

Friends of Eastcote House Gardens MAG.

Minutes of the Quarterly General Meeting held on Thursday 11th September 2014.

Meeting opened at 8.30pm

Apologies.

Joan Butfield, David Payne, Anne Payne, Cllr. Catherine Dann, Cllr. Becky Haggart, Cllr. Nick Denys, Steve Place, Sue Place, Liz Gambier, Jane Neave, David Bennington, Gill Hughes, Ian Murray, Francis Hawkins, Marg Bacon, Adrian batten LBH, Gerry Edwards.

Present.

Lesley Crowcroft, Linda Furnell, Keith Barnard, Rob Cousins, Chris Groom, Rosemary Bucksey, Linda Wells, Heather Chamberlain, Jenny Gurdon, Susan Toms, Ed Fuller.

1 Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 11th June 2014 [sent via email 29.6.14.] were approved.

2 Matters Arising. Not on the Agenda

- At the awards for London in Bloom made at the Kia Oval Monday 8th September. EHG received Park of the Year Gold Award and was named category winner. Long Meadow, making a separate entry for the first time, in the Conservation Area of the Year gained a silver gilt award and was also named as category winner Britain in Bloom Awards ceremony will take place on October 16th in Bristol At the Eastcote Horticulture Society Autumn Show on 6th September every one of FEHG's entries gained an award, 7 firsts, 2 seconds and 2 thirds as well as a silver medal. Thanks and congratulations were given to Linda Furnell, Rosemary Bucksey, Sue Place and Jane Neave who organised the Friends' entries.
- Archaeology 2014. This was very successful, with 500 young people from 8 schools, uniformed groups and the Challenge network taking part, plus many members of the community. The most exciting find was part of the foundations of Hopkyttes. These will be explored further next year. The land however has not been left in a very good state; the site is very uneven and FEHG had to spend a morning picking up rubble. The levels will now be filled with spoil from the building work, and then covered with top soil. Next year this must be organized in advance and the land not left in this poor condition.
- The fruit trees for the walled garden have been ordered, peach, nectarine, Morello cherry and pear. Bulbs have now been received.
- The World Cup Competition raised £167.00 for the restoration fund. Many thanks to Tony Bucksey for organizing this.

3 Chairman's report.

The Chairman opened her remarks by thanking all the Friends for their hard work and support. She was also pleased to inform the meeting that at that morning's meeting of the Steering Group she learnt that provision for security for the site, including the Dovecote was now back in the plans.

4 Treasurers Report

Keith Barnard reported that the General Account contains £3652:80 including an anonymous donation of £2000. Expenditure in the last quarter was £535 for recording equipment and bulbs. There is £34:59 in petty cash.

Restoration Fund stands at £19739:60 and includes the second stage payment of £500 from ERA.

The consensus of the meeting was that FEHG should control where the money which they raised as their contribution to the project will be spent. i.e. on specific things

5 Projects:-

Restoration time frame now has a finishing date of 8th April 2015.

Activity Plan. The Chairman has been contacted by the Challenge Network to see if we can take regular volunteers. This is not possible at present but after the works have finished the idea can be explored further.

6 Supporters of EHG

- Newsletter and reminder for subscriptions have just been circulated.

7 EHG Book Reading group continues to meet regularly.

8 Web site continues to receive about 80-100 hits a day.

9 Fund raising Projects.

- Events All events have been suspended until after the builders have finished
- Calendars 2015 calendar not produced.
- Sale of Logs Advertised again for this year

10 Countryside Conservation

Money is available from the Mayor's Fund for wetland plants and for improvements to the footpath and vehicle entrance to Long Meadow which become impassable in wet weather.

Waterboatmen and dragonflies have already been seen in the newly dug backwaters

11 Future Events

FEHG will hold the following events in 2015 if the work has finished:-

- Arts week and tree walk last week of May 2015
- Picnic 1st weekend of June 2015 [6th]
- Archaeology June/July
- Bat walks as arranged
- London Open House Weekend September
- October History Month to include History Walk and School Bulb Planting
- November Tree Dressing
- Discussions on the possibility of holding a Quiz night are in progress.

12 AOB

- Lloyd's Community Fund. Members were urged to vote for FEHG and send the information to their contacts asking them to vote as well, and if possible pass on the request to others so that we might win a grant from this fund.

Meeting closed at 9.05.