



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**At Herne Farm Leisure Centre, Petersfield**

1. Apologies: Shawn Miles, Melanie Hughes, Heather Madow, Jill Preston, Jane Makin, Diana Wells, Sarah Foster, Barbara Gower, Hilary Mee, Rachel Nelson, Eric Skipper, Diana Beer, Gordon Beer, Nicki Leheri, and Jeanne Wiseman.
2. Chairman Colin welcomed 54 attendees to the meeting and introduced, for the benefit of new members, each of the Committee members, noting their responsibilities within the Club.
3. Minutes: The Minutes of the AGM held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022, which had been circulated were reviewed and there were no matters arising it was proposed by Malcolm Hunt and seconded by Chris Bird that they be signed by the Chairman.
4. Chairman's Report: Colin stated that the Club year had been very successful with regard to Speakers, Day visits, Day visits by car and public transport, and a lovely holiday in Chester. Regular committee meetings had been useful for discussing the way forward for the Club. Committee members taking full responsibility for their individual positions and reporting for discussion at a meeting. The Chairman noted that this was his last meeting as Chairman and that he was standing down after this meeting. In addition the Secretary was standing down after the meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report: The Income and expenditure report and balance sheet as at 31st August 2023 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Treasurer reported there had been a loss of £600 over the year which had occurred mainly from a substantial increase in the cost of Speakers, and general increase in expenses. To celebrate the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday a special upmarket speaker, Rosie Hardy was paid £300. The Club was still in a very healthy position with regards to funds of £6,236.00 in the bank. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Terry Connor and seconded by Chris Bird.

Alan stated that he would be standing down from Treasurer at the end of August 2024.

6. Election of the Examiner of the Account

Christine Stephens had agreed to examine the accounts for the coming year and it was agreed that she be appointed.

7. Club Holiday in Cheshire 2023: Angela reported on the Club Holiday in Cheshire in June attended by 32 members and friends, staying in the spacious Best Western in Chester. Our first visit on day one was to RHS Garden Bridgewater which opened two years ago. Wonderful water features, with a Chinese Streamside Garden by the lake. This was followed by beautiful flower borders at Arley Hall Gardens. The next day was somewhat different at Anderton Boat Lift where we boarded a boat and descended down to the river River Weaver for a cruise. This was followed by a visit to Tatton Park. We certainly had a varied programme heading into Wales the next day where a guided tour was taken into the walled garden at Erdigg arriving back at Chester in time to explore the canal, river and Cathedral.

Our journey home included a visit to Packwood House, again in wonderful sunshine.

Angela stated that the 2024 holiday would be in Warwickshire staying in Stratford and plans were in place for a quotation from Angela Holidays for a holiday in the Midlands, staying in Grantham in 2025.

Angela was thanked for all the hard work in arranging such a successful holiday.

8. Day Visits: Carol reported on the visits made in 2023 to Cranborne and Edmondsham in May which had been very successful and to Wisley for the Flower Show in September on the reported hottest day of the year to date. The next visit would be to Nymans in April 2024. Names would be collected from January 2024 onwards.

Gordon made mention of the successful visit by public transport to West Dean and the forthcoming visit to Petworth by car and public transport in December.

9. Speakers: Malcolm our Speaker Secretary gave details of the very interesting speakers over the year. We learnt how to successfully grow Sweet Peas and deal with pest control, not to mention how to plant bulbs, growing Hostas, perennials and a very successful Gardeners' Question Time. Malcolm also stated that the programme for 2024-25 was under way.

Malcolm is leaving the area and was thanked for his exceptional contribution, both as Publicity Officer and Speaker Secretary and he was presented with a bottle from members and the Committee as thanks for all his hard work for the Club.

10. Membership Secretary: Sonia reported that there were currently 102 members in the club and a welcome was given to recent new members. There were 19 new

members 8 members had not renewed, 6 had moved/died. Sonia would be retiring at the end of August 2024. Her replacement Melanie Hughes was already helping Sonia with details with a view to taking over at the 2024 AGM.

11. Election of 2024/25 Committee: Two current members had agreed to take over the positions of Chairman and Secretary. Being no other nominations Rosie Gaskell-Taylor would take over as Chairman and Jane Bissex as Secretary. Rosie would also work with the Speaker Secretary for the present time. Colin thanked them for joining the Committee and offered very best wishes for their future.

Denise Pattison had agreed to work with Publicity matters.

12. Any other Business: Presentations were made to Colin and Anne for all their help to the Club.

The next meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> December would be a Social Drink and Nibbles and a demonstration of Christmas Flowers which would be raffled towards the end of the meeting.

The AGM meeting closed at 8.20 p.m. followed by drinks and nibbles.