Marple Carnival Donation	£100.00	-	£100.00
Carver Theatre Donation	-	£100.00	£100.00
Make It Marple	-	£78.00	£78.00
Easy Fundraising	£16.85	£19.21	£36.06

Income for period	£2,039.34	£1,467.12	£3,506.46
--------------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

Expenditure	Barclays	Santander	Totals
Outdoor Gym Equipment	-	£8,619.96	£8,619.96
Covid Memorial	£400.00	-	£400.00
Wayne Chaisty (sculpture dismantle)	-	£250.00	£250.00
Flagpole repairs	£200.00	-	£200.00
Tools and maintenance materials	£34.00	£148.09	£182.09
Local Giving Fee	£180.00	-	£180.00
Public Liability Insurance	£170.10	-	£170.10
Plants & Seeds	-	£132.33	£132.33
Treasure Hunt costs	-	£124.20	£124.20
Presentation plaque	-	£34.00	£34.00
Poppy Wreath	-	£30.00	£30.00

Total expenditure for period	£984.10	£9,338.58	£10,322.68
-------------------------------------	----------------	------------------	-------------------

Summary	Barclays	Santander	Totals
Bank Account balance at start of period*	£17,346.96	£10.00	£17,356.96
Transfers (September 2024)	-£18,402.20	£18,402.20	£0.00

Add income	£2,039.34	£1,467.12	£3,506.46
	£984.10	£19,879.32	£20,863.42

Less expenditure	£984.10	£9,338.58	£10,322.68
------------------	---------	-----------	------------

	Barclays	Santander	Total
Final balances at 2024 FY end	£0.00	£10,540.74	£10,540.74

* Barclays period start = 1/1/2024, Santander period start 5/4/2024 (after 50-50 Club Closure).

Final balances

Barclays (account closed)	£0.00
Santander	£10,540.74
Petty Cash	£87.78
Total retained funds	£10,628.52

Friends of Marple Memorial Park
Income and Expenditure Account for the period
1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Bank accounts

	2024			2023
Income	Barclays	Santander	Totals	
50-50 Club Income (incl donated prizes / donations)	£1,170.00	-	£1,170.00	£3,138.00
Local Giving donations	£286.49	£317.91	£604.40	£955.79
Donations collected in Park	£7.22	£285.00	£292.22	£250.46
Treasure Hunt Income (Nurture Nursery)	£250.00	-	£250.00	£3,432.58
Donations under £100	£50.00	£160.00	£210.00	£130.00
Marple Bands donations	£105.00	£75.00	£180.00	£180.00
B'Dazzled Jewellery	-	£167.90	£167.90	£180.50
Christmas Craft Fair	-	£162.10	£162.10	£954.00
Collection Boxes	£53.78	£102.00	£155.78	£232.50
Marple Carnival Donation	£100.00	-	£100.00	£100.00
Carver Theatre Donation	-	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
Make It Marple	-	£78.00	£78.00	-
Easy Fundraising	£16.85	£19.21	£36.06	£20.06
Macnair Trust Grant (Exercise Equipment)	-	-	-	£1,500.00
Marple Area Committee Flexibility Fund (Exercise Equipment)	-	-	-	£1,000.00
Donation from Marple Hall School	-	-	-	£1,000.00
Stockport Hydro Award (Allotment Beds)	-	-	-	£500.00
Donation from Stationery Supplies Marple	-	-	-	£450.00
Card sales.	-	-	-	£420.65
Marple Mutual Aid (Covid Memorial)	-	-	-	£400.00
Marple Beer Run Donation	-	-	-	£250.00
MacFall Donations	-	-	-	£248.80
Donation from Chris Hague	-	-	-	£100.00
Marple Carnival income	-	-	-	£91.31
Income for period	£2,039.34	£1,467.12	£3,506.46	£15,634.65

Expenditure	Barclays	Santander	Totals	
Outdoor Gym Equipment	-	£8,619.96	£8,619.96	£19,808.88
Covid Memorial	£400.00	-	£400.00	-
Wayne Chaisty (sculpture dismantle)	-	£250.00	£250.00	-
Flagpole repairs	£200.00	-	£200.00	-
Tools and maintenance materials	£34.00	£148.09	£182.09	£436.99
Local Giving Fee	£180.00	-	£180.00	£180.00
Public Liability Insurance	£170.10	-	£170.10	£163.16
Plants & Seeds	-	£132.33	£132.33	£124.80
Treasure Hunt costs	-	£124.20	£124.20	£142.99
Presentation plaque	-	£34.00	£34.00	-
Poppy Wreath	-	£30.00	£30.00	£100.00
Allotment Beds	-	-	-	£556.45
Stocks Refurbishment	-	-	-	£247.11
MacFall plaque	-	-	-	£148.80
Skatepark Sign	-	-	-	£147.60
Printed Hi-Vis vests	-	-	-	£108.00
Total expenditure for period	£984.10	£9,338.58	£10,322.68	£22,164.78

Summary	Barclays	Santander	Totals	
Bank Account balance at start of period*	£17,346.96	£10.00	£17,356.96	£23,877.09
Transfers (September 2024)	-£18,402.20	£18,402.20	£0.00	
Add income	£2,039.34	£1,467.12	£3,506.46	£15,634.65
	£984.10	£19,879.32	£20,863.42	£39,511.74
Less expenditure	£984.10	£9,338.58	£10,322.68	£22,164.78
Final balances at 2024 FY end	£0.00	£10,540.74	£10,540.74	£17,346.96

* Barclays period start = 1/1/2024, Santander period start 5/4/2024 (after 50-50 Club Closure).

Final balances	2024	2023
Barclays (account closed)	£0.00	£17,346.96
Santander	£10,540.74	£770.00
Petty Cash	£87.78	£0.00
Total retained funds	£10,628.52	£18,116.96