

David Davies, Peter Furneaux, Jennifer Kelley, Sue Mills

Proposed –Monica Todd Seconded –Eddie Clanzy-Hodge Carried – unanimously

11. Appointment of Auditor:

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

12. August Show: Report attached

13. Any other business: None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015

It has been another very busy and successful year for the Club, I shall come back to the show later but I think everyone agreed that it was the best for some years – even though I might like to, I can take no credit for this, it was down to the superb organisation by the show subcommittee.

This year's programme was interesting and varied, one of the great joys from my perspective is coming to talks on a subject I have no interest or perhaps more accurately no knowledge of and being enthused by a good speaker – I am saddened when I hear people tell me that they are not coming to the next meeting as it is not a subject that appeals to them. Try it, it just might surprise you.

We began in January with Alexandra Probert helping us avoid injuries in the garden, Alexandra very kindly waived her fee and asked us to donate it to a gardening charity.

February had us spell bound by Sue Russell's talk on The Third Dimension – climbing plants which was fascinating.

March had two events – dinner at the Cliffe Dinham – organised by Jennifer Kelly, and a talk on the National Garden Scheme by Rowena Gale and Penny Usher, the photographic slides had many of us making notes of gardens to visit under this wonderful scheme.

April – June Pool came and gave us a talk on the joys of Auriculas – not something I had paid too much attention to before then but we now have some in our garden.

May – On a beautiful afternoon we were taken on a fascinating walk and talk to see the Ancient Trees of Croft Castle – in some ways a rather humbling experience as these trees were looking out over the Herefordshire countryside long before we were thought of and will be doing the same long after we are forgotten.

June – The garden visits and supper took place on Bircher this year on a lovely evening and a great time was had by all. A big thank you to those who opened their gardens to us.

July – Saw us climbing onto a coach to visit the Oxford University Botanical Gardens – a fascinating talk and very interesting gardens, organised by Eddie Clanzy-Hodge as Oxford is his Alma Mater. Sadly Eddie was unable to join us.

August – The 35th Show - a great success with increased entries and a very high standard.

Well done to the sub – committee for organising it and all those who entered.

September – David Griffiths – our show vegetable judge gave us some very interesting thoughts and ideas on how to make more use of the greenhouse.

October – Leila Jackson spoke about Abutilons- another of those talks that some think may not be for them but that those who heard it were captivated and enthused by.

November – At the beginning of the month we had the ever popular and delicious Titley Lunch again organised by Jennifer Kelly. At the other end of the month Roger Umbleby came and spoke about vegetable varieties for the garden.

I think you would agree a fantastic programme for a mere £10!

Here we are at yet another AGM.

However – this is your club and we are facing major problems, it is possible that the club may not be able to continue in the long term. The committee desperately needs volunteers. Many of those on the current committee wish to retire – and rightly so, as they have given much time energy and knowledge to this club. Systems have been set up to make life easier and a great deal of behind the scenes work takes place to ensure the smooth running of the club. Dinners, shows, speakers and websites do not organise themselves.

In particular Eddie Clanzzy-Hodge, after many years as Treasurer wishes to step down, I would like here to take this opportunity to thank Eddie for all his hard work and knowledge – he would probably agree that gardening is not his strong point or even main interest – but organisation is and it is through much of his work that we have the systems in place that assist the smooth running. We need a new treasurer to step forward as without one the club will have no option but to close down. This would be a tremendous shame. All posts are voluntary and it is not essential to attend all committee meeting although they are on the whole fun and amusing afternoons! Being on the committee also lets you influence the direction of the club. We really do need the support of you - the members.

I am speaking as Chairman but it is the committee members who do the donkey work. They are the ones you need to thank for a great club and they are the ones that need your support.

I would ask you to show your appreciation now.

Treasurer's Report for financial year 2015

Summary

Financially this has been a very successful year.

- We have broken even this year. The opening balance was £2026.85 and the closing balance is £2019.62.

Comments

- Membership is up to 103 compared to last year but income is slightly down since we had many members join at the end of 2014.
- Village hall costs have reduced despite an increase in charges. This is because we have had less meetings in the hall. Speaker costs are also much lower for the same reason.
- Plant Stall, raffle and sales income are also lower. Again, probably because we have had fewer meetings in the hall.
- The annual show has shown a profit, before hall costs are taken into account.

Next Year

- We will have increased hall charges for 2016 due to increases in the cost of each meeting and the fact that we will be holding more meetings in the hall.
- However, we will hold subscriptions at the same level for 2016 but we will probably be increasing them again for 2017.

Annual Show Report

This was one of the most successful shows for a long time. We did have a lot of visitors and the hall became quite busy during the afternoon.

There were 338 entries and a higher proportion of members entered. This was the highest number of entries since 2007.

The show made a profit of about £60 before hall charges of £100 are deducted. This is the best financial outcome for some years.

The success of this event was due to the dedication of the committee and the many volunteers who gave up their time to support the show. Without them it would not have been such a success.

There are too many to name individually, so I would formally like to thank you all.

We have formed the 2016 show sub-committee and we already have a draft schedule. This will be finalised in early 2016 and will be issued either at the January or the February meeting. It will also be published on the website.