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Minutes

HRAA St Ives(Cambridgeshire)Gardening Club AGM 19 October 2022

01. Present: [36] Robin Bletsoe; Tony Moffat; Margaret Moffat; Sally Keyworth; Colin Saunderson; Pat Jordan; Pauline Poulter; Diana Baldwin; Sue Carter; David Carter; Neville Barnes; Linda Barnes; Mavis Dillon; Joan Walford; Jenny Davis; Kevan Dunnicliff; Sarah Irish; Viv Park; Phil Davies; Kerry Maguire; Valerie Haylock; Brian Lodde; Peter Chubb; Sarah Chubb; Janice Laing; Lyn Giles; Lynn Burdett; Steve Puttick; Catherine Ball; Marjorie Carrier; Gina Dunnicliff; Pat Akers; Jenny Cant; Judy Phillips; Irene McCormick; Mary Owen;

Apologies: [8] Helen Hunter; Gillian Roberts; Norma Head; John Dyke; Steve Wolff; Jo Dyke; Carole Parker; Linda Croucher.

Resignations: [9] Stella Sage; Tony Bullough; Derek & Hazel Newton; Kath Davies; Graeme & Heather Patrick; Carol Bailey; Lesley Howkins

New Members: [4] Marjorie Carrier; Jenny Cant; Mary Owen with Steve Puttick officially joining after the AGM

02a. Review of the year 2021/2022:

Attendance at last year's AGM of 36 was indeed repeated again this year as 4 folk had omitted 'signing in' – they will remain nameless, but the attendance number is corrected accordingly. After briefly giving mention of members who had resigned during 2022 a resume of our revised evening programme was outlined. Tony Moffat came our rescue in January, with his talk on Cannabis. In February we had our annual fun quiz. Whilst March saw David Coup giving us a talk on breeding better plants, crop varieties and seed production. John Roper and other volunteers from the Danesbury Fernery outlined the history and restoration of this fascinating garden in April. At our May meeting, Jane Sills from Ramsey Abbey Walled Garden set the scene for our enjoyable visit on the 18th June. September saw Greg from Cuckoo Bridge honouring his pledge to give us a talk on the development of the Garden Centre and a little on the origins of the Pumpkin craze at Halloween.

RHS and Neighbouring Clubs: We continued our Affiliation with the RHS and retained the public liability insurance arranged through the RHS via AON. Links continued to be forged with neighbouring clubs and certainly our successful trips to the National Memorial Arboretum and RHS Gardens Wisley would not have taken place without those links being in place. Another positive from these links was the supporting, by 29 members of Ramsey and District Garden Society's evening with Nick Bailey. There were only 4 Newsletters in 2022 but it is hoped that 2023 will see a few more.

We continued, as we agreed at the 2019 AGM, to support one of the entry categories for the St Ives Flower, Produce and Craft Show by way of £25.00 for the Floristry Section - Section 3, which was won this year by Kimberly O'Brian.

Several club members continue to support St Ives in Bloom (SliB) and the group's autumnal Daffodil planting programme was outlined. It was also noted that SliB had Achieved a Gold Award from this year's Anglia in Bloom competition as had Holt Island Nature reserve.

Finally, a big thank you was given to all those members who had helped with either refreshments or Raffles or both during the past year.

The report was accepted.

03. Club Finances and supporting statements.

The Income and Expenditure statement for 2021/2022 were submitted for scrutiny.

As, at 30 September 2022 the Club Accounts stood at **£1,133.48 CR** with the Club accounts making a minor loss in the year of £82.98, but still leaving a good working balance in advance of next year's Subscriptions in December being received.

The Accounts as presented and the financial statement made were unanimously approved.

03a. Raffle Rota and Refreshments Rota

A board was circulated and will be again at our November meeting to finalise the Rotas for 2023

04. Outline Evening Programme for 2023

It was agreed there should be an extra evening meeting in 2023 in the month of June. An outline of projected costs for the year was presented and it was accepted that there could be a projected loss on the year of about £250.00. This amount can be readily catered for without affecting subscriptions.

