

## EWELL HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12 March 2019 at 7.30pm

#### 1. HON CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chairman welcomed 21 members to the 2019 AGM of the Ewell Horticultural Association and thanked Margaret Angus for taking the minutes.

The current membership is approximately 1100. The Chairman thanked Roger Bellingham, our Hon Registrar, who does a marvellous job behind the scenes, keeping track of all our members and covering for newsletter deliveries where Road Stewards are not available. But whilst Roger has covered for Road Stewards, he cannot be expected to carry on indefinitely, so an appeal has been issued for new Road Stewards in the current Newsletter, to the effect that if we do not get new Road Stewards, members may have to become e-mail or postal members.

The bedding plants will be available on Saturday 11 May at Glyn School; many thanks to Les Smith and his enthusiastic band of helpers. Order forms could be given to Les at the AGM, at the Spring Show on Saturday 31 March or posted to be received by 1st April.

The Chairman thanked Lynne Mason for all her hard work as our Secretary, particularly as Lynne has taken on more work, in the absence of other committee members. Similarly, he thanked Les Smith, our Treasurer, for all his hard work.

The trips and outings are a very popular part of the Association's activities. The Chairman expressed great appreciation of Brenda Allen and Pauline Horne, who organised four very popular and successful trips during 2018:

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 42 members Bere Mill, a private garden on the River Test in Hampshire and Chawton House Library with Jane Austen connections.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 38 members went to Doddington House in Kent. Although very different, both gardens were at their best at that time of year.

Finally, on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 47 members visited Aston Pottery in Oxfordshire where some toured the working pottery. All were amazed at the colourful herbaceous borders and enjoyed lunch in the restaurant. In the afternoon they visited a beautifully maintained, though very steep, private garden, Red Kites, in Buckinghamshire, whose owners came from Worcester Park!

The 4 day trip last year was to North Wales from 29 May to 1<sup>st</sup> June. 43 voyagers stayed at the Celtic Royal Hotel in Caernarvon. Among the gardens they visited were Plas Cadnant, Dibleys Nursery and Crug Farm Plants as well as 2 private gardens in a beautiful setting on Anglesey. On the way back home, they stopped at Dorothy Clive garden in Shropshire.

To end the 2018 season their Christmas Lunch was at A La Russe, a French restaurant in Windsor, including a brief visit to Savill Gardens.

For 2019 Brenda and Pauline have organised a 4 day visit to North Devon for 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June staying in The Barnstable Hotel. They have arranged trips to Cothay Manor, a 12 acre garden surrounding a Mediaeval Manor, plus the private gardens of Marwood Hill and Hartland Abbey. There will also be some free time in South Molton and a visit to RHS Rosemoor, the popular RHS garden in Torrington where the roses are particularly stunning.

On 10<sup>th</sup> May there is a visit to Kew Gardens. These famous botanical gardens need no introduction; there is so much to see there, including the recently re-opened temperate glasshouse. At the time of there were places available on this trip and a land train may be booked for those less mobile.

On 4<sup>th</sup> July there is a visit to Charleston, near Lewes, East Sussex. Famous for its Bloomsbury Group connections; Charleston has a lovely walled garden and we will also have a tour of the house with its unique decoration. In the afternoon there will be a visit to King John's Nursery & Garden, an 8 acre garden which includes a wild garden, meadows apple orchard, wildlife pond and more. There is also an adjoining nursery.

On 28<sup>th</sup> August, there is a trip to 2 private gardens in Kent; Goddards Green, a 5 acre garden laid out in the 1920s and redesigned to include a water garden, fern garden, mixed borders, flowering shrubs and exotics. Then to Orchard House, a garden created within the last 2 years, it has a gravel garden with potted tender perennials, a cottage garden, herbaceous borders and potager, with a small nurseery attached.

At the time of the AGM Brenda and Pauline were looking for a suitable venue to book a Christmas Lunch to round off another successful year. They hope that everyone enjoys the trips and they both appreciate all the thank-you notes they receive and welcome any feedback or suggestions that members may have.

The Chairman continued by saying that the Association staged three well-supported Shows in 2018, with attendances very good at all the Shows with the number of entries encouragingly high, especially at the Autumn Show.

