

Friends of Eastcote House Gardens MAG.AGM delayed from June 2015

Wednesday 13th January 2016, The Stables, EHG

Meeting opened at 11.35am

1. **Apologies** :- Chris Groom, Irene Groom, Liz Gambier, Christine Lake, Rob Cousins, Rosemary Bucksey, Linda Wells, Marilyn Jones, Cllr. Becky Haggart, Cllr. Nick Dennis.
2. **Present** :- Andy Weller, Antony Bucksey, Ron Voinquel, Heather Chamberlain, Linda Furnell, Jane Neave, Jackie Solomon, Susan Toms, Karen Spink, Cllr. Catherine Dann, Marg Bacon, Trevor Dixon, Dennis Cave, Jon Marx, Margaret Ray, Jenny Gurdon, Philip Coombes, Gerry Edwards, Gill Hughes, Christine Wallace, Paul Lake, Joan Butfield, Keith Barnard, Lesley Crowcroft, David Payne. Steve Place, Sue Place, Nick Porter Site manager [LBH]

3. The Chairman's Report The Chairman apologised for the delay in holding this meeting owing to the lack of a suitable venue.

She thanked Francis Hawkins, a founder member of the group for her time spent with FEHG and for her support in many areas during the last 7 years.

4. Treasurer's Report – to end of Financial Year April 2015

The Income and Expenditure Report was circulated The Treasurer made the following points. That the low income and large expenditure for the Calendars was because very few had been sold by the end of the financial year. Subsequently all were sold and a small profit made.

Similarly, the target for the Restoration Fund has now been met but it had not been achieved by April 2015.

He also stressed that the Community Archive was a completely separate fund.

The accounts were agreed

5. Election of Committee.

Current Committee. at May 2015

President - Dr. David Payne

Chairman - Lesley Crowcroft

Deputy Chairman - Linda Furnell

Treasurer - Keith Barnard

Secretary - Jenny Gurdon

Other Members of the Management Advisory Group:

Supporters' Secretary - Gill Hughes

Steve Place & Sue Place (Countryside Conservation)

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

Chris Groom (President, Eastcote Residents' Association)

Gerry Edwards (Eastcote Park Estate)

Rosemary Bucksey

Joan Butfield

Frances Hawkins

Jane Neave

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

Web Master - Trevor Dixon
Hon Auditor - Steve Dunn

The changes to the above are as follows:-

Frances Hawkins has stood down

Gill Hughes is no longer Supporters' Secretary but wishes to remain a committee member.

Nick Porter, Site Manager is now the Green Spaces Officer.

Andy Weller to become Researcher and Archivist [New Post]

The new committee was approved to serve from June 2015 to May 2016

FEHG MAG OGM

Wednesday 13th January 2016 at The Stables EHG

1 Apologies – same as AGM

2 Present – same as AGM

3 Minutes of meeting held Thursday 11th December 2014 were approved

4 Matters Arising. Not on the Agenda

London In Bloom Awards 2015. Eastcote House Gardens retained a Gold Award. Long Meadow retained Silver Gilt. FEHG retained Level 5 Outstanding for It's Your Neighbourhood. These achievements are all the more remarkable as the judges visited EHG just one month after the builders had left.

LBH will decide if the garden will be entered for London in Bloom this year. There is a Walled Garden category where it might be entered.

London in Bloom has asked if FEHG can attend a fund raising event at City hall in June to showcase our work.as we are well supported and financially successful

Tony Bucksey's quizzes at Christmas 2014, Easter 2015, & Christmas 2015 were all very successful and thanks were given to Tony.

5 Chairman's report. The Chairman thanked everyone for the strong support given to FEHG through varied activities during the last 7 ½ years and especially during the past year, which at times was very trying She welcomed Nick Porter as site manager, and looked forward to the continued co-operation between Nick and FEHG to make EHG the best park in Hillingdon.

The purpose of FEHG was also reiterated, to continue to improve the Gardens, Long Meadow and the parkland, also to encourage community involvement through the HLF Activity Plan.

Christine & Paul Lake are giving their expertise to the Education Programme.

Many visitors and supporters have made donations, both plants and cash, towards the replanting in the walled garden.

The Gardens Café is a great success and Alex Perrin is very supportive of FEHG.

The Chief Executive Officer of LBH, Fran Beasley has agreed to pay another visit to the Garden. FEHG were nominated for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The representative Deputy Lieutenant Mr. Bruce Houlder QC, visited earlier this year. He was impressed and would give us a good report, we now await the panels decision. The outcome for this will be known in May 2016.

6 Treasurers Report. From 1st May 2015 to date

The audited income and expenditure account for the year ending April 2015 was available and the Treasurer gave the following information about the developments since then.

Archive Funding This is self-financing and it now stands at £2375 with more books to sell.

