

Weston Village Gardening Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 11 April 2019

Apologies for Absence: Joan Shearman, Carol Rust, Pearl Shaw, Peter Merchant, Gay Ridley

Attendance: 42 members attended the meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 12 April 2018. These were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising from the Minutes. There were none.

Chair's Report

We started 2018 with John Tucker telling us what we need to do to get ready for the growing season. In February Sue Applegate spoke about Peonies and Irises. Roy Cheek came in March and showed us the best cultivars for attracting butterflies. Sadly, in March the Potato Day had to be cancelled due to bad weather. The Priory Hotel's Jane Moore entertained us in April with a lecture on Crops for Small Spaces, and in May Ben Candlin spoke about UK Sub Tropical Gardens.

In June, a party of 32 enjoyed the club holiday in Yorkshire. Our first of coach trip of the year was to the Blenheim Flower Show and the second coach trip saw us heading up the M4 to RHS Wisley. On 1 September we held another very successful Flower Show with 525 entries submitted by 114 exhibitors.

Rosy Hardy of Hardy Plants came in September and gave an enthralling perennials demonstration. Val Bourne came in October and gave a stimulating address on growing organic vegetables. Helen Kearney's talk in November was on Hedgerow Medicines. We held our Christmas Social when Peter Redfern tested us with another of his quizzes, we also enjoyed a 'bring and share supper' and some alcoholic refreshment, the evening ended with Len Turner leading us in singing a number of carols

During the year we replanted the roundabout at the bottom of Lansdown Lane and the provided and stocked a number of new planters in High Street. This was all paid for from the surplus profits from the Flower Show. Special thanks go to Christine and Steve Brook and their team of helpers for their tremendous efforts in doing this for the village.

We started 2019 with Alice Palfrey, the National Trust's youngest head gardener, talking about her role and the restoration and development of the Prior Park Landscape Garden. In February Bob Brown of Cotswold Garden Flowers gave us talk which can best be described as his own idiosyncratic view of gardening!

The 2019 Potato Day was very successful and supported by dozens of member and others. Thanks go to Helen Morgan and her enthusiastic team of helpers for putting on such a good event.

In March we held our 10th Anniversary meeting. Our first ever speaker, Nick Wray, gave an excellent lecture on The Gardens of Sicily. Tonight Committee members Christine and Steve Brook were due to tell us about the challenge of 'Opening their garden for the National Garden Scheme'. May sees the photographer, Robert Harvey, discussing Mediterranean Wildflowers in Nature and the Garden.

Our Summer Programme starts on 11 May when we have a coach trip to the RHS Malvern Spring Show. We celebrate our 10th Anniversary in the All Saints Centre on Saturday 15 June. We hope to be able to organize a visit to a garden in Kelston on 31 May. Our second coach trip is on Saturday 10 August when we go to Kew Gardens. On Saturday 7 September it's the 2019 Weston Village Flower Show.

Our Talks Programme resumes on 12 September when Sue Dodd and Sue Smith come to us from Stroud to give a lecture on Gardening for Butterflies and Moths. The garden at the American Museum has been renovated and Head Gardener Andrew Cannell, will be our speaker in October. In November Tony Russell will travel from his home in Snowdonia to talk about The Amazon and we end 2019 with our Christmas Social on 12 December.

2020 starts with Kate Collyns talking about Growing Salad Leaves. In February Adrian Hitchings will be doing a talk on Pests and Diseases and we have Laura de Beden coming from London in March to give a lecture on Garden Design as a Form of Art.

Bernard concluded his report by thanking the following: members of the Gardening Club for their continued support; John Bevan and Peter Merchant for their work on the Flower Show schedule; Christine Brook for drafting the Flower Show schedule; Helen Morgan, Pearl Shaw Carol Rust and

Carol Jones for running the Welcome desk; Membership Secretary Helen Morgan; the Refreshment team of Steve and Christine Brook; Jocelyn Price and Julia Froggatt; Peter Redfern and Helen Morgan for operating the sound system at meetings; Jeremy Tinkler for operating the computer and the projector; Steve and Christine Brook for stocking and caring for the Village Planters; Gay Ridley, the Minutes Secretary; Helen Morgan for her work on Potato Day; Jill Lake for helping with the bookings for our coach trips and events; the more than 50 people who help run the Flower Show; the Committee who make a big difference to Bernard and the Club; and finally Jane Rymer the Club Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

Jane presented the accounts with the following explanations.

Gardening Club Account - Expenditure for the year was £22,076. This included the cost of engaging speakers, spending on trips and events, the Yorkshire Holiday and club administration costs.

Income for the year totalled over £28,623. This included income for Yorkshire 2018, Trips and Events, and membership subscriptions. The balance at the year-end was £6,547.

Flower Show Account - Spending for the year was £1,814. Income was £2,814. A large part of this money came from advertising in the schedule. John Beaven and Peter Merchant were thanked for their hard work in selling the advertising space. The balance on the Account at the year-end was £1,440.

Open Gardens Account - There was no Open Garden Event in 2018. The year end with the balance remaining at £500.

Community Fund - During 2018 we paid out £2,136 in Grants. The larger items being: £860 for new planters located in the High Street, £795 for gravel and plants for the roundabout at the bottom of Lansdown Lane, £75 to Weston Moravian Church for contribution toward water; and £300 to All Saints Centre for use of the centre for Show weekend. Donations to the Community fund amounted to just over £1,000. The year finished with a balance of £2,286

The Committee is planning to spend some of this money on replacement planters for the High Street and a Community Notice Board.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by John Beaven and seconded by Catherine Bright

Bernard thanked Jane for all the work she does as Treasurer.

Election of Committee Members

The following were re-elected unopposed: John Beaven, Steve Brook, Peter Merchant, Peter Redfern, Jane Rymer, Pearl Shaw. The other members of the Committee are Bernard Rymer, Helen Morgan, Gay Ridley, Christine Brook and Carol Rust. There is one vacancy.

Any Other Business

Beryl Leigh thanked Bernard for all the work he does for the Club

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.