

## FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS

Minutes of the MAG Quarterly General Meeting  
held at 11am, Monday 4th March 2019 in the Stables

### PRESENT

Steve Place, Sue Place, Catherine Dann, Jane Neave, Sue Smales, Malcolm Penny, Chris Groom, Keith Barnard, Linda Wells, Margaret Ray, Joan Butfield, Susan Toms, Andy Weller, Trevor Dixon  
Cllr. Becky Hagger, Doris Dowell, Audrey Newell

### APOLOGIES

Liz Gambier, Michael Paddy, Gerry Edwards, Cllr. Ian Edwards, Lesley Crowcroft, David Payne

### MATTERS ARISING FROM 3RD DECEMBER 2018 MEETING

None

### TREASURER'S REPORT - KB

General Fund Balance stands at: £5,618.54 which includes some stall holders pitch fees paid for attendance at the Summer Picnic in June.

Publications/Archive Balance stands at: £5,955.16

Craft Group balance stands at:- £420.90 in addition to this the Craft Group manages a small amount of money for day to day expenditure which Sue Smales will expand on in her report

Reserve Funds currently stand at: £2,505.08. This is a separate savings account, no cheque book, which can only be accessed in a special way

### CRAFT GROUP - SS

#### Membership

The Craft Group has recently welcomed three new members so we currently have 24 names on the books. However, 2 attend rarely, 2 are likely to move away and not everyone attends every week so overall we are holding steady at a manageable 20.

#### Finances

Sales of items by Craft Group members at the Tree Dressing and before Christmas resulted in £41 being added to our funds, bringing the sum we were holding to £127.50. Out of this we have spent £19 on improving our storage options and £15 on wool and another bill due to come in next week but funds held as of today amount to £93.50 in addition to those held by Keith.

## Projects

The knitters have been busy producing baby blankets. A couple are working on outfits for premature babies. Several are working on this year's project to create wall hangings for the Stables. (Thank you Lesley for the suggestion). They will only be hung for the duration of special events such as the picnic Open House Tree Dressing and for the concerts which are planned for the Autumn. We already have three beautiful items which were created by Jenny Amoury, a descendant of the Hawtrey family. Working as individuals or in small groups we are considering hangings depicting medieval figures, a Tree of Life, knot gardens, a walled garden, a green man, the four seasons and heraldic banners. This should enable us to ring the changes for different events. Work on some has already started so watch this space... or the walls!

## Finally

We have been storing several donated indoor plant pots. We aim to fill these with suitable plants and sell these alongside the outdoor plants on 13th April which is the week before Easter.

## WINTER GARDENING WORKS & PROPOSED FUTURE WORKS

(Read by JB in the absence of LC)

All works have gone according to plan. The following have been completed or are nearly finished.

- Building the new alpine bed outside the east wall. Planting will take place this month.
- The Pamela Gardens section of the boundary was planted with shrubs and daffodils, helped by the group from Toshiba.
- On the High Road boundary the next two sections of border have been completed. Possibly some more planting required.
- Of these, one very shady area, which has a fernery/habitat pile as the main feature. The other a very sunny spot is being planted to give summer colour.
- Installing a section of grass grid path in the Old Orchard leading to the gardener's yard. This area becomes very muddy and slippery in wet weather. It is a safety measure. To take place early March.
- Some replanting is taking place in the walled garden.
- LBH financed a day's work with their tree contractor, Glendale, for the mature trees in the Old Orchard. This was a very satisfactory day. Members of FEHG helped dragging the arisings to the chipper and generally clearing up. The Glendale team were very helpful and did their best to avoid damage to any other plants and shrubs, especially the snowdrops. Our thanks to Nick and LBH.

Autumn/winter 2019/20 we will continue with the Pamela Gardens boundary and possibly some improvement to the planting on the High Road boundary, the area immediately next to the road.

## DOVECOTE OPENING - SUMMER SEASON.

The dovecote will open on the 2nd Tuesday of each month May - September 1.30pm-3.30pm. Free event. All volunteers are in place to steward these openings. The opening was very successful last year.

The dovecote will also be open during the picnic with stewards. For Open House, Susan Toms and David Payne will give the talks.

If anyone would like to consider being a steward, please let Lesley Crowcroft know. There is a detailed fact sheet, and prospective stewards are very welcome to sit in at one of the open times to see how it works.

## SECOND HAND BOOK & PLANT SALES

A pool of volunteers is in place to run these events. Running from April until October. The plant stock is almost ready for the April sale. Book stocks are good as well.

The dates and times are on the web site. There has been one change of date. The June book/plant sale has been cancelled because the organisers of the picnic thought that it was a good idea to have a book sale that day, not run by the usual book team. It was considered that three books sales in five weeks was rather too much, therefore the pre-arranged sale was cancelled.

## TREE WALK

Weather permitting a tree walk will take place in May led by Lesley Crowcroft. Places on the walk must be booked. Free event.

## AUTUMN CONCERTS

A series of three concerts will take place October/November

October 20th - Jazzology.

October 27th - In Voice and Verse

November 3rd - Stumbling Block (early and folk music)

The dates are all Sundays and will be held in the afternoons. The concerts will be given in conjunction with LBH. The concerts will be followed by refreshments. Jane Neave has agreed to organise these. Parking arrangements for helpers and performers are being discussed with Nick Porter.

## JUNE PICNIC - CG

CG confirmed that the site was booked and that the Stables will be available from Friday. NP will confirm with LBH that toilets, first aid, waste bins and possibly extra staff will be available.

The main people for each lead were read out and CG asked if anyone knew of any further charities who may be interested in taking a stall. Becky Haggard asked if Hillingdon Brain's Trust could have a stall and she will see about organising face painting for a few hours herself.

A meeting of the Picnic Committee is arranged for Tuesday 5th March at 10am.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jane Neave has decided to retire from the Committee but will continue with her excellent leadership of the catering at the various events throughout the year and will remain a valuable member of the EHS flower shows team.

Jane - many thanks for all your work over the many years you have been a committee member

## AOC REPORT - A.W.

At our request Nick Porter has been trying to press AOC to deliver the final report. This is a matter for the Council although I made my own independent enquiry that was ignored. We were promised the final report at the end of October then later Nick was told that the brief spell of snow we had was a cause for delay. This is all most annoying and frustrating. Given that at the end of each of the digs - bar the final dig - AOC issued a report copies of which I have in the archive. I find it incomprehensible that it should take so long to issue the final report.

The proposed publication "Eastcote House Uncovered; Including Long Meadow" remains around two-thirds written but cannot as yet be finalised until the report is received.

Cllr. Becky Haggard offered to make some enquiries within LBH.

#### CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY - SP

This morning we have heard about a range of varied and interesting activities and events many of them involving our local community.

But also there are lower profile activities, not always glamorous, going on in the background.

The milk rota, quietly organised by Sue and made to work by those who participate by bringing milk so we can enjoy fresh milk with our tea and coffee.

The leaf gatherers who rake up thousands and thousands of leaves from the grass and delicately remove more thousands from the flower beds to rot down and produce leaf mould. A good example of recycling material from the gardens to produce organic goodness to be put back into the soil to improve its structure.

The AGM followed by the QGM will take place on 17th June at 11am in the Stables

The meeting closed at 11.32.am