At our Shows we try to offer other local voluntary groups a chance to have a display and/or briefly talk about their work. So, during 2018 we invited Chris Grayling, our local MP, and Age Concern, an opportunity to give out the prizes and speak on local topics, plus of course, the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell. We intend to do similar in 2019.

For advance information, the Nominated Class at our 2019 Summer Show, will be a cake decorated with a Wimbledon Tennis theme, full details in our Spring Newsletter. Many thanks go to Tracey Ross for all her hard work as our Show Secretary, not forgetting Terry Eddowes as Tracey's very able assistant at all the Shows.

The quality of the catering at our Shows continues to be excellent and frequently commended, congratulations to Dawn Simms and her Team. The Chairman personally thanked all those who help with the catering at the Shows.

He also thanked all the members of the committee for their hard work during the year. In addition, he thanked all the helpers at our Shows, Talks and the plant distribution. He especially thanked Tim and Thelma Goldsmith, who although not members of the committee, both have been a tremendous help to the Association, especially at the Flower Shows and all the other events.

The Chairman also thanked Katherine Alexander for her hard work in the single-handed preparation and setting out of the Newsletters and her dedication as Domestic Secretary at our Shows.

He went on to thank all those involved in the distribution of the Newsletters, in particular Anne-Marie and Fred Evans and all the Road Stewards.

Thanks must also go to Jane Hoddy. Jane has been invaluable in finding speakers for our Talks. We will have a full programme of talks this year; please consult your membership card and newsletter; well done Jane!

Also, a deserved mention and thanks to Beryl Smith and Tracey Ross, who provide the refreshments for the talks.

As members will be aware, the Potting Shed at Ewell Court is no longer in operation. As an alternative to the Potting Shed, the Association has negotiated substantial discounts from local traders, details are on the membership cards and in the Handbook. In addition, members can obtain a 40% discount on all seeds and 10% off other items from Dobies by quoting the discount code on orders by post, phone, online or by email. Dobies catalogues and order forms were available at the AGM and will be available at all the Shows and Talks.

In addition, we have recently negotiated a 10% discount on all plants with Ashted Park Garden Centre, on production of a current EHA Membership card. On a similar theme, if anyone is interested in an allotment share, full details are available in the next edition of the EHA Newsletter.

Finally, thanks to Brian Angus for his behind the scenes activities and Margaret Angus as our Publicity Officer.

So, in closing the Chairman commented that the Association is, as always, in need of people to join the Committee or just volunteer to help in whatever capacity they feel best suited, especially at our Shows.

The Chairman invited questions on his report: none were forthcoming.

## 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM – 13 March 2018

The Chairman reminded Members that a draft of the 2018 AGM Minutes had been placed on the Association's website as will a draft of the 2019 AGM Minutes. Acceptance of 2018 Minutes was proposed by Roger Bellingham and seconded by Dawn Simms. All in favour.

## 3 MATTERS ARISING

None.

## 4 HON TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS

Copies of the Income & Expenditure Accounts and the Balance Sheet were available prior to the start of the meeting. Les Smith talked members through the finances for the year ended 30 November 2018; he explained that red ink indicated a loss.

Looking at the Income & Expenditure Account the Treasurer noted that, for the first time, no Potting Shed sales were made in 2018; the only sales were from existing stock sold at the Shows; there were no new purchases. The money received from subscriptions had increased following the increase to £2 pa in 2018.

Under Expenses the cost of 'printing and publicity' included the cost of our new website, £359, set up by a small company in Epsom. Formerly we paid EEBC £950 pa in rent for the Potting Shed; EHA now pays £600 pa for one room as storage. The Shows always make a loss; in the last year it was a reduced loss for only three Shows.

The Treasurer praised Brenda Allen and Pauline Horne who had balanced the books on the outings with a small surplus of only £348 on an annual turnover of £20,000. The Treasurer emphasised that as it was not the aim of the outings to produce a profit but getting the final figure to exactly balance was not easy.

The Balance Sheet represented the majority of EHA's assets.

The Treasurer invited questions on the accounts: only one enquiry was made regarding whether the Committee had considered the option of hiring in the tables rather than paying rent for storage. The Treasurer responded that many other items as well as tables were held in storage, eg, all the catering equipment, but that this would be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

Overall EHA had an operating deficit of £931 in the year to 30 November 2018. On the Balance sheet he emphasised that the Committee's aim was to rundown the capital for the benefit of EHA's members at the approximate rate £1,000 pa.

