

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS
Management Advisory Group
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8th June 2016

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens Management Advisory Group, held on Wednesday 8th June 2016 at 11.00am at The Stables, EHG.

MINUTES

Present: Lesley Crowcroft (Chairman), Rosemary Bucksey, Antony Bucksey, Joan Butfield, Trevor Dixon, Linda Furnell, Janet Green, Jane Neave, David Payne, Nick Porter (Site manager LBH), Margaret Ray, Jackie Solomon, Susan Toms, Ron Voinquel, Christine Wallace, Andy Weller, Linda Wells

Apologies for absence: Keith Barnard, Cllr. Catherine Dann, Chris Groom, Jenny Gurdon, Sue Place, Steve Place, Karen Spink, Gerry Edwards, Heather Chamberlain, Gill Hughes, Anne Payne.

1. Matters Arising

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2016 were received with one amendment to the list of attendees: to add Anne Payne.

2. Chairman's report

Items were noted as follows:

Awards

FEHG had achieved the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, being the highest award for voluntary services.

EHG had been nominated by London borough of Hillingdon for the Green Apple Award (Built Environment and Architectural Heritage), an international award with the results due in August 2016

Project 2016

The regeneration of the Herb Beds for the Queen's 90th birthday, formally opened at the 2016 Picnic. The generosity of QuantumXpress of Northwood who printed the Herb Gardens leaflet at no cost was noted with thanks.

Excellent visitor feedback continues on the walled garden, the provision of the café and on the maintenance of the parkland setting.

The Chairman thanked Nick Porter and his parks officers for their co-operation with especial thanks to Nick for putting in extra time to assist with onerous tasks such as moving the second-hand book stock after the Picnic.

The annual Picnic 2016

A very successful event as always with a big thank you from the Chairman to all involved. The Hinman Shield went to the 6th Eastcote Scouts, presented by the mayor Cllr. John Hensley, who is happy to give FEHG full support in its future work.

Financial outcome from the Picnic:

- Overall total £2,284.77

- Final total of monies raised after expenses £2013.27
- Sale of Publications £271.50
- The Dog Show entry monies and donation raised £79.00 this was donated to the Harefield Dogs Trust.

3. Treasurer's Report Community Account

A report was received from the Treasurer showing funds as follows:

As at 30th April 2016 Balance of General Account (Bank Statement)
£5623-37.

Community Archive element stands at £19911.53
£1911-53.

Remainder of £10,000 transferred from Restoration Fund
£1020-41.

Money available to spend (General Account)
£2691-43

Restoration Fund

As at 30th April 2016 Balance stands at £14385.20 (Bank Statement)
£14385-20

4.Election of Officers & Committee

The Chairman thanked Jenny Gurdon, who was standing down as Minute Secretary, for her work with best wishes for good health in the future. It was noted that Jackie Solomon had agreed to stand in, in this rôle.

The Officers & Committee were confirmed to serve to June 2017 as follows:

Officers:

President – Dr. David Payne

Chairman – Lesley Crowcroft

Deputy Chairman – Linda Furnell

Treasurer – Keith Barnard

Minute Secretary = Jackie Solomon

Management Advisory Group Committee:

Supporters' Secretary – vacant post

Gerry Edwards (Eastcote Park Estate)

Chris Groom (President, Eastcote Residents' Association)

Steve Place & Sue Place (Countryside Conservation)

Susan Toms (Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society)

Trevor Dixon (Web Master)

Steve Dunn (Hon. Auditor)

Andy Weller (Researcher and Archivist)

Rosemary Bucksey; Joan Butfield; Gill Hughes; Jane Neave;

LBH appointments:- Cllrs. C. Dann, Becky Haggart & Nick Denys; Nick Porter (Green Spaces Officer)

5. Date Next Meeting:

June 2017 – to be confirmed

The meeting closed at: 11.15am

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Management Advisory Group
Quarterly GENERAL MEETING
8th June 2016

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MINUTES

Present: Lesley Crowcroft (Chairman), Rosemary Bucksey, Antony Bucksey, Joan Butfield, Trevor Dixon, Linda Furnell, Janet Green, Jane Neave, David Payne, Nick Porter(Site manager, LBH), Margaret Ray, Jackie Solomon, Susan Toms, Ron Voinquel, Christine Wallace, Andy Weller, Linda Wells

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1. Minutes

Taken with minutes of the AGM 8th June 2016.

2. Progress Reports

.1 Countryside Conservation – Report by Steve Place read by the Chairman.

- Frogs spawned in both backwaters.
- Great spotted woodpeckers nesting in the veteran ash tree near the small backwater, which shows how valuable such old trees are for wildlife.
- Brimstone butterflies have laid eggs on the alder buckthorn, which we planted in the meadow 2 years ago, demonstrating that by providing the caterpillar food plant the butterflies will find it and use it for breeding. Hopefully this will boost the local population.
- Robins nested in the gardeners' compound to the side of the tools container. (I could make a proper nest box fixed to the wall for them for future years).

