

**Arundel Gardens Association
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held at the Arundel Museum on Thursday, 7th December 2023**

<u>Committee Members Present:</u>	Christine Fowler	Chairman
	Jackie Penticost	Secretary
	Sue Paterson	Treasurer
	Louise Lubienski	Website
	Liz Lock	Membership
	Val Belton	Assistant Membership
	Mary Smith	
	Heather Birch	Minutes

Gardens Association Members: A List not taken on this occasion

<u>Apologies:</u>	Martin Duncan	President
	Bob Tanner	Newsletter
	Anne Harriott	Flower & Produce Show
	Sue Marsh	Garden Visits

Item	Description	Action
1.	Welcome Christine Fowler welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming out on such a wet night.	
	CF had been appointed as the new Chairman of the AGA at the previous AGM following the resignation of Bob Tanner. The Minutes of the AGM held on the 5 th January 2023 (for the year 2022) were agreed and signed by the Christine Fowler, Chairman.	
2.	Chairman's Report CF reported that her first year as Chairman had been blessed with a knowledgeable and supportive Committee with four new members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackie Penticost – Secretary and IT • Heather Birch – Minutes • Val Belton – Asst. to Lizz Lock - Membership • Louise Lubienski – Website Bob Tanner's support is much appreciated as he continues assisting the AGA producing the newsletter, also thanks for his valued help with the Flower and Produce Show. Mary Smith supports Christine with the organisation of the talks programme. Thanks also to Trevor Andrews and Geoff Allen – ever helpful floating volunteers.	
3.	Gardens Visits Report CF reported - The Garden visits during 2023, organised by Sue Marsh, had been exceptional , and highlights had included, amongst others – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coach trip to Fairlight where members picnicked in the meadows, followed by an afternoon visit to the wild gardens at Great Dixter where the wild flower gardens were at their best. 	

	<p>2. Afternoon visit to Down Place where the meadows had been left to develop naturally over 200 years, with six varieties of orchids amongst other wild chalkland flowers</p> <p>Amongst SM's planned visits for 2024 are –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knepp Castle private garden (known for its farmland rewilding project), designed by Tom Stuart-Smith – a drought tolerant gravel garden, more popular as our climate changes. 2. A formal 17th Century inspired garden 3. A garden with four different types of soil – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy loam • Wealden clay • Free draining gravel beds • Bog and natural swimming pool (great rested newts!) <p>Write up on visits, including 4 and 5, will be in the February newsletter.</p>	SP
<p>4.</p>	<p>Talks Report CF reported – The highlight of the 2023 Talks Programme, Arundel Town Hall, 5th October –</p> <p>A talk by Troy Scott-Smith, Head Gardener of Sissinghurst, on the revamping of the Delos Garden, which had been created by Vita Sackville West and Harold Nicholas following their visit to the Greek Island of Delos in 1935.</p> <p>In 2018 Troy appointed Dan Pearson, Garden Designer, who remodelled the site, improved the drainage, and the garden was evolved along the original lines planned by Vita and Harold.</p> <p>This had been well attended, a very enjoyable and interesting evening with raffle.</p> <p>The Talks Programme for 2024 include –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sue Hett - Gardens of Europe, part 2 2. Job Van Eeden- Illustrated talk on bulbs (supplier to Arundel Castle and AGA). 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Flower and Produce Show CF reported - The Show had been a great success this year, with 224 entries from 51 competitors – 38 different classes including flower arranging, baking, honey, jam and garden produce. Two new classes had been photography and scarecrows. 24 children had exhibited their paintings (12 from St Philips and 12 from Arundel CofE). Anne Harriott chaired the organisation of the successful show, assisted by Bob Tanner, Mary Smith, Jenny Stedman, Eric Nash and Sue Paterson.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Finance Report Sue Paterson circulated the accounts summary and reported –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Last year's spend is in italics in a fainter font. 2. The bottom line is that we spent more than we received in income. The shortfall is £732. 3. Both our income and our expenditure are approximately £6000 more than last year. The key reason is that in partnership with Katrina Murray the association applied for a grant of £4,770 from the Royal 	8.

	<p>Horticultural Society for initiatives to support the Arundel Greening Project. This is a community partnership of organisations working across Arundel. So, we were successful in the bid and that money was paid to us but then we immediately transferred it to be administered by the Arundel Community Trust Partnership.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. That still leaves around £1000 more expenditure and income from last year. The outing to Great Dixter was more expensive than the previous year to Wisley. Also costs like printing are more expensive. 5. We made two payments for tulips this year because we had to wait a long time for the 2022 invoice. However, we paid for the Museum room hire out of last year's budget. 6. Reserves are £6,233. We have moved £5000 into an account with a better rate of interest. 7. Last year we also had a shortfall between income and expenditure of £692. The income that we are getting in from membership subscriptions does not cover all the activities that we want to do. This means that the committee has decided to increase subscriptions- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single: £5 to £7 • Joint £7.50 to £10 • Life - still £50 single, £75 joint • Use Reserves - Amount to be retained to be agreed by the Committee and ring fenced. • Budget for 2025 Centenary to be agreed <p>Formal vote of thanks to our Independent Auditor – David Feist. Proposed by Sue Paterson and seconded by Louise Lubienski</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>AGA Membership - Liz Lock reported – As SP has reported it had been decided to increase subscriptions next year, the first time for a long time. This still gives incredible value for money for all the benefits we offer –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden outings in the Summer • Talks in the Winter • Special offers on Tulips and Manure • Four interesting Newsletters a year • Discounts from a Garden Centre and a number of local Nurseries – <i>please do use them.</i> <p>Thanks to Val Belton who now helps with the technical computer side of things, and also all the members who distribute the Newsletters, and, most importantly collect subscriptions each year. Finally, it is hoped that you like the smaller, user friendly, membership cards we introduced this year. There were no objections from the floor to the Committee's proposal to increase the subscription rates.</p>	<p>LL</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Election of Committee and Officers for 2024 CF reported - All Committee Members are Officers and are willing to continue in their post, so the Committee will remain unchanged for 2024. There were no other nominations.</p>	

	Therefore, the Committee and Officers were re-elected. Seconded by Angela Cannon.	
9.	Questions & Any Other Business There were None. CF thanked all for attending.	
	The meeting was followed by a very interesting talk – ‘Creating a Garden for Wildlife’ by Michael Joseph. <i>Michael Joseph’s brother’s garden in Amberley, which is also very wildlife friendly, will be open to the public on 9th June 2024 in the biennial Amberley Open Garden’s event.</i>	

Agreed as a true record –

Signed: