

# Melksham Gardeners' Society

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Barbara Cropp, Chair  
Peter Renshaw, Treasurer  
Richard Lamprell, Secretary  
Bryan Colby, Admin Secretary

Society Members as marked in the Attendance Register

**Apologies:** Mark Davies, Honorary Committee Member  
Pat Lee, Committee Member  
Teresa Strange, Committee Member  
Matt Horwood, Committee Member

### 1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

- Barbara opened the meeting at 7.30pm. Member apologies were assumed and accepted.

### 2. Confirmation that the Minutes of the last AGM, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015, are a true record

- The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

### 3. Chair's Annual Report (Barbara Cropp)

- We have been very consistent with numbers since the new Society emerged 8 years ago. Our membership is still around the 70 mark with approximately 40 members coming to each meeting.
- We have had a good range of speakers this year: beginning in April with a fantastic talk by David Grey on hanging baskets; John Tucker in September from Prior Park showing us what to do to keep our winter containers bright and cheerful, through to Ray Broughton with his very useful hints and tips to keep us going throughout the gardening year.
- Our June meeting was held at the lovely, if slightly inaccessible, Walled Garden in Mells.
- As a Society, also in June, we invited the celebratory gardener Christine Walkden who gave us a very entertaining talk on her gardening life. This was held in the Melksham Assembly Hall, and I am sure all those who attended found her really fascinating to listen to, and found the Question and Answer session that she kindly did for us afterwards very useful.
- Our Coach Trip this year was to the National Botanic Gardens in Wales. It was a very interesting garden and I hope all who came with us really enjoyed the day.
- Our annual show was held in September and was well attended as normal with the top prize and special cup being donated by the Countrywide Store and the voucher and cup for the Overall Points in Show was presented to Graham Pearce.
- Our Seed order through Thompson and Morgan was well supported and thanks go to Bryan again this year for organizing this on our behalf and doing all the arduous background work to ensure that we all got the seeds that we requested. It is a hard job and he spends a long time on his computer making sure all our orders are fulfilled.

# Melksham Gardeners' Society

- My last job is to thank the two retiring members of the Committee – although they have both agreed to stay on and help where they can. Richard is standing down as the Secretary and Peter as Treasurer. They were thanked for the work that they have done over the past couple of years and also previously to thank Richard for his sterling work as Treasurer before Peter took on the mantle.
- Also thanks go to the remaining members of the committee and all the members who help in their various ways to make this a thriving and growing Society, and hopefully we are looking forward to another interesting year to come.

## 4. Treasurer's Annual Report (Peter Renshaw)

- The bank balance for the past year to end of March 2016 is £3600. We made a small loss over this period of £25; the first for a few years.
- Meeting attendance has been very good with 40+ members attending out of a membership of 70, which brought in needed revenue.
- The show is our main expense and made a loss of just over £500.
- We made the bold step of organising a guest speaker in Christine Walkden for June. This event was very well supported but we made a loss of about £210.
- Our June trip to the Welsh Botanic Gardens also made a loss of over £260.
- Grateful thanks go to those who volunteer to make and serve tea and coffee at the meeting intervals.
- Copies of the audited accounts were available for members' inspection.

## 5. Election of Officers and Committee

- The current Officers and Committee stood down.
- Proposed Committee:

- Barbara Cropp	Chair
- Martin Hopkins	Treasurer
- Cary Hopkins	Secretary
- Bryan Colby	Admin Secretary
- Janey Cox	Committee Member
- Peter Renshaw	Committee Member
- Teresa Strange	Committee Member
- Sandra Varney	Committee Member
- Mark Davies	Honorary Committee Member
- There were no other proposals for the Committee/Officers.
- The new officers and committee were proposed by Mike Mills, seconded by Yvonne Smith and voted in by members.

## 6. Any other business

- Richard Bean thanked the Chair and Committee for their work and contribution to the Society.
- There being no further business the Chair closed the Annual General Meeting at 7:45pm.