.2 Web Site

The Web Master reported that the site was receiving 50–60 visits per day, rising to c. 150 in the run up to events like the Picnic. There were also enquiries about booking the Stables, about the café etc. Links with other local societies would be maintained. The Chairman reported that comment on the site was very complimentary and thanked Trevor for his work in maintaining the site

.3 Publications and Community Archive – Archivist's reports

Publications portfolio

Eastcote House and Gardens (price:£10.00)

Published in May 2015, sponsorship of £1,150 reduced breakeven to 14 copies.

Sales to date: 196 copies

Secret Eastcote (price:£10.00)

Published October 2015, some sponsorship reduced breakeven to 72 copies.

Sales to date: 211; reprint to be considered.

The Blackhorse Story: Eastcote's Oldest Pub (price:£5.00)

Published January 2016, breakeven: 123 copies

Sales to date: 128

Haydon Hall's Forgotten History (price:£5.00)

Published May 2016; breakeven: 170 copies

Sales to date: 40 copies

Eastcote Connections

Forthcoming, Autumn 2016. Strong possibility of sponsorship.

Content: Notable Eastcote residents from the 1600s to date.

Eastcote House: a short history

The Chairman commented that a reprint would be necessary shortly. The cafe had reported that stock was nearly sold out. Sales(at £2.00 per copy) covered the costs and this booklet was ideal for giving out to eg. schools.

Community Archive

A commitment to this project was part of the bid for Lottery funding and the community archive is now established with a physical presence in The Stables, office furnished free courtesy of streetlife.com. There is Internet presence on the FEHG web site for the catalogue and contact details.

Much support has been forthcoming from Local Studies and Archives teams in Uxbridge from assisting with research to providing best practice guidance in cataloguing and record keeping.

Networking: Links with the new LBH museum at RAF Uxbridge were sought,, local history societies, and membership of the Community Archive Heritage Group.

The intention is that the archive is inclusive and we hope it will grow with photographs and records from local Eastcote people.

The Chairman congratulated Andy on his productive work as an author and researcher.

Archaeology

Comments from the meeting were noted as follows:

Efforts would continue to reclaim artefacts from EHG digs, some of which were lodged with the Museum of London, so that they could be displayed, e.g. in the Dovecote, and even handled in educational visits to EHG. A report pulling together information from the AOC digs and presented in a readable and accessible format was a desired outcome.

3. Projects

.1 Renewal of Herb Beds for the Queen's 90th Birthday 2016. Timely implementation of this project noted at the AGM.

.2 Future projects

- Planting of a native and wildlife Hedge along the Pamela Gardens boundary, screening the present jumble of assorted back garden

fences. It is anticipated that when established the hedge would be maintained by the Parks officers.

- Improvements to the boundaries on Eastcote High Road:- clearing laurel, assessing remaining planting and new planting to provide colour and interest.
- Wild flower meadow. It was noted that the archaeologists wanted to dig this area so the plan was to move some plants to Long Meadow with re-planting along prairie planting lines. A piece of restored old agricultural machinery (e.g. a plough) from Park Farm in Harefield was planned as a centrepiece.

4. EHG Groups

.1 Supporters of EHG

There was a vacancy for a secretary to assist the Chairman in running this group

.2 Reading group

Jenny Gurdon continues to liaise with the LBH libraries to provide books for the group. Meeting on a monthly basis with Group members hosting, the Reading Group nomads continued to enjoy good reads and excellent cakes.

.3 Craft Group

This new group, under the leadership of Rosemary Bucksey, started in February and meets weekly on a Tuesday in the gardeners' cabin. The group has already produced a banner for use by FEHG at events and talks with a 'patchwork project' lined up for August. While the group includes some expert knitters and needle crafters this is a highly informal group, new members welcome – experience not necessary.

.4 Eastcote Horticultural Society

Linda Furnell reported on FEHG's continuing success this year at the EHS Spring Show. Members were reminded that the Summer Show would be on 18th June. Helpers to pick blooms on Friday 17th for FEHG's entry were asked to come forward, also for staging and arranging on the morning of the 18th.

5. Fund raising Projects

Events

.1 Picnic

Report minuted at AGM of 8th June 2016.

.2 List of recent and future events given below for the record:

- Story Telling. February. Attendance was low but this was enjoyed by those who attended
- Bat Walk April. Very wet weather, not many attendees and no bats
- Ruislip Woods Festival. May There was a reasonable amount of interest in the FEHG stand
- Shakespeare's Greatest Hits. May. Was sold out. A great success, The trio In Voice and verse will be back in December [see below]
- Tree Walk May this was greatly over subscribed
- Picnic see AGM minutes for report
- Archaeology starts Saturday 25th June until Sunday July 10th
- There will not now be a Bat Walk in August

- September 3rd Presentation of the QAVS to FEHG
- September 10th EHS Autumn Show
- September 18th Open House weekend
- October 29th FEHG Quiz evening
- November 26th Tree Dressing
- December 7th In Voice & Verse with a Seasonal entertainment

.3 Euro 2016 Football Competition

Tony Bucksey, organiser, introduced this football sweepstake and organised the draw.

6. Date of next meeting

to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 12.00pm