Budget projections were shown as:-

The cost in respect to speaker fees, these will be in the order of £ 580.00

The Quiz Night no longer bought in

Room hire 10 evenings @ say no more than £46.00 = £460.00

RHS Affiliation and Public Liability Insurance say £120.00

St Ives Show sponsorship £25.00

Estimated Expenditure for the Year: £ 1185.00 (Excluding any income/ expenditure generating trips)

Estimated Income:

Membership Income say £735.00

Raffles say £ 110.00

Sale of Plants say £100.00

Estimated Income for the Year: £ 945.00

Projected loss on the year: **£ 240.00**

The end of year balance should still be viable at **£890.00 for 2023/2024**

The following Evening Programme for the year 2023 was unanimously approved.

Wednesday 18th January: Our '**Annual Fun Quiz Night**' returns. Teams of 4 to 6 people engaging in a little bit of light-hearted fun and banter.

Wednesday 15th February: Dr Gwenda Kidd A new speaker for us whose talk '**Take Twelve Trees**' will explore the use of trees and uses these 12 trees to example the huge diversity of uses trees give us.

Wednesday 15th March: The return of **Andrew Sankey 'The Gardens of William Morris'**. An insight into the influence the Arts & Crafts Movement has had on modern garden design principles

Wednesday 19th April: Jacqueline Aviolet Another new speaker for us, Jacqueline will give a light-hearted talk '**Herbs – Culinary uses, Cultivation and Folklore**'

Wednesday 17th May: Another new face for us **Dr Tim Wreghitt 'Making a Stand for Chelsea'** (Describing 10 years of preparing educational displays at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show on Medicinal Plants for The Royal College of Pathologists)

Wednesday 21st June: Gardener's Question Time – An opportunity to discuss gardening issues, points of interest and generally seek gardening advice.

Summer Break

Wednesday 20th September: Roy Nunn, an amateur gardener from Cambridge will give an insight into '**The Gardens of Madeira**'. His presentation will also include a video.

Wednesday 18th October: Annual General Meeting followed by some photos of a few gardens Jo and I have visited over the years.

Wednesday 15th November: The return of the much-enjoyed **Geoff Hodge** whom I am sure will entertain us with his talk '**Gardening in Dry and Drought Conditions**'

Wednesday 13th December: Our **Christmas Craft Evening and Soiree**

Annual Garden Visit in late May, June or early July

An outline suggestion was made to visit two very differing locations in Norfolk – Houghton Hall Walled Garden & Estate and a residential garden in Dereham. A photo video depicting the two locations was shown and an outline of costs and possible timetable were given. A show of hands suggested, subject to the date being acceptable, that 20 or so members present would be interested in supporting such a trip. To that end it was agreed that Robin should seek to investigate further with a view to finalising this or other venues by the end of January beginning of February. It was also indicated that the day might have to be Sunday rather than a Saturday and that the cost per person would be in the order of £32.50 to £35.00.

Members of the Club were asked to come up with other proposals which could be considered within the travel time of 2 hours or less, would hold attention for at least 5 hours and be at a reasonable cost.

05. Membership Subscriptions for 2023.

As outlined in the programming statement there should be no reason why subscriptions need to be increased. The Club has healthy balance from 2021/2022 and it was therefore recommended that the annual subscription fee remain at £15.00 per member for the year – **Unanimously agreed**

06. Election of Management Team for 2023

Chairperson: Remains vacant

Membership Secretary, Treasurer and HRAA Liaison: Robin Bletsoe

Events/Meeting Co-ordinator: Remains Vacant

Communications / Publicity Co-ordinator: Pauline Poulter

Web Site Maintenance: Phil Davies

Bank Account Signatories: Robin Bletsoe, Brian Lodde and Alan Curtis

[Any 2 from the 3 above named]

All the above duly 'elected'

07. Any Other Business: **Phil Davies** proposed a vote of thanks to Robin for all his endeavours over the past 12 months which was duly acknowledged and much appreciated.

08. Date of Next AGM: Wednesday 18th October 2023

Membership renewal and new member registration will take place during the evening of our social gathering and Christmas craft evening on Wednesday 14th December 2022

Robin Bletsoe: Coordinator HRAA St Ives [Cambridgeshire] Gardening Club

20th October 2022