

# HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

## MINUTES OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE BARN, SERGE HILL ON 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019

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

### 1. **Welcome**

The chairman welcomed current and new members to the AGM. He thanked them for coming and said that he hoped they would take part in the various activities of the HGT. He thanked Tom and Sue Stuart-Smith for allowing the HGT AGM to be held in their garden and Tom for speaking to members about the creation of the garden. He thanked Bella Stuart -Smith for arranging the evening and the Johnsons and Figgis's for organising the drinks.

### 2. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from Annie Saner and Anne Mitcheson.

### 3. **The minutes of the 2018 AGM**

These were approved and signed by the chairman.

### 4. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### 5. **The Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported on the work of the Trust during the year but first he paid tribute to George Mitcheson who died in June. George had been a valued member of the Executive and supporter of the Trust for many years.

He congratulated Anne Rowe on the publication of her book "Tudor and Early Stuart Parks of Hertfordshire" and other members of the Research Team whose reports had been completed and submitted to HALS.

Kate Harwood had continued to advise on the conservation of Hertfordshire's historic parks and gardens including the water gardens at Hemel Hempstead and the Mimram valley at Panshanger.

The website under the guidance of John Craggs has been given a new look.

Bella Stuart Smith continues to encourage the promotion of gardening in schools and two awards have been granted.

Sonja and her team have organised some excellent garden visits.

The summer walks and talks have been well supported and there will be a series of talks in the winter.

The chairman spoke about the work of the Garden Trust. He then appealed to members for volunteers to help with Garden visits, to work with Bella on the Schools programme and to take over as Treasurer.

## **6. The Hon Treasurers Report and Approval of the Annual Accounts.**

Sally Pool reported that the accounts for the year had been approved by the Trustees on the 10th of June. There is a surplus of income over expenditure of £787 compared to a deficit last year of £2,340. The cash in the bank increased slightly to £43,450. Donation income was £2,500 lower than in 2018; however, in 2018 specific donations had been made towards the cost of HGT publications, namely "Humphrey Repton in Hertfordshire", "Haileybury Structure and Landscape", and "Tudor and Stuart Parks" books. The cost of the books has since been somewhat offset by the sales.

A successful Bridge Drive had raised almost £1,500.

She thanked John Craggs for his work as membership secretary. There are currently 332 members with 13 new members since last years.

She thanked Warwick Wilson for acting as independent examiner and signing off the accounts on the 15th of June, and her husband Jonathan for his help with the accounts.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Kate Harwood and seconded by Roy Johnson. They were then signed by the Chairman and the Hon treasurer.

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

Chairman - Roger Gedye proposed by Penny Figgis and seconded by Christopher Melluish.

Vice Chairman - Bella Stuart-Smith proposed by Roger Gedye and seconded by Dione Verulam.

Treasurer - Sally Pool proposed by Roger Gedye and seconded by John Craggs.

Secretary - Penny Figgis proposed by Roger Gedye and seconded by Sonja Fillingham.

Trustees and Members of the Executive committee. - John Craggs, Sonja Fillingham, Kate Harwood and Anne Mitcheson, proposed by Roger Gedye and seconded by Anne Rowe.

**8. AOB**

The Chairman presented the Bunty Oakley Vase to Ellie and Roy Johnson for their work in organising garden visits for members.

Christopher Melliush thanked the Chairman for all his hard work.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.35pm.