The Restoration Fund. The £25,000 for the matched funding for HLF was successfully raised and it has started to be spent. This expenditure has to be made under designated headings with HLF approval and is made through the LBH. Money has been spent on tools, shelving in the gardeners' cabin, the compost bins and other small items e.g. waste bin.

In The Stables the chairs and tables and the speaker system were paid for from this fund. Public Wi Fi in the stables is also to be supplied. (The café is also to have Wi Fi but not from the Friends' Budget.)

£14382 remains in the Restoration Fund which must be used by June 2018. This deadline is being watched carefully.

The General Fund stands at £4385:59.

7 Garden Projects

The Renewal of the Herb beds for the Queen's 90th Birthday in 2016. These were first installed in 1977 for the Queen's Silver Jubilee and are currently being redesigned with a separate theme for each bed. An explanatory booklet will also be produced.

- Work on the boundaries of the Park will be undertaken under the direction of Nick Porter with the help of Park Officers

8 Supporters of EHG Income for the year so far £255.00. This includes 5 new supporters. A volunteer is required to run this.

9 EHG Book Reading group

This is entering its 4th year with its membership having increased. They are indebted to the staff at Eastcote Library for the help in supplying copies of books they discuss.

10 Web site update. A great deal of information is posted onto the web site and members are urged to look at it. Trevor Dixon reported that it received 20 to 30 hits a day on average and during a wet weekend this number could more than double. Many complimentary comments were left and there are many inquiries about hiring the Stables. We learnt that the Council now has a dedicated email address for the Stables.

11 Community Archive and Publications

Andy Weller reported that once the Wi Fi was installed records could be kept electronically

His third book on Eastcote People from the past to the present day is on its way. He is also investigating the possibility of bringing back some old books on Eastcote but is aware that there are copyright issues in doing so. Archaeological Finds made during the organised digs remain with the company who ran the excavations but FEHG will request to have them back for future displays.

12 Fund raising Projects.

Events – **The 2015 Picnic** was a great success even though parts of the restoration work had still not been finished. We became a victim of our own success .and the numbers attending were very high. At this year's Picnic on June 4th 2016, to be cope with the numbers of people and vehicles, we are omitting the Classic Car Rally. It is hoped they will be there at. Open House

Hillingdon Events Team will also help with the Picnic, by providing First Aid cover, Toilets and their paid Stewards who have been trained in emergency procedures. Joan Butfield will write to stallholders informing them of the date and the Events Team will then advise them what the requirements are.

2016 Calendars were sold out by the beginning of September 2015. Terry Butfield has offered to produce the 2017 calendar. Last year we cut the number to 100, we need to decide how many to produce this year, suggested 150 copies. They will be sold through the Café as well.

In the past we produced a postcard with views of EHG. This now needs to be updated with pictures of the restored buildings. A request was made for somebody to help with this.

Sale of Logs has raised £110 so far this season.

Sale of Second Hand Books. Reasonable sales overall.

Sale of Plants has continued

Talks 4 booked so far for 2016 one for 2017

Quizzes As reported they continue to be a great success.

13 Countryside Conservation

Thanks were given to Steve and Sue Place for running this and updating the website. Steve reported 2 new developments in wild life coming into the area as new habitat had been provided; namely increased water life and brimstone butterflies.

Steve was also thanked for his work as “Quarter Master”, keeping the gardeners’ cabin and tools in good order.

Thanks were also extended to many other individuals who carried out a variety of tasks which supported the work of FEHG.

14 EHS Shows Show dates for 2016 are March 21st, June 13th, September 12th. In March last year FEHG won 2 cups. Anyone is welcome to help with the entries and we were urged to attend the shows.

15 Craft group This is a new group with its first meeting on 2nd February. All are welcome, whatever your craft or level of experience.

16 Future Events

February 6th National Story Telling Week ends with an event in the Stables starting at 2pm.4 to 104, seating limited so booking essential. The Mayor & Mayoress of Hillingdon will be attending.

Contact Lesley.crowcroft@gmail.com

volunteers are needed to help with refreshments.

March 12th Eastcote Horticultural Spring Show FEHG to enter

March date and time to be confirmed. Plant and S/H book sale in the Gardener's Yard

April Bat walk time and date to be confirmed

May 8th Ruislip Woods Festival. We shall be taking part again.

Volunteers needed.

May 20th at 1.30pm 'In Voice and Verse'. a celebration of the Bard's 400th Anniversary year with a special concert at EHG. A maximum audience of 50.

Again volunteers are needed to help with the refreshments.

May 21st. A tree walk around the gardens as part of the Tree Council's 'Walk in the Woods' month

June 4th Summer Picnic

June 18th EHS Summer Show

August Bat Walk, date and time to be confirmed

September 10th EHS Autumn Show

September 18th Open House Weekend

November 26th Tree Dressing

17 AOB

- FEHG have been invited to take part in the Ruislip Woods Festival Sunday May 8th again this year. This gives us the chance to raise the profile of EHG to a wider audience.

The meeting closed at 12.25