**MINUTES OF THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST**

**ON THE 8th JULY 2021 at STANSTEAD BURY**

PRESENT The President The Viscountess of Verulam

 Chairman Mrs Sue Flood

 Secretary Mrs Penny Figgis

 Outings Mrs Sonja Fillingham

 Website manager

 and Membership Mr John Craggs

 Trustee Mrs Anne Mitcheson

 Newsletter Mrs Deborah Spring

 Education The Hon. Lady Stuart-Smith

 Events Mrs Liz Carlin

The Chairman welcomed thirty-two members of the Trust and friends to the 30th AGM and thanked Mr and Mrs Trower for their hospitality.

Mr Trower then spoke about the history of the house. He had been very pleased with the report on the history researched and produced by Anne Rowe and Tom Williamson, and Kate Harwood had been very supportive about the planning issues affecting his property. Mrs Trower followed with a description of the history of the garden.

1. APOLOGIES were received from Kate Harwood, Anne Rowe and Sally Pool.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING. The Chairman noted that the Bridgeman study day had not taken place because of COVID-19.

4. THE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT. Mr and Mrs Trower were thanked for allowing the HGT membership to hold the AGM at Stanstead Bury and for their introduction to the history of the house and the garden.

During 2020/2021 COVID-19 has obliged the committee and the researchers to hold meetings by Zoom. This has proved quite successful. Four research reports have been printed and will be taken to HALS, when it is possible, to join the other sixty already held there.

Over 500 planning applications have been received during the year by Kate Harwood for her comments. There are still many concerns in the county including Welwyn Garden City and the west of Harlow developments which seem to grow.

The September Heritage Open Days were cancelled last year. But watch the web site as events are planned for this year – Kate will lead at Amersfort if possible. A very successful lecture series was held by Zoom early this year - ‘Horticultural Ladies’. To make this more widely available it has been suggested that a booklet is made of the talks.

Thanks to all involved in the production of the 30th Anniversary Booklet and the Autumn Newsletter. Two more Walks Leaflets have been produced - Gadebridge Park and the Jellicoe Water Gardens, Hemel Hempstead, and Letchworth Garden City. These are on our web site and can be downloaded. More are in the pipe-line and when we have these ready, we will print them for distribution.

We have published an article about the Trust in the July issue of *Hertfordshire Life.*

John Craggs is resigning as membership secretary and the Chairman thanked him for all the work that he had put in over many years. He will be replaced by Sue Davidson.

HGT will be trying to keep members informed of events by sending out a monthly e-bulletin.

Members were asked to make a note of the 22nd of September for an evening lecture by Tom Stuart-Smith at Knebworth House. More information will be sent out to members nearer the date.

Sue reminded members to send their photographs of gardens in Hertfordshire for the HGT calendar competition.

Finally, the Chairman asked members to let her know if they knew of someone who might be interested in taking on the post as Treasurer.

5. THE HON. TREASURER’S REPORT. In her absence, the Chairman read a statement from Sally Pool. Funds have remained stable due to the loyalty of members and a legacy of £1,000, and the bank balances are up over £5,000 year on year. There have been no fund-raising events but expenses were fewer than usual. These included higher costs of printing and postage of the 30th Anniversary history and newsletter.

The fund in memory of ROGER GEDYE now stands at £3,750.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Christopher Melluish and agreed by the membership. The Chairman signed the accounts and expressed her thanks to Sally and Jonathon Pool. Sally would like to resign as treasurer and the Chairman asked the membership if they knew of anybody who would be willing to take this on.

6. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of John Craggs, Sue Davidson was proposed as Membership Secretary by Sue Flood and seconded by John Craggs.

The existing Committee were re-elected, proposed by Mo Gedye and seconded by Annie Saner.

7. AOB. There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 6:30 pm.