

**FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP - COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 24th July 2025 AT 11.00AM - VOLUNTEERS CABIN**

The meeting commenced at 10.50am.

PRESENT

Chris Groom, Tony Swan, Sue Smales, Keith Barnard, Malcolm Penny, Jo Oliver, Susan Toms, Sue Place, Denise Reed.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Catherine Dann, Joan Butfield, Paul Lake, Christine Lake

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2025 were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Account including Archive, Publications, Craft Group. £13,446-10

Reserve Funds/Savings £5,193.47

The General Account now includes all the elements of our activities ie. Archives and Publications, Craft Group, General running costs, Insurance etc.

The last Saturday sales event made £113-60.

Doris's Memorial Fund has now received a number of donations. It will be ringfenced until we decide on a suitable item.

2025 EVENTS - DATES/LEADERS

SUMMER PICNIC - 7th June 2025. CG

Event cancelled due to inclement weather forecast. Mini event held which proved to be financially successful.

HERITAGE DAY AND CLASSIC CAR SHOW- 14th SEPTEMBER 2025 JB/ST/KB

All plans in place. Cars must arrive by 10.45 and not leave before 15.00.

Robert Cooper will provide 3 banners plus boards to advertise the event.

They have also provided 20 copies of our poster.

Sally and Dave Peters hope to attend-will need a gazebo plus table.

Neighbourhood Watch will come but self sufficient-will bring own table.

We all met with Gemma -fund raiser for Centre for ADHD & Autism Support a local charity based in Eastcote and agreed they will be the other charity we support from the proceeds of the registration fees paid by Classic Car participants. Proceeds to be shared with Hillingdon Brain Tumour Trust. Both charities will attend on the day to help with collecting the registration fees and they will stay to publicise their work and raise more money. Centre for ADHD & Autism Support will need a gazebo and table. We will also need a gazebo for Dog Show Registration.

Total of 9 gazebos needed so far.

Promotion of event. ST to put up posters and send poster file to MP/CG/PL for their action. Website and social media to promote the Dog Show as new at event. **ACTION:- ST/MP/CG/PL**

TREE DRESSING - 29th November 2025 PL/CL

CG has booked stables and Keith has booked the Mayor. Schools to be contacted in September.

FOREST SCHOOLS - 1st April 2025 - CL

Forest Schools - we have been contacted by a local primary school who have asked if their gardening club can visit EHG on a Thursday morning. We would hope that a few gardeners would then visit their school garden in the new school year.

LONDON IN BLOOM – 8th July - JO

Visit by 2 judges seemed to go well but result will not be known for a couple of months. **Post Meeting Note – Results day – Thursday 18th September at Wisley.**

VOLUNTEERS LUNCH - TBA - SP

The date of the Volunteers' lunch will be announced when the date of release of the results of London in Bloom are known.

EHS SHOWS - 14th JUNE 2025

The summer show held on Saturday 14th June falls at a difficult time when some plants have finished flowering and others are yet to flower. The Friends of Eastcote House Gardens team managed to enter 28 exhibits and we were awarded the following :

3 x 1st
7 x 2nd
8 x 3rd
Total 18

At this show we were also awarded the RHS Banksian medal for the highest number of points accumulated in horticulture during the three shows in 2024.

My thanks go to Jane Neave, Rosemary Bucksey and Linda Wells for picking on the Friday and to Jane Neave and Linda Furnell for staging on Saturday morning

The next show, the autumn show, is on Saturday 6th September 2025.

There are currently quite a crop of apples in the Jubilee orchard which can be shown at the autumn show if they are not all picked before then.

Jane will be leading on the September show as I am away". I am here for the autumn show.

It was agreed that we should re-label the apples trees in the Jubilee orchard as quite a few of the original labels are missing. Metal, wired on labels were suggest. JO to investigate. **ACTION- JO**

DOVECOTE OPENING - ST

Saturday morning opening still attracting good visitor numbers apart from this July when lowest recorded number so far of 34 for the morning. Due to very hot weather which affected numbers for the whole site.

Two volunteers down at the moment because of health issues but I think we will have enough people to steward on Heritage Day.

Although there have been no recent rat droppings sighted the problem of rats/mice in the Dovecote is a worry especially as it is a listed building. It was suggested that the small hole in the bottom of the door should be covered over. **ACTION- CG/MP**

PLANT SALES – JO

The last plant sale of the year will be on Heritage Day.

BOOK SALES SS

Sales were very limited on 12th July due to the weather.

CRAFT SALES - SS

SS reported that due to the loss/reduced capability of some valuable crafters she was struggling to produce suitable items. Suggested that some new recruitment take place with a small amount of local social media advertising, ERA newsletter, etc. We need to recruit, if possible, experienced crafters. **ACTION:- SS**

AGM - CG

The date of next AGM is 31st October

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM - CL/JO/PL/ML

No progress.

Subcommittee of CL/JO/PL/ML will meet to formulate proposals.

FIRST AID/DEFIBRILLATOR –CL

The defibrillator had its quarterly check in June, ready for use

BANK CARD READERS – MP

We purchased our first Sum Up card reader in November 24 and first used it at the Tree Dressing event on the refreshments stall.

For this years books, crafts and plants sales it was decided to purchase a second device in January. A third device was purchased in May so that we could use one on the plants stall, one on the crafts and one on publications.

Total sales through the devices in the period from November 24 until July 25 is £ 766.00, fees paid to SumUp, £36.89

GARDENING - JO

Rain Water Tank Pump(behind café) – This needs to be repaired/replaced. Agreed KB will contact council AGAIN. If they will not deal with it KB to get permission for FEHG to deal. Cost to replace pump to be researched but principle of FEHG paying for it was approved. **ACTION- KB**

RHS Partner Gardner – JO suggested we become Partner Gardeners to RHS- Agreed JO to pursue. **ACTION – JO**

Plant Benches in Gardeners Compound – Agreed that we purchase a number of plant display benches for our compound. JO to investigate. **ACTION- JO**

Black Mulberry Tree – Recently the black mulberry tree lost a large branch blocking the entrance to the walled garden. The Council contractor cleared up the mess and reported that some of the main branches needed to be reduced and they would write a report saying this to the Council. Council officer inspected tree and stated that no action was required. FEHG are not happy about this. CG to write to Council. **ACTION – CG**

Tool Cleaning – It was agreed that next Thursday will be a tool cleaning session. **ACTION- ALL**

BOX HEDGING

Further spraying of box hedging is required in September. KB to chase Council. If this is not successful TS will purchase/apply spray. Agreed TS will take over trimming of Box, when required, and will purchase an electric trimmer. **ACTION- KB/TS**

NEW FOOTPATHS - CG/KB

New rubber footpaths have been installed and grassing is developing. A couple of bumps may need to be levelled. **ACTION- CG/MP/TS**

TROUGHS and HANGING BASKETS

It is confirmed that there will be no hanging baskets for EHG. The situation regarding the troughs is still unclear. KB to clarify with the Council. **ACTION- KB**

LOCKING OF PARK AND WALLED GARDEN GATES

Despite what we were told, possibly due to our strong complaints, it appears that the Council are closing and opening the main gate at night. The walled garden gate is not closed but no problems have been reported.

AOB

Date for Christmas Lunch at the Woodman – Thursday 11th December

Sign as you enter the walled garden “This is a quiet area”. Recently noisy children and dogs off leads have been causing a nuisance. CG to source sign. **ACTION- CG**