The Treasurer had brought the Association's Bank Statements to the AGM, which were available to view. .

The Treasurer was praised for all his hard work in managing the finances during the year and for his preparation of the Annual Accounts. Their acceptance was proposed by Brian Angus and seconded by Sheila Stracy. All in favour.

## 5 FLORAL ART GROUP REPORT

Sheila Stracy, Floral Art Group Chairman, read her report:

'Ewell Floral Art Group continues to survive with around 45 members and a very loyal group of ladies 'The Committee'. Most clubs that have closed recently, are because they cannot get members to join the Committee. My dear ladies have been going so long we only need two committee meetings a year and they all know what they are doing, this makes it much easier for me.

Last year we have had a variety of workshops – arranging tulips, water arrangements, using wood in different ways and a Wild and Funky evening. We had three demonstration evenings 'Space Oddity', 'Experimental' and 'Christmas Pleasures' all very enjoyable. We have 3 demonstrations a year, as they are very costly evenings. 2018 fees were over £700 on top of which we must pay for the hall. Visitors are very welcome on these evenings, entrance fee £4.50.

Members took part in the 3 EHA Shows – 2 competitions and 1 exhibition. Some ladies get very nervous about doing Shows. I am still trying to get novices to enter. The yearly winners were: Jean Sheridan won the Floral Art Trophy, Brenda Kelly won the Runner-up Trophy. Intermediate was won by Sue Curven and the Novice by Sara Fowler. Sara is going to share it with her sister Anita, as they were so close in points.

The club went on a very enjoyable trip to Pam Lewis's garden in Devizes, wonderful food, good weather and a lovely flower demonstration.

We took part in Hampton Court 'Florimania', Wisley Flower Show and arranged flowers for the Mayor's Ball and the Mayor's AGM. Two of my novice ladies took part in a Pop-Up Show at Epsom Garden Centre, well done.

We ended a year with a magnificent show at Epsom Downs Race Course. It was a big success, 5 of our ladies arranged decorated parcels and Barbara Meineck and Sheila Stracy staged 'White Christmas'. Great fun making the sleigh which spent the Christmas period on display at Ruxley Church.

We thank EHA for their support and hope we continue to survive, having fun arranging and making friends.'

## 6 ELECTION OF HON PRESIDENT

The Committee has nominated Tony Field, a longstanding member, for a third year as Honorary President. Tony Field had sent his apologies, he was very disappointed not to be present due to the need for urgent surgery. The proposal was seconded by Anne-Marie Evans and passed by all the members present. Tony Field was wished a speedy recovery.

## 7 ELECTION OF HON CHAIRMAN

Les Smith took the chair at this point; and proposed that Dave Tarrant be elected as Honorary Chairman, seconded by Anne-Marie Evans. This was passed by a show of hands. Dave Tarrant thanked the members present for voting him as Association Chairman for another year.

## 8 ELECTION OF HON SECRETARY

Lynne Mason was proposed by Dave Tarrant and seconded by Brian Angus. All in favour.

## 9 ELECTION OF HON TREASURER

Les Smith was proposed by Brenda Allen and seconded by Gill Reynolds. All in favour.

## 10 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected en bloc; the Equipment Officer position is vacant

Sales Secretary	Roger Sheffield	Equipment Officer	vacant
Registrar	Roger Bellingham	Publicity Officer	Margaret Angus
Catering Officer	Dawn Simms	Show Secretary	Tracey Ross
Jane Hoddy	Talks Secretary	Domestic Secretary	Katherine Alexander

The Officers named above were proposed by Gill Reynolds and seconded by Anne-Marie Evans. All in favour.

## 11 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following were elected en bloc:

Terry Eddowes (Show Secretary's Assistant)  
Sheila Stracy (Floral Art Representative)  
Margaret Angus (Meetings Secretary)

The Committee Members named above were proposed by Roger Bellingham and seconded by Beryl Smith. All in favour.

## 12 ELECTION OF HON AUDITOR

Dave Tarrant explained that the Association has no constitutional requirement for an Auditor and reminded everyone that the Treasurer had the Association's Bank Statements available to be viewed at the AGM.

## 13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further questions the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the AGM and invited members and visitors to stay and listen to a talk by Ian Clemens entitled 'Land of the Giant Vegetables', a light hearted talk into the growing of giant vegetables.