

Friends of Eastcote House Gardens MAG Quarterly General Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 3rd September 2013 in the Lounge, Methodist Church, Pamela Gardens at 8.50.pm

Present. Lesley Crowcroft, Linda Furnell, Joan Butfield, Cllr. Catherine Dann, Adrian Batten LBH, Karen Spink, Rob Cousins, Jane Neave, Zoe Drewitt Gazette, Rosemary Bucksey, Susan Toms, Heather Chamberlain, Keith Barnard, Ian Murray, Chris Groom, Cllr. David Payne, Cyril Haggar, Becky Haggar

Apologies:- David Bennington, Gill Hughes, Marg Bacon, Gerry Edwards, Nick Woodley, Carolyn Morrissey, Jenny Gurdon, Steve Place, Sue Place, Jess Lee

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 6th June 2013 were approved without change.

Matters Arising not on the Agenda

- LC thanked ZH and the Gazette for promoting us.
- Notices have been placed at EHG stating that the use of petrol driven toys is not allowed. No further complaints have been received. There is a video on You Tube made by these 'boys' entitled 'EHG Bashing'.
- It was decided not to attend the Eastcote Cricket Club on 25th August
- Challenge Network had their introductory visit on 27th August. Day visit 8th September when there will be a book sale in the afternoon.
- The two History walks were very successful thanks to Susan Toms for all the interesting information she produced for the walks. Having use of the stables has made life so much easier.
- The first bat walk has taken place again very successful. The stables were in use again. Thanks go to Dragana Knezevic LBH Countryside Conservation Officer. Next bat walk 25th September.
- The gardens were judged three times during late July and early August. 1st London in Bloom, 2nd It's your Neighbourhood and Park of the Year, 3rd Britain in Bloom. Results will be known late September and early October.

Chairman's report, Lesley Crowcroft

- It is just over 5 years since the Friends' of EHG were formed. During that time we have gone from strength to strength. A run down scruffy park has now regained its rightful place as the jewel in the crown of Hillingdon.
- The biggest celebration is the Heritage Lottery Funding. Other funding has been obtained from the Mayor of London's Big Green Fund for improvements to the River Pinn and Long Meadow - £20,000. £1,200 from the Big Lottery for gazebos and tables and chairs. ERA are supporting the Restoration Appeal to the sum of £1,000. to be paid in 2 instalments. The first after the LBH cabinet has given permission to start, and the second when work starts in 2014. From the Waitrose collection June 2013 we have received £308.00
- Fund raising has been very successful so far this year including a very generous private donation of £1,000.
- Sadly we have had an outbreak of mindless criminal damage. There were many complaints to the Police and action was taken. Matters are quiet at present.
- We should all congratulate ourselves.

Treasurer's Report, Keith Barnard

- KB informed the meeting that he had clarified with Cllr D. Payne the query made at the last meeting regarding the ward budget. Cllr. Payne agreed he was satisfied with the information given.
- KB said a number of gardening tools have been purchased from the Sustainability Grant and the Ward Budget.
- Total in the general account is £3,500.22. This is made up of several ring fenced amounts, Sustainability Grant, Ward Budget, Northwood Hills RA donation for Long Meadow. Recent income from Challenge Network and Waitrose.
- Restoration Fund £11,700 approx. in the bank. This total does not include the promised donation from ERA.

Projects

- Heritage Lottery Fund Bid – there will be a tremendous amount of work to do. The Executive Committee will be taking on certain tasks – these will be discussed. The Activity Plan is large and will take some effort to complete. There will be updates on the EHG website – thanks to Trevor – where we have a dedicated page for the project. The time line at present is as follows, but likely to change. After Permission to Start is granted, there will be several months of ‘paperwork’ including gaining planning permission and Listed Building Consent. The applications for Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent are now available on the LBH web site, information with links have been added to the EHG web site.
- There will be a ‘farewell’ picnic on June 7th 2014 and an archaeological dig for three weeks end of June beginning of July 2014. It is unlikely that we will be able to run other events, as from August the place will be a builders’ yard.
- We hope to be up and running with a full diary of events in 2015.
- Emergency repairs – it was suggested by the Chairman that any patching up of emergency repairs be incorporated into the main works next year. Linda and I cannot cope with builders three years running.
- Long Meadow (added to agenda) – Long Meadow has now been officially recognised by LBH as part of the EHG site, and to be looked after by the FEHG. Steve and Sue Place are on holiday, but Steve has done a fantastic job this year organising the butterfly count and other monitoring work in Long Meadow. SP will circulate a full report later in the year. More details of the river works will be available later. Watch our web site.

Supporters of EHG Acting Hon Sec Jenny Gurdon

- In JG’s absence LC read her report. By the end of August 2013 there were 24 supporters who had renewed their membership for 2013 and we have also gained 5 new members. From their subscriptions and donations they have given £255. since May this year.
- The newsletter was delayed until August as we were waiting for permission to release the news of our successful HL bid. On this occasion they were also sent to people who had been supporters in the past in order to share the good news with those who had helped us previously and also in the hope that they might renew their membership.
- Our thanks are due to Adele Clooney for all her work in administering the Supporters Group from when they were first set up until July this year.

Future Events

- Saturday 7th is the EHS Autumn Show at the Oak Hall Eastcote Community Centre, Southbourne Gardens.
- Sunday 8th – Challenge Network Volunteer Day
- Saturday 21st – LBH Horticultural show at the Middlesex Suite Civic centre Uxbridge

- Sunday 22nd Vintage Tea Garden which will include London Open House weekend
- October 13th – the last Vintage Tea of the season
- November 30th – Tree Dressing
- Gardening and Countryside Conservation groups meet as usual

Any Other Business

- LC thanked the North West London Geocachers voluntary workers who helped when the garden had been vandalised.
 - Jenny Amour, a Hawtrey descendant from Australia, visited EHG on Thursday 22nd August. Jane Hammond and Faith Cartledge also came – both Hawtrey descendants.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.