

Arundel Gardens Association
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held at the Arundel Museum on Thursday, 13th March 2025

Committee Members Present:

Valerie Belton	Vice Chairman
Jackie Penticost	Secretary
Sue Paterson	Treasurer
Louise Lubienski	Website
Lizz Lock	Membership
Sue Marsh	Garden Visits
Anne Harriott	Flower & Produce Show
Heather Birch	Minutes

Garden Association Members: **A List not taken on this occasion**

Apologies: **Christine Fowler** **Chairman**

Item	Description	Action
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Christine Fowler, AGA Chairman, was unable to attend the meeting, and, therefore, Valerie Belton, Vice Chairman, was standing in for her.</p> <p>Val introduced herself and thanked all for attending.</p> <p>Therefore, in the absence of Christine Fowler The Minutes of the AGM held on the 7th December 2023 were agreed and signed by Val Belton.</p>	
2.	<p>Chairman's Report (Val Belton, Vice Chairman)</p> <p>The AGA continues to go from strength to strength and with membership currently standing at 326, it had been encouraging by members saying how much they enjoyed the programme of garden visits in the spring and summer, and the programme of talks in the museum during the autumn and winter season.</p> <p>Christine wished to express her warmest thanks to the members and volunteers for their continued support – distributing newsletters, running raffles, putting out chairs, washing up, organising delivery of manure, manning our stalls at the Farmers Markets, etc. etc.</p> <p>Particular thanks to Louise for her outstanding work improving the website (that contains a huge amount of information and details of our two main Centenary events) and for keeping it updated, plus organising the tulips.</p> <p>Thanks are also due to the Committee for their hard work throughout the year to keep things running smoothly and for the planning of the 2025 Centenary.</p>	

	<p>This year, 2025, is the AGA Centenary Year and to celebrate this two events are being organised –</p> <p>The first of these will be a Gardener’s Question Time at Denmans Gardens in aid of Perennial (formerly known as the Gardener’s Benevolent Society) on 29th May.</p> <p>This will be followed by a special Centenary Garden Party at Arundel Castle in the Earl Collector’s Garden on 18th July, to be attended by the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk.</p> <p>Details of the events, and how to obtain tickets are on the AGA website.</p> <p>Bob Tanner Also a special tribute to Bob Tanner, ex-Chairman of the AGA, who continues to produce our excellent newsletters, as well as writing a super article in The Bell to celebrate our Centenary.</p> <p>Many congratulations to Bob, when last Autumn Bob was awarded The Community Cup for 2024 for being ‘inspirational and enhancing the quality of life in Arundel’.</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>4.</p>	<p>Treasurer’s Report (Sue Paterson)</p> <p>The Accounts for 01/11/2023 to 31/10/2024 were presented on the screen – and a copy are also attached to these Minutes -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Income - £6,471.88 • Expenditure - £6,624.23 <p>Therefore there was a shortfall of £152.35</p> <p>Membership subscriptions for the year were up by £300 which had boosted the income.</p> <p>This year we donated £500 for oak planters, they are situated in the car-park next to the museum. This was in addition to £100 each for Aldingbourne and Perennial (The Gardeners' Benevolent Society).</p> <p>There were no questions regarding the Accounts. Therefore, a Formal Vote of Thanks to the Auditor – David Feist, proposed by Sue Paterson and seconded by Louise Lubienski.</p> <p>Amendments to the Constitution In January 2024, after 2 years of holding the AGM in November and December on evenings when the weather was atrocious, the Committee decided that March would be a better time.</p>	

	<p>Therefore, this required an amendment to the Constitution in order that it now shows that the AGM should be held between 1st December and 31st March annually.</p> <p>Only five voting members were needed to form a quorum as opposed to one third, as previously.</p> <p>Both of these amendments were unanimously approved.</p>	
5.	<p>Membership Report (Lizz Lock)</p> <p>The increase in subscriptions this year does not seem to deter members as there are now 326 on the books.</p> <p>Also, the fact that we encouraged payment by BACS has met with general approval and has greatly reduced the numbers of members we had to chase for the collection of money.</p> <p>Please continue to pay by BACS and upon receipt membership cards will be sent or delivered.</p> <p>Cash at the Farmer's Market is always welcome, and we can take cash or card tonight.</p> <p>My thanks to Val Belton for her help on the technical side – not my strong point! Also thanks to the Distributors who deliver the Newsletter to those members who are not on email.</p>	
6.	<p>Flower & Produce Show (Anne Harriott)</p> <p>2024 had been another successful Show with 224 entries – two new classes had been photography and scarecrows.</p> <p>This year, 2025, we will be looking at the Show with introducing new classes and ways to encourage more entries.</p> <p>Thanks to everyone who helped – Bob Tanner, Mary Smith, Jenny Stedman, Eric Nash (sadly now deceased), and Sue Paterson.</p>	
7.	<p>Garden Visits (Sue Marsh)</p> <p>There had been four Garden Visits in 2024 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knepp Castle, • Clinton Lodge & Highlands • Petworth House, private garden • Malthouse Farm <p>This year, 2025, there are five planned garden visits -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Stoke Idyll (3rd June) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravetye Manor (27th June) • Sandhills Farmhouse and Bramdean House (3rd July) • Findon Place and Chalk Hill Flower Farm (5th August) • Sullington Rectory (11th August) <p>All garden visits are very popular.</p>	
8.	<p>Volunteering Opportunities</p> <p>Members were asked if they spare time to help at the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Phillips School – Bob Tanner has supervised gardening activities and would appreciate some help • Arun Street Garden additional help is needed 	
9.	<p>Election of Chairman and Committee 2025</p> <p>Christine Fowler is willing to serve as Chairman for another year And she was duly re-elected –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed by Jackie Penticost • Seconded by Andrew Lubienski <p>All Committee Members and Officers are willing to continue in their post, so the Committee will remain unchanged for 2025. They were duly re-elected -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed by an AGA Member present • Seconded by an AGA Member present 	
10.	<p>Questions & Any Other Business</p> <p>Future Talks – Thursday 3 April - Annie Guilfoyle on “Designing a Small Garden” Thursday 2nd October - Michael Joseph on “Art and the Garden” Thursday 6th November - Alan Sargent on “A Gardener’s Life”.</p> <p>There was no other business, therefore, Val Belton thanked all for attending.</p>	
	<p>The Meeting was followed by a very interesting talk and on-screen photos and illustrations, by our President, Martin Duncan –</p> <p>‘Gardens Near and Far’ – an insight into Martin’s life as a Head Gardener to many of the most beautiful gardens that he had designed throughout the world.</p>	