

ORLETON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 18th DECEMBER 2012

There were 32 members present at the meeting

- 1. Apologies:** Sue and Paul Brown, Kate and Simon Snape, Martin Page, Kim Jackson, Cathy Fewlass, Jane Lacey, Hilary and Alf Hawkins
- 2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM:**

Approved proposed Lyn Jones
seconded Trisha Clanzy-Hodge
carried unanimously.

3. **Matters arising:** none
4. **Chairman's report:** copy attached
5. **Treasurers report:**

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts and commented as follows:

The accounts were audited by Helen Webb and we wish to extend our thanks to Helen for doing this.

Our total cash at bank is held in 2 accounts totalling £2397.58. This is £154.58 less than last year.

However, we have invested in capital items for the August Show, mainly new advertising boards, which will be re-used in future years with a small cost to change the dates. As a result of this investment we did have far more non-members and holiday-makers attending the show and at times the Village Hall was full.

Our total expenses for the year were £5,132.58. So our cash at bank represents about 50% of turnover. This is a healthy position.

The committee has decided to increase subscriptions from October 2013 to £8.00p. This is being done since the cost of speakers is going up, especially for their travelling. One of the clubs strengths is the quality of the speakers and we want to be in a position to attract the best speakers in future years.

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| 6. | Programme Secretary's report: | Ann Turtle presented the programme for the forthcoming year. |
| 7. | Adoption of reports: | proposed Margaret Lyon
seconded Di Belton Elliot
carried unanimously |
| 8. | Correspondence: | none |

9. General:

August Show: Eddie Clanzy-Hodge announced that the date of the show would be 17th August 2013 and gave details of the Floral Art classes.

10. Election of Officers:

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| a) | Chairman | Shelley Choat | Proposed – Monica Todd
Seconded – Sheila Hough
Carried unanimously |
| b) | Vice Chairman | Ann Turtle | Proposed –Di Belton-Elliot
Seconded – Di Howell Thomas
Carried unanimously |
| c) | Secretary | Monica Todd | Proposed –David Russell
Seconded –Trisha Clanzy-Hodge
Carried unanimously |
| d) | Treasurer | Eddie Clanzy-Hodge | Proposed –Margaret Davies
Seconded –Jennifer Kelley
Carried unanimously |

10. Election of Committee Members:

The remaining Committee members, who had not been elected as Officers were prepared to stay on the Committee.

Remaining Committee members - Trisha Clanzy-Hodge, David Davies, Sheila Hough, Jennifer Kelley, Pauline Wareham

Proposed –Ann Turtle Seconded –Eddie Clanzy-Hodge Carried – unanimously

There have also been two new nomination – Nick Russell and Peter Furneaux who have been duly nominated and seconded – carried unanimously

11. Appointment of Auditor:

Helen Webb has agreed to audit the account again next year.

12. Any other business: None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 18TH DECEMBER 2012

Looking at previous Chairman's reports for inspiration as to what to say, I noticed that last year, Sue Brown said we had rather too little rain over 2011! I don't think the same can be said for this year! In fact, 2012 goes down in my memory as the Soggy Year with grass and weeds growing non-stop and it was a constant battle to keep on top of them, let alone grow anything!

We have had some wonderful speakers this year and all meetings have been very well attended. (Perhaps you came to escape the rain and dream of better times and warmer weather?! I rarely put on summer clothes – perhaps for a few days in May).

In January, we had Pam Pittwood talking to us about Cottage Garden Plants and then in February, the delightful and enthusiastic Roger Umpleby spoke about “Insects, Friends and Foes”. I now feel quite kindly towards wasps although some of his slides were almost like horror movies.

In March, we had our Club ~Dinner at the Riverside Inn, Amestry. Again, a most enjoyable evening and a full house. The food was delicious and our thanks to Jennifer Kelley for arranging the evening.

March brought us John Millington from Hillview Hardy Plants and his talk on “Propagation”. He certainly tested our skills as gardeners although we did feel he should have brought a bit more compost!

April, more rain but we had Neil Cook from Hanbury Hall Gardens to lift our spirits. We are planning a trip to Hanbury Hall next year as we were inspired to see the gardens there and what Neil has achieved.

More rain – this time torrential. This resulted in the Red Cross Great Spring Gardening Event held at Berrington Hall not exactly being a wash-out but certainly not the huge success they had hoped. The Gardening Club had been asked to run the plant creche and I have to thank Sue Brown, Sheila Hough, Cathy Fewlass and Jane Lacey for braving the elements and manning the stall. (and Monica Todd for manning the phone at home – in the dry – and updating all the other volunteers that they were not needed. Phew!) Sue and the others deserve a medal for the fact that they took pity on the ice cream exhibitors and were their only customers of the day!

Even MORE rain so this time we had to cancel our trip to Lydney Park Gardens on 1st May but I think it was the right decision as, even a fortnight later, it was incredibly wet underfoot.

At the end of May we were entertained by John Clews of the RSPB with his talk on “Garden Birds” Somewhat disappointing as he spent a lot of time plugging the RSPB. Oh well!

