

Friends of Eastcote House Gardens.

Quarterly General Meeting. Thursday 14th March 2013.

Kings College Pavilion Ruislip.

Meeting Opened. 8.50pm.

1. **Apologies.** Cllr. Catherine Dann, Cllr. David Payne, Cllr. Eddie Lavery, Jess Lee, Keith Barnard, Carolyn Morrissey, Nick Woodley, David Bennington, Jenny Gurdon, Adele Clooney, Ian Murray, Marg Bacon.
2. **Present.** Lesley Crowcroft, Joan Butfield, Rob Cousins, Jane Neave, Rosemary Bucksey, Linda Furnell, Heather Chamberlain, Karen Spink, Chris Groom, Susan Toms, Steve Place, Gerry Edwards, Gill Hughes.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held 6th December 2012**, were accepted without alteration.
4. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda.**
 - The bulbs from the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association have all been planted. Snowdrops and Fritillary in Long Meadow, and the small copse in EHG. The rest in the Walled Garden and the Field End Road entrance.
 - The moving of the container, works on Stables to make them usable for present use and the Jubilee gate repairs were dealt with during the EVCAAP meeting.
5. **Chairman's report.**
 - The Eastcote Billiards and Snooker Club are now resident at Haydon Hall.
 - The container stranded near the car park should be moved soon.
 - The Ground's Maintenance Team [formerly Enterprise] are now working from Harefield. Bryan Bilbie is still Area manager so as far as EHG is concerned work will carry on as before. The only difference being, we can stipulate when the grass is cut, not have to have a regular cut whether we need it or not.
 - Waitrose Ruislip, had some trees from the Woodland Trust spare, and we have about 90 of them. They are heeled into the allotment. Some will go into Long Meadow, hawthorn and rowan. The hazel and dogwood will go into the boundary planting near Pamela Gardens.

6. Treasurer's report. In the absence of the Treasurer the report was read by the Chairman, Lesley Crowcroft **who proposed the following motions. :- 1]** That an extra signature be added to the Friend of Eastcote House Gardens accounts. Thereby having three signatories with any two being able to sign cheques . Mandate to be submitted to HSBC. Nominated Linda Furnell, by Lesley Crowcroft, Seconded Chris Groom, motion carried by a show of hands. **2]** That Jenny Gurdon, Minute Secretary be authorized to sign documents including the HSBC mandate [above] on behalf of the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens. Nominated by Lesley Crowcroft, Seconded

Susan Toms, motion carried by show of hands. **Treasurer's report.** Expenditure during the last quarter has covered purchase of refreshments, wild flower seed for the flower meadow in Long Meadow and key cutting amounting to £201.12 Income for the same period was £146.05 derived from sale of postcards/history booklets, cheques for advertising a stall hire for the Vintage Tea Gardens. Also, a donation of £100 was received from Northwood Hills Residents' Association. The balance of the General Account currently stands at £2,755.73. **Restoration Fund** Payments to the Restoration Fund during the last quarter have amounted to £236.06 being Vintage Tea payment for December, Tree dressing, Christmas Quiz, Supporters and donations. The balance of the Restoration Fund currently stands at £8,578.67.

7. Projects.

- Heritage Lottery Fund Bid. This was delivered to the HLF offices on 28th February. Result should be known in June. A full survey of the stables has been carried out. It would appear that the front wall rebuilt in the 1930s, needs to be taken down and rebuilt.
- Emergency Repairs The work on the garden walls was not up to standard. This means we have to have workmen back again during the summer to make good the areas where the mortar is falling out of the walls. They will also be made to return to seal the gutters on the Dovecote where they are leaking.
- Chrysalis bid for gardeners' safe store The Store has been combined with a project to brace, straighten and raise the heights of the south and east walls. Funding has been granted from the LBH Chrysalis Fund and the Hillingdon Improvement Plan fund. This means that if we are not successful with the HLF bid this part of the work can go ahead. We have to thank the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Ray Puddifoot MBE for the support given to secure this funding.

8. Supporter's of EHG

There are currently 27 Supporters

9. Future Events

- The FEHG will be entering the Eastcote Horticultural Shows, 16th March, 15th June and 7th September.
- Vintage Tea Gardens will be held on. 5th May, 16th June, 7th July, 4th August, 22nd September and 13th October.
- History Walks Saturday July 27th and Sunday August 18th.
- Bat walks. 21st August and 25th September.
- Gardening Sessions. 1st Friday, 2nd Saturday and 3rd Thursday of each month.
- Countryside Conservation 4th Thursday of each month.
- Community Volunteer Day Saturday March 23rd.

10. AOB

- It was proposed that the FEHG should become an affiliated member of the Royal Horticultural Soc., cost £33. This was unanimously agreed.
- Long Meadow/Colne Catchment has now been transferred to the FEHG jurisdiction.

Long Meadow/Colne Catchment.

With the introduction of the Water Framework Directive, all rivers and river corridors within the EU should be raised to a good standard of water quality and have improved biodiversity. The Colne Catchment is set up to deal with all waterways within the Colne Valley. The River Pinn is one of these rivers. This means that there will be funding available for improvements to the Pinn.

To comply with conditions set down by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Long Meadow and that part of the river corridor has been 'given' into the stewardship of the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens.

The FEHG have formed a Countryside Conservation group, meeting monthly, and led by Steve Place.

SP gave the meeting details of the work involved. Including, scrub clearance, surveying of trees, flowers and grasses. Regular butterfly and bumblebee counts will take place during the summer.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm