

# ***Weston Village Gardening Club***

## ***Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 14 April 2016***

### **1. In attendance**

There were 44 members in attendance.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

John and Barbara Gilmour, Wiola Hola, Paul Bright, Elizabeth Rees, Gay and Tony Ridley

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015**

The minutes were confirmed as a true record with Eileen Owsley proposing and Catherine Bright seconding acceptance.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Amendments to the Constitution**

The Chair stated that the Committee considers it appropriate to reduce the maximum number of members on the committee from 15 to 12 because there was no longer a need for such a large committee. On being put to the membership, Steve Brook proposed the amendment. It was seconded by Sue Wescombe and agreed unanimously.

### **6. Chair's Report**

Bernard presented his report for the year - We started 2015 with Chris Smith of Pennard Plants talking about Heritage Vegetables, and in February we had an address on the Wessex Gardens of the National Trust. Our second Potato Day was in March, this was followed by Chris Yates talking about Growing for Showing, and April saw Paul Green at All Saints talking about the Plant of the Season. In May we had the club holiday to Amsterdam and the Dutch Bulbfields and later in the month Richard Cripps spoke about Elements of Garden Design.

We had our Open Garden Event in June and in July our first coach trip of the year when we took a party of 85 to The Laskett, Sir Roy Strong's Garden and Hereford. In August we went to RHS Rosemoor and we held a very successful Flower Show in September with a record 530 entries and 111 exhibitors. September saw us do our third coach trip of the year when we went to the Malvern Autumn Show.

In September, Fergus Garrett gave an excellent talk about Great Dixter and in October Sue Hirst gave an inspiring lecture about Tetbury in Bloom. Our speaker in November was Howard Wills who took us on a Plant Lover's Tour of New Zealand. We ended 2015 with our Christmas Social - Pete Redfern organised a gardening quiz, Barbara Gilmour showed us how to make a decoration for the Christmas table, we had a 'bring and share' supper and ended the evening singing carols. In January, Helen Schofield talked about Plants that Heal and Alan Power gave us a delightful talk about Stourhead in February. Regrettably we had to cancel the 2016 club holiday to Cornwall due to a lack of support.

Membership of the club is very healthy and at the end of the club year we had 193 members. Our financial position is strong and this allows your committee to plan for the long term future of the club and engage good quality speakers for your entertainment.

Sadly, two of our members passed away during the year. We lost Caroline Clarke in October. Caroline was an excellent gardener and was the winner of the Colin Payne Trophy (Collection of Vegetables) on two occasions. Rita Rooke, one of our Patrons, and wife of Michael the former Chair of the Flower Show, sadly passed away in March. Our thoughts and condolences are with their families and friends.

Profits from the Flower Show, Open Gardens and Potato Day are donated to voluntary groups and used to support village activities. In 2015, donations were made to the All Saints Centre, Dorothy House Hospice Care, Bath Branch of Multiple Sclerosis and the Moravian Church. We provided money for the planters by the Village Fountain and the Parish Hall to be stocked and maintained so very efficiently by Christine and Steve Brook. We purchased the bench which has just been erected on the Green above Purlewent and money was put aside to create a community garden in the village.

Looking forward, we have two coach trips planned for this summer. In June we will be going to Forde Abbey and Burrow Farm Garden, and in August we will visit Chepstow, Wyndcliffe Court and later in the day Veddw. Our coach trips have proved to be very popular and both are fully booked and we have a waiting list for seats. Pearl Shaw is organising an evening visit to Iford Manor in July.

Saturday 3 September is the date for this year's Weston Village Flower Show when Ali Vowles of BBC Points West and Radio Bristol will be our guest of honour

Our talks programme starts again in September when Jim Buttress, one of the experts on the BBC's Allotment Challenge, will be our guest. In October, Timothy Walker, Oxford Botanic Garden, will tell us about Plants, Borders, and Garden, in November Simon Toomer will illuminate us on Plant Conservation in the National Trust, and we have our Christmas Social on 8 December. Derry Watkins of Special Plants will be our first guest of 2017. Derry will teach us about Summer Flowers from Seeds and in February Sue Applegate will talk about Peonies and Irises.

Running the club is a big team effort and I need to say thank you to a number of people. Helen Morgan, who is our Membership Secretary and helps operate the sound system. Pete Redfern for operating the sound system, organising the quiz at our Christmas Social and standing in for me while we were away on holiday, Catherine Bright and Christine Brook for organising the catering at our Christmas Social, Pearl Shaw for manning the Welcome Desk and organising the Iford evening, Teresa Payne, Brenda Cumberlidge, Jocelyn Price for organising the refreshments at our club meetings, Jeremy Tinkler for operating the computer and ensuring you get the best possible view of the speaker's presentation, Celia Downie for organising the Open Garden Event, Teresa Payne for organising the Potato Day, Steve and Christine Brook for maintaining the planters in the village. Gay Ridley, who drafts the Minutes of our Committee meetings, and Peter Merchant and John Beaven for selling the advertising space in the flower show schedule. I wish to say a special thank you to Jane for being our Treasurer and ensuring our finances are well managed, for taking our coach bookings and doing many other tasks that help run the club efficiently. Finally, I wish to thank you the members for your enthusiastic support of the club. Pearl Shaw proposed and Pete Redfern seconded the acceptance of the report which was agreed unanimously

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Jane presented the Treasurer's report and stated that the club accounts are split into four elements – the Gardening Club, the Flower Show, the Open Gardens and the Community Fund. Expenditure on gardening club activities was £19,004. Spending on speakers had been £1,200 and the trips and events had cost nearly £15,800. Income for the year was £24,428. £10,560 of that total related to the club holiday to Holland in May. The surplus from the Potato Day was transferred to the Community Fund leaving a balance on the account at the year-end of £5,423.

Spending on the Flower Show was £1,554, the most significant items being the printing of the schedule and the posters which together came to nearly £800. Income from the sale of advertising space and the activities on the day was £2,869. Jane thanked Peter Merchant and John Beaven for their hard work in selling the advertising space. A total of £2,657 was transferred to the Community Fund leaving a balance at 31 December of £895.

The Open Garden event was held in June. Income from the ticket sales and refreshments amounted to £2,060 and the event cost £470 to put on. The surplus profits of £1,400 were transferred to the Community Fund leaving a balance on the account of £500.

The Open Garden event, the Flower Show and the Potato Day are community events and all surplus profits are used to support ventures in the village. It was noted that the gardening club does not retain any of this money. To clearly account for this money, the Committee created the Community Fund and the surplus profits from the Open Garden event, Flower Show and Potato Day totaling £4,217 were transferred into the fund. The Committee paid grants out of the fund totaling £540 to the All Saints Centre, Dorothy House Hospice Care, Bath Branch of Multiple Sclerosis and the Moravian Church. At the year end there was a balance of £3,677 and this money is earmarked for the bench in the field above Purlewent, the village planters and to create a community garden. The acceptance of the report was proposed by Steve Brook, seconded by John Beaven and agreed unanimously. Catherine proposed a vote of thanks to Bernard.

## **8. Election of Committee**

At the close of nominations the following had put their names forward for election to the Committee.

Bernard Rymer, Catherine Bright, Teresa Payne, Gay Ridley, Christine Brook and Helen Morgan  
There being no further nominations the above were elected unopposed and in accordance with the constitution will serve for the 2 years to 2018.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:10pm.