

## HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

### MINUTES OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THUNDRIDGE HILL HOUSE, COLD CHRISTMAS, ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018

<b>Present</b>	The President	The Viscountess of Verulam
	Vice President	Mr Christopher Melliush
	Roger Gedye	Chairman
	Penny Figgis	Secretary
	Sally Pool	Treasurer
	Sonja Fillingham	Outings
	Kate Harwood	Conservation
	Anne Rowe	Research
	Anne Mitcheson	
	John Craggs	Website/Membership
	Bella Stuart-Smith	Schools

#### **1 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed around 50 members, their guests and new members, and thanked Christopher and Susie Melliush for allowing the meeting to take place in their lovely garden and use their splendid barn.

Two years ago, the 2016 AGM, the Tercentenary of the birth of Capability Brown, was held at Youngsbury House which stands in a landscape designed originally by Capability Brown. The current owners have significant plans for the restoration of both House and Park and our Conservation Officer Kate Harwood will talk about this at the end of the meeting.

#### **2 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Arikoglu, Mr and Mrs Chambers, Mrs Claire Taylor, Mr and Mrs Mitchell, Mr and Mrs Hilll, Mrs Cuthbert and Mrs Dewhurst.

#### **3 Minutes**

The minutes of the 2017 AGM held at Garratt's Farm, Benington were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **4 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## 5 Chairman's Report

a) 2018 is the bicentenary of the death of Humphrey Repton who is credited with designing seventeen Gardens in Hertfordshire. Anne Rowe gave a talk during the winter on "Repton's Work in Hertfordshire" and Tom Williamson in April on a similar theme to launch the book "Humphrey Repton in Hertfordshire". This book is the product of two years hard work by some twenty HGT researchers and edited by Tom Williamson and Sue Flood. It is the most ambitious publication prepared by our research group and is on sale to HGT members at a special discount price of £20 available from Anne Rowe after the meeting.

Other research work goes on at the annual "seminar and soup" event for researchers a new challenge was introduced: the "Orchards East Project". Tom Williamson will give a talk to members about the "Orchards Project" on the 19th November.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Anne Rowe, Director of the Research Team, for her quiet and effective leadership.

b) The list of projects which Kate Harwood as Conservation Officer of the Trust is tackling is astonishing. A full account is in her Annual Report in the Spring newsletter. She continues to monitor the planning applications submitted in Hertfordshire every week and more owners, developers and councils consult her before an application is submitted.

In addition to this, Kate has run an excellent short course for HGT members illustrating aspects of Victorian gardens. She has also found time to co-ordinate research activities on Repton nationally for the Gardens Trust. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Kate for her outstanding work.

c) Last November HGT launched a programme of winter talks and summer walks including talks on Rosemary Verey and Humphrey Repton and walks around the Inns of Court, the original site of the monastery gardens in St Albans, and the Restored Water Gardens at Hemel Hempstead. The Chairman thanked the speakers, guides, and team of members who plan and organise the programme.

d) Garden Visits - visits this year have been well attended and the Chairman expressed his thanks to Sonja Fillingham and her team of organisers, Ellie and Roy Johnson and Trevor and Susan Beale.

The Bunty Oakley glass vase is awarded to members of the Trust for outstanding service. Sonja Fillingham, has been a member of the Committee of the HGT for many years. She leads the team who plan the programme of visits, she is also the first to offer help with other HGT activities. The Chairman then presented the Bunty Oakley Vase to Sonja.

e) Schools - Bella Stuart-Smith has continued to promote gardening in Hertfordshire primary schools. Originally, she had organised a team of Mrs Wheelbarrows who would visit schools and provide suitable group activities for pupils and teachers. She has now re-evaluated the way the HGT funds should be used to help those schools who approach the Trust and wish to create a garden or enhance an existing plot. Currently an award of £500 has been given to help one school and plans for another are in development. The Chairman thanked Bella for her work with the schools.

f) The General Data Protection Regulation. This Regulation was introduced on 28th May. The Chairman thanked John Craggs who advised the Committee and who prepared a clear Privacy Policy which has been approved by the Committee and published on the website. Anyone wishing to know more should contact John Craggs.

The Chairman then thanked members of the Committee, the Research Group, Kate Harwood, and Deborah Spring Editor of the Newsletter, for the support they have given him during the last year.

## **6 Treasurer's Report**

Sally Pool thanked her husband Jonathan for his help with drawing up the accounts. These had been published on the website and copies were available for members to look at. The deficit for the year of £2340 was due mainly to the costs incurred in publishing the Repton book and the design of the new website. The current balance was now £40,778.

The Chairman thanked Sally and Jonathan Pool for their very efficient work. Adoption of the accounts were proposed by Roy Johnson and seconded by Annie Saner, and then signed by the Chairman.

## **7 Election of members of the Executive Committee**

Roger Gedye was re-elected as Chairman proposed by Penny Figgis and seconded by Christopher Melliush.

Penny Figgis was re-elected as Secretary proposed by Sonja Fillingham and seconded by Jill Crampton.

Sally Pool was re-elected as Treasurer proposed by Peter Reeves and seconded by Bella Stuart-Smith.

The rest of the Executive Committee - Anne Rowe, Sonja Fillingham, Kate Harwood, Anne Mitcheson, John Craggs and Bella Stuart-Smith were re-elected en bloc, proposed by Roy Johnson and seconded by Dione Verulam.

## **8 AOB**

As there was no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm.