

Weston Village Gardening Club Annual General Meeting 12 March 2015

1. In attendance

There were a total of 50 members in attendance.

2. Apologies for absence

Kate Souter, Caroline Clarke, Jenny Lewis, Sandy Hewitt, Olivia Whitworth, Carol Fathers, Sue Carroll, Len and Linda Turner, Gay Ridley.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014

The minutes of the Annual general Meeting held on 13 March 2014 were confirmed as a true record

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None

5. Chair's Report

Review of 2014 - Bernard started his report by reminding the members about club activities over the last year. John Tucker came in January and talked about 'What It's Like Behind the Scenes of a Garden Centre', Jane Moore spoke about Vegetables at the Priory Hotel, and Don Everitt about Herbs. Nick Wray, our first ever speaker, told us about the Eden Project and Gary Pierce talked on Greenhouse Gardening. Victoria Logue came in September and gave a very informative talk on Propagation. Roger Umpelby gave us an interesting insight into Pests and Diseases and Jon Wheatley stepped into the breach following the cancellation of our programmed speaker and gave an entertaining talk on Britain in Bloom. The year ended with a Barn Dance and Supper.

There was a club holiday in East Anglia and two coach trips. The first coach trip was to the Harold Hillier Garden and then to Mottisfont Abbey. For the second, we headed to Hestercombe and onto Cannington Walled Garden and finished the day with a tea at Blackmoor Farm. In July, we visited the Propagation Unit at Westonbirt, but unfortunately the day was curtailed because of heavy rains and floods. That day Westonbirt had more rain than anywhere in the country! We did go back in October to conclude our visit.

Grenville Jones was the Guest of Honour at our Flower Show in September. Over 300 people came through the door, 106 people entered the show but entries were a bit down at 441. Entries from club members were disappointing and we are hoping to encourage more members to take part this year. The club does not take any money from the show; surplus profits are invested in village activities. We maintain the planters at the Village Fountain and the one at the end of Trafalgar Road. We have also put money aside to provide a bench on the green above Purlewent and have started to accumulate funds to pay for a community garden.

2015 - 16 Programme - 2015 started with Chris Smith of Pennard Plants talking about Heritage Vegetables. The Wessex Gardens of the National Trust was Judith Plante Cleall's subject in February. Earlier this evening Chris Yates spoke about Growing for Showing, and in April we have a talk entitled Plant of the Season from Paul Green. In May, Richard Cripps will tell us about Elements of Garden Design. In September Fergus Garrett, Head Gardener at Great Dixter, - an excellent speaker and not to be missed will be our guest. In October we learn about Britain in Bloom - The Tetbury Experience and how Weston might develop its In Bloom activities in future. Howard Mills comes in November to give us a Plant Lover's Tour of New Zealand and we end 2015 with our Christmas Social. January 2016 will see Helen Schofield making a return visit to talk about Plants that Heal. In February, Alan Power, Head Gardner at Stourhead and regular contributor on Radio 4's PM programme will be our guest and Sally Gregson will be telling us about Shady Ladies and Damp Damsels in March.

Our first event of the year was last Saturday when we joined forces with Pennard Plants for our second Potato Day. In May a party will be going to the Dutch bulb fields and Amsterdam. We will have three coach trips in 2015. On 7 July we go to the Laskett, Sir Roy Strong's garden and spend the afternoon in Hereford. In August we go to RHS Rosemoor and on Saturday 26 September the RHS Autumn Flower Show in Malvern will be our destination. We are planning to hold another Weston Village Open Garden Event on 20/21 June, and don't forget to support our Flower Show on Saturday 5 September when our Guest of Honour will be Rev Patrick Whitworth.

Beryl Leigh had decided to retire from the Committee. Bernard reminded the members that Beryl had been the Membership Secretary since the club started in 2009. During that time Beryl has done much to promote membership of club and today, much to do with her passion and enthusiasm, the club had gone from humble beginnings to a membership of some 160. Bernard went on to thank Beryl for the support and advice she had given him. In recognition of her contribution to the club Beryl was present with a gift card.

Bernard went on to thank the following for their significant contribution to the work of the club - Refreshments - Catherine Bright, Teresa Payne, Brenda Cumberlidge and Jocelyn Price, Sound Desk Helen Morgan and Pete Redfern, Projectionist - Jeremy Tinkler, Welcome Desk - Beryl Leigh and Christine Weston, Club Events & Trips - Jill Lake, Flower Show Schedule Adverts - Peter Merchant and John Beaven, Open Gardens - Celia Downie, Village Planters - Steve

Brook and Christine Weston. Bernard concluded by saying thank you to Jane for her work as club Treasurer and the support she gives him and her overall contribution to the club's activities

6. Treasurer's report

Jane presented the club's financial statements and reported that there had been an increase in the surplus and that the club's financial health was very good. The accounts were accepted. Proposer: Eileen Owsley. Seconder: Peter Redfern.

7. Election of Committee & Officers

The following were elected unopposed - John Beaven, Steve Brook, Peter Merchant, Peter Redfern, Jane Rymer, Pearl Shaw. Proposer: Joan Shearman. Seconder: Catherine Bright

The full Committee is Bernard Rymer, John Beaven, Catherine Bright, Steve Brook, Brenda Cumberlidge, Celia Downie, Peter Merchant, Teresa Payne, Peter Redfern, Gay Ridley, Jane Rymer, Pearl Shaw, Christine Weston.

The appointments of Jane Rymer as Treasurer and Christine Weston – Membership Secretary were approved. Proposer: Steve Brook. Seconder: Graham Leigh

8. Any Other Business

Beryl led a vote of thanks to Bernard and Jane for all their wonderful work for the club.