

South Herefordshire Cottage Garden Society

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2015

1. There were no apologies.
2. Maggie Biss welcomed everyone to the 17th AGM of the Society.
3. The Minutes of the previous AGM were agreed and signed.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. Chairman's Report:

Maggie felt we had had a very successful year. Outings to Powis Castle and Hidcote and Kiftsgate and Duffryn in September were well attended. Of the speakers, Ross Barbour from Picton Gardens and Tim Walker who was so knowledgeable about plants and design were certainly favourites. The highlight was our holiday in Yorkshire and Penny and Jo are planning another holiday in 2017 probably to Kent. Next year we have some interesting speakers, unfortunately Gareth Edwards cannot now come in February so we are hoping Duncan Coombs from Pershore College will talk instead. We have Christine Skelmsdale to look forward to in October. The outings being planned are a coach trip to National Botanic Garden of Wales and Aberglasny. We shall have other days out using cars.

Maggie thanked the committee for their hard work and particularly the Treasurer Penny and Jo as Secretary. She thanked them too for organising the holiday. Maggie was pleased to welcome Sue Rolfe onto the committee. She then went on to thank Eleanor for the publicity, Jenny Robinson who took on organising the teas and next year we will have a rota of members to do this. Thanks to Chris for keeping the website updated and producing posters and Brian for the members list. She thanked Patti for all her general help. Thanks to Ian for always setting out the chairs and clearing up afterwards and those who help him. Helena organises the raffle very expertly with some excellent prizes.

Maggie concluded by saying that after five years she is stepping down as Chairman. She has enjoyed her time in the Chair and looks forward to staying on the committee and organising the outings.

6. Treasurer's Report: Penny presented the accounts, a copy of which is with the Minutes. She pointed out that after a deficit in 2014 we have managed to make a small profit this year, due partly to the plant sale in May when we charged for the cakes. Also the holiday made a small profit and we had increased our subs this year. There were no questions. Penny said Margaret France had been auditing our accounts for many years but she would like to retire from this. Penny had taken her some flowers and a garden gift token and our very grateful thanks.
7. Election of Auditor: Penny proposed Roy Milnes and this was seconded by Martin Fenn-Smith and agreed by the meeting.

8. Election of Chairman, Christine Flint was proposed by Patti Fender and seconded by Eleanor Bette-Bennett. The meeting agreed.
9. Committee and Officers: Treasurer Penny Walshe and Secretary Jo Dawson, Committee members, Maggie Biss, Helena Gohar, Ian Hargest, Tinker Parsons, and Sue Rolfe were proposed en bloc by Marianne Wright and seconded by Patti Fender. The meeting agreed.

10. Any Other Business.

- (a) Charlotte and Eileen had asked if members could have name labels and we have been doing this with printed labels. Maggie is going to look into having more permanent ones.
- (b) Maggie brought up the question of the National Society. We have to pay £12 each to belong to this and apart from the magazine and insurance what other benefits did we have. She questioned whether we wanted to continue to belong or whether we would like to become an independent gardening group. Maggie asked the membership if anyone felt strongly about this but there were no comments. If we left the National group we can be affiliated to the RHS for £35 which would give us free entry to their gardens 3 times a year. They will insure us for about £80. Therefore our fees would have to go up but everyone would be paying £12 less. People can still belong individually to National if they wish. It is something that we should perhaps consider.
- (c) Patti congratulated the committee and particularly Maggie for leading the group so well.

11. The AGM was closed at 12.45pm.