

Corbridge Gardening Society
Minutes of The Annual General Meeting
Corbridge Parish Hall
Thursday 21st March at 7:30pm

Apologies for Absence

Hazel & David Hughes, Jen Baker, Nick & Jill Steenberg, Lowrie Potts, Patrick McGlynn, Michael & Lin Cunliffe, Note: Past President Derek Parker had resigned earlier in the year)

Minutes of previous AGM

This was held 16th March 2023, these were approved by the attendees without amendment.

Matters Arising

There were none

Chairs Report:

This had been previously circulated to the members, Chair Harry Fawcett, read it out aloud, In particular he emphasised the lack of members volunteering to join the committee to organise or assist with the many events held during the year.

We have I believe had another successful year.

“We had a full programme of speakers including two by Zoom and enjoyable Day Trips to Stanton Fence (self- drive) Lowther Castle and Chapelside Gardens; and Ripley Castle and Crook Hall Gardens. Although numbers for the coach trips were below expectations and will need to be planned on smaller numbers next year. The Holiday to Dumfries, reduced to just two overnight stays, was popular and successful.

Exhibits in the Spring and Summer shows were of high quality although the number of entries was disappointing. At the time of writing we are only planning to have a Spring show next year as, despite repeated requests, no one has volunteered to organise the Summer show. The Society will have to consider whether to continue to organise shows in the future.

The Plant sale was well supported and made a profit of £840 for Society funds. Apart from members subscriptions this is the main source of income for the Society. It is not too early to start collecting items for next year`s sale.

Tony Dance who has organised this for many years has indicated that he wants to stand down. Again, despite many requests for a volunteer to take over no one has come forward. I hope that a member would consider volunteering to work alongside Tony next year with a view to taking over in due course. Unless someone is prepared to do this there is a strong possibility that the plant sale will no longer be able to be organised.

I was very disappointed that the Society was unable to enter a Tree in this year's Christmas Tree Festival due to a lack of a volunteer to organise. We were perhaps the only village organisation not represented.

I agreed to take on the Chairman's post for two years to help to keep the society going and those two years have now passed. Hopefully someone else will now take on the role as I will be resigning at the AGM.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work in making this a successful year. We have over two hundred members and too many just want to take part in activities organised by a willing but declining few. If the Society is to survive, more members need to put themselves forward for the Committee next year and I hope that some of you will do so at this AGM."

Election of Committee

Jane Hastings proposed that the existing committee should be re-elected en bloc, seconder Mo Lucas, this motion was approved. The committee consists of Derek