

Friends of Eastcote House Gardens MAG. Annual General Meeting.

Held on 6th June 2013 in the Lounge, Eastcote Methodist Church, Pamela Gardens, Eastcote. Meeting started at 8.45pm.

1. Present: Lesley Crowcroft, Joan Butfield, Frances Hawkins, Linda Furnell, Karen Spink, Cllr. Catherine Dann, Ian Murray, Rosemary Bucksey, Antony Bucksey, Cllr. David Payne, Anne Payne, Jane Neave, Cllr. Eddie Lavery, Paul Mercer, Susan Toms, Adam Wilson, Jenny Gurdon, Rob Cousins, Carolyn Morrissey, Keith Barnard, Steve Dunn, Chris Groom, Gill Hughes
2. Apologies. Jeff Duley EBL. Gerry Edwards Heather Chamberlain
3. Minutes of meeting held Thursday 14th March 2013 were approved.
4. Matters Arising. not on the Agenda
The meeting was reminded that there are again to be road works on Cuckoo Hill, this time for resurfacing.
5. **Chairman's report**
 - The Chairman started her report with a big "thank you" to everyone who had worked so hard in and for the garden. Special thanks were made to Linda Furnell for her purchase and nurturing of young plants, both for the garden and for sale; to Tony Bucksey for organising his challenging and amusing quiz sheets; to Trevor Dixon for creating and maintaining the Friends' website and to Keith Barnard for his frequent attendance in the Garden dealing with day to day issues there, in addition to his oversight of financial matters.
 - Access to the stables was granted on Friday 3rd May, just in time for the first Vintage Tea garden on the 5th. This was a very successful event, when even the sun shone! The footbridge was dedicated to Sheila Liberty, by the Mayor of Hillingdon.
 - The Friends had another successful gardening year. The Garden retained the following awards, the Green Flag, its London in Bloom Gold Award in the Park of the Year Category, and in Britain in Bloom Its Your Neighbourhood the Highest award, level 5. This year the judging for London in Bloom will take place on 17th July and volunteers will be needed on that day. The exact date for Britain in Bloom judging will be announced but it will be during the week beginning 29th July.
 - At Eastcote Horticultural Society the Friends retained the J. S. Ranger Cup with their Daffodils, The Bertram Park Rose Bowl and the Hurford Rose Bowl. And they were awarded the RHS Banksian Medal 2013 for highest points in horticulture.
 - Fund raising for the restoration has been encouraging.

- The Chairman thanked RN&E Local History Society for arranging the talk given by Les Capon of AOC Archaeology. It was a well- attended evening, and the collection taken for the restoration fund totalled £119.00.
- EHG web site. This is an excellent web site. We are indebted to Trevor for taking on this task. As soon as there is time more will be added, a tour of the gardens, plus expanding the conservation page to include more information about other parks and open spaces.

6. Treasurer's Report

The audited accounts for the year ending 30th April 2013 were presented and copies circulated to those present..

In the subsequent discussion the following points were made.

The income remained about the same as last year despite the July Vintage Tea having to be cancelled because of appalling weather and the Open House Event having to be abandoned for the same reason.

In future income from the sale of EHG calendars will be shown separately. All were sold, at a profit, but because the income from those sold at events in the Garden was banked with other monies it wrongly appears a loss was made.

Councillor Payne questioned why grants made from the Ward Budget for such items as The Jubilee Plaque and notice boards did not appear in the accounts.

The Treasurer said that his accounts only dealt with money which passed through EHG bank accounts and it was believed that the payments for items funded from the Ward Budget were made directly by LBH. Councillor Payne and KB said they would look further into this.

The accounts were accepted

7. Election of Officers and committee.

The following were elected-

- Chairman Lesley Crowcroft
- Deputy Chairman Jane Neave
- Treasurer Keith Barnard
- Secretary Jenny Gurdon
- Linda Furnell EHS show entries co-ordinator
- Rosemary Bucksey
- Steve Place Countryside Conservation
- Adele & Jerry Cloony Supporters Sec.
- Susan Toms RN&ELHS
- Chris Groom ERA
- Gerry Edwards EPE
- Joan Butfield
- Trevor Dixon Web Master
- Frances Hawkins
- Hon Auditor Steve Dunn
- LBH appointments. Cllrs. C. Dann D. Payne, Green Spaces Officer Stuart Hunt.
- Co-opted member Adam Wilson.

8. Projects:

- Heritage Lottery Fund Bid. The HLF panel visited on 24th April and stayed for 2.5 hours. They asked many questions at the time and then asked for a lot more to be answered in writing. A big thank you was given to the people who came to work in the garden. We will know the result around 28th June 2013.
- Emergency Repairs. No information on progress.
- Long Meadow Big Green Fund grant. The Countryside Conservation group is waiting to hear if they have funding for work on the Pinn.

9. Supporters of EHG have produced a new leaflet.

10. Future Events:

- History walks July 27th and August 18th These are to be different from last year's, for example that on the 27th July is to cover Eastcote and the Second World War.
- Bat walks August 21st and September 25th
- Vintage Tea Gardens 16th June, 7th July, 4th August, 22nd September, 13th October There is to be a Dog Show on 7th July.

11. AOB

- 2014 Calendar is now available. Price held £5.00.
- FEHG are to have a stall at Eastcote Cricket Club on Sunday 25th August. [Bank Holiday weekend] Fund raising ideas and volunteers needed.
- Adam Wilson volunteered to produce a book on "A year in the garden" and invited contributions. These could be articles on any aspect of the garden and could include poetry and photographs. It was suggested there was much interesting material submitted for the Heritage Lottery Fund bid, this could be made available.
- FEHG are exploring a new venture in working with Challenge Network. They will have an introduction day on August 27th at the garden and on 8th September a work day, so that they will have an idea of what we do and then they will devise their own methods to fund raise for us.
- The Chairman told of a meeting she had had talks with LBH to explore the possibility of Horticultural apprentices gaining practical experience at EHG.
- A Vote of Thanks was given to the Chairman for the enormous amount of hard work she does for the FEHG
- Concern was expressed at model cars being raced in the Gardens. Council notices have been posted saying this is illegal Anyone being aware of this happening is encouraged to report it through the duty Green Spaces Officer getting a reference number.
- The meeting closed at 9.45pm.