

Weston Village Gardening Club

Minutes of the the Annual General Meeting held on 11 May 2017

There were 53 members in attendance

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2016 were taken as read

Chair's Report

The Chair, Bernard Rymer presented his report for the year by saying.

Review of 2016

We started the year with Helen Schofield telling us about Plants that Heal and in February we had an excellent address from Alan Power on Stourhead. In March we had our third Potato Day and later in the month Sally Gregson spoke about Shady Ladies and Damp Damsels. Felicity Down gave a talk about Climbing and Wall Shrubs in April and in May Chris Evans spoke about the Chelsea Experience. We had a very well supported coach trip to Forde Abbey and Burrow Farm where our visit was curtailed by rain of biblical proportions. In August, we went to Wyndcliffe Court and the stunning Veddw.

In September, Jim Buttress VMH gave an amusing talk about his lifetime in horticulture and in October Timothy Walker of the Oxford Botanic Garden gave a whirlwind talk on Plants, Borders and Gardens. Our final speaker of the year was Simon Toomer of the National Trust who told us about Plant Conservation in the National Trust. We ended 2016 with our Christmas Social.

For the first time in more than 30 years it rained on show day and as a consequence both attendances and takings were well down on previous years. With the support of the All Saints Centre Manager we were, with a bit of a squeeze, able to accommodate all of our activities in the centre. Despite the weather it was still a very good and successful day. Ali Vowles from BBC Bristol was the Guest of Honour and undertook her duties in a very enthusiastic way chatting to many of the visitors and giving very warm congratulations to the prize winners.

Surplus profits from the Flower Show, and the Potato Day are always donated to voluntary groups and village activities. We installed a bench in the field above Purlewent and made donations to Julian House, and 3TL.

Working parties helped maintain the gardens in the All Saints Centre, and Christine and Steve Brook, with a group of helpers, stocked and maintained the fountain planters and the one by the Parish Hall.

A team of club members led by Liz Winney created and planted Mitizi's Garden at Weston All Saints Primary School. Very many thanks go to Liz and the rest of the team Andrea Parks, Margaret Rixson, Steve and Christine Brook, Peter Heywood, Frances Tinkler, Julia Froggatt, Brenda Cumberlandidge, Jocelyn Price.

At the 31 December we had 198 members.

Programme for 2017-18

In January Derry Watkins of Special Plants gave a wide ranging talk about Summer Flowers from Seeds. In February Becca Flintham entertained us with talk about Water Gardening. The wonderful Mary Payne gave her third talk to the club in March. On this occasion she was talking about the restoration of the gardens at Compton Acres. Teresa Payne organized Our Potato Day, Coffee Morning and Spring Bulb Competition which was well supported. In April Terry Baker from the Botanic Nursery at Atworth presented an evening of Practical Propagation and in May Howard Wills was due to give a talk on Madeira.

We have a full programme of events in the summer. In June we have our holiday and this year a party of 40 will be heading to RHS Chatsworth Flower Show and the Gardens of Derbyshire. Our first of coach trip is on Tuesday 11 July when we will be going to Stourhead for a tour of the estate with the Head Gardener and Gardener's World presenter Alan Power and then on to Wookey near Wells for a visit to Sally Gregson's nursery. Our second coach trip is on Thursday 17 August when we will visit the National Trust's Knightshayes near Tiverton. We end the day with a return visit to Burrow Farm Gardens following our washed out visit last year. The 2017 Flower Show is on Saturday 2 September.

Our Talks Programme restarts in September when Ross Barbour will tell us about Bulbs for Unusual. In

October, Nick Hamilton, son of the late Geoff Hamilton of BBC Gardener's World, will talk about the gardens at Barnsdale. In November, David Cropp will illuminate us with a talk on Allotment Gardening, and our Christmas Social is on 14 December. We start 2018 with John Tucker paying a welcome return visit and we have Sue Applegate talking about Peonies and Irises in February.

Financial Report

The Treasurer, Jane Rymer, presented the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2016. Jane reminded the members that the club has one bank account with 4 cost centres – the Gardening Club, the Weston Village Flower Show, Community Fund and the Open Gardens Account.

Expenditure on the Gardening Club was £7,930 with £1,345 being spent on speaker costs and £3,300 on trips and events. Income for the year totalled £8,647. Members' subscriptions totalled £2,883 and trip and events income was nearly £3,400. At the year end the balance on the Gardening Club account was £6,140, of which £1,900 was in respect of deposits for the upcoming Derbyshire holiday which are due to be paid to the coach company in the new year..

Flower Show Account

Flower Show income amounted £2,617 with nearly half of this total coming from the sale of advertising space in the show schedule. Outgoings amounted to £1,857, much of this spending was attributed to the cost producing the schedule and publicity materials. Surplus profits of £499 were transferred to the Community Fund. At the year end the balance on the account was £1,156.

Open Gardens

There were no transactions during the year, the balance on the account remained at £500.

Community Fund

The fund received surplus of £499 from the Flower Show and a further £50 being the first prize in the Christmas Tree competition at Winter West Fest. During the year grants amounting to £1,341.39 were made. At the year end the balance on the fund was £2,884.71

Jane was thanked for all the work she does as the Club's Treasurer

Election of Committee Members

The following were elected unopposed

John Beaven, Steve Brook, Peter Merchant, Peter Redfern, Jane Rymer, Pearl Shaw

Bernard was thanked for his work leading the club.

The meeting was closed at 21:20