We approached June and all hoped for better weather. Alas, no! We were due to hold our stall for the Orleton Village Hall Festival in the sports field selling plants, etc. but the weather forecast was so horrendous that, yet again, we had to take the decision to pull out. Instead, we raffled Louise Thorn's delightful planters in the warmth and dryness of the village hall and later sold plants at the Midsummer Show evening and surplus ones at Andrew and Gerry Summer's Village Stores – and managed to raise about £150 for the Festival. Better than nothing. We have decided that, from now on, we will hold a raffle and not do a plant stall. My thanks to Sheila Hough and Pauline Wareham for manning the raffle stall all day.

The Midsummer Show was down on entries – mainly because of the wet weather – but even so, it was an enjoyable event. We had organised a “fun” quiz in the small hall whilst the results were being counted, and it was a good “bonding” session. After much consideration, we have decided NOT to have a Midsummer Show in future but to concentrate on the August Show.

The outing to Brook Farm, Berrisford actually took place in sunshine! 27 members enjoyed viewing Sarah and Willy Wint's lovely garden and then a sumptuous tea. Half an hour after we left, the heavens opened and roads to Tenbury were again flooded.

Later in July, we had our Club visit to the gardens of Kingsland followed by our supper. It was a great event and I have to thank Linda Pettit for organising all the gardens to be opened and all the garden owners for so generously giving their time. However, it made us realise that it was difficult getting round all the gardens then back to the Village Hall in time for supper so this coming year (2013) we are planning a visit to Eye followed by a picnic. In future years, we may have a trip to gardens and then, the following month, a supper evening (incorporating a fun quiz). I would be grateful for your comments.

The August Show – despite the dreadful weather and lack of vegetables – attracted more entries than for the last 4 years. My grateful thanks to the sub-committee who put such huge efforts into organising and publicising it. The Orleton Primary School's entries were a delight and entertained everyone in the Small Hall. We must remember they are the Gardening Club's future members and encourage them. We have had numerous discussions about whether the August Show and Midsummer Show should continue but, judging by the success of the August Show, it will certainly continue.

In September we had a talk on Sweet Peas by the delightful Jim Ludlow who has offered a cup for the August Show for sweet peas. Already the competition is hotting up!

October saw a visit by Helena Gerrish (of High Glanau fame) A delightful speaker and most entertaining. We are so lucky to have such knowledgeable speakers.

The Titley lunch. Again, a huge success and, once more, many thanks to Jennifer Kelley for organising it. We are booked for next year as it is a “Don't Miss Event”

We ended our speakers for the year on a high. Fiona Grant gave us a most informative and enjoyable talk on Walled Kitchen Gardens. Wonderful slides and lots of places for us to visit.

My thanks to Jennifer Kelley, Ann Turtle, Pauline Wareham, Margaret Lyon and my friend, Shropshire Sue, for helping with the Gardening Club tree for the St. George's Church Advent Tree Festival. It took a lot of effort but was certainly different and effective. Also to Kate Snape for snipping away in her garden and providing us with so much greenery. (I had difficulty seeing out of the car after my visit to her garden) Also Trisha Clanzy Hodge for her wonderful variegated holly.

A big thank you to Ann Turtle for arranging the programme for next year. It takes a lot of effort but I am sure she has put together some delights for us. Ann will be taking you through it later.

Also thanks to Helen Webb for doing the boring but necessary accounts for us. We look forward to you rejoining us next year, Helen.

My thanks ,too, to Louise Thorn for running the plant stall – and also for providing the raffle prize planters for the Orleton Village Hall Festival. Sadly, Louise has had to hand over running the Plant Stall to Pauline Wareham due to family commitments – but a big thank you, Louise, for all you have done. Also, thank you, Pauline, for your help.

Where would the Committee be without David Davies? He is the “Voice of Reason” and not only that, he and Verna Jones have run the raffle superbly for so many years. It all contributes to our club funds and we are very grateful.

Also, Margaret Davies for such delightful baskets of fruit she produces every month for the raffle. They are the first prize chosen! Thanks also to Rose Jones for stepping in to help with the raffle in either David's or Verna's absence.

My huge thanks to all the Committee for helping and supporting me over this last year and just being there. Monica Todd, for doing such a fantastic job as Secretary, Eddie as Treasurer and Trisha as Membership Secretary and, of course, Ann Turtle as my Vice Chairman (a very calming influence!); Jennifer Kelley and Pauline Wareham for all their input too.

Sadly, we are losing two committee members: Lyn Jones who has done wonderful work as Treasurer in the past and for the last year been another “voice of reason” for me. And Martin Page – wonderful for his photographs of the August Show and for the Newsletter. We will miss you both but hope you will enjoy GC meetings free from responsibility. Thank you so much.

And finally, my heartfelt thanks to all of you members who help in so many ways. I would particularly like to thank Jeremy Howell-Thomas for all his assistance with the sound system (no one would hear me without it!). All of you who do the refreshments, clear chairs, set up etc. We could not exist without you. You make the Club SOMETHING – a lively, interesting and friendly club.

My best wishes to all of you for a wonderful Christmas and a very good gardening year in 2013.

Now to the Agenda. Please speak if you wish to comment on anything. We don't want to be too long so you can all enjoy the supper.

Shelley Choat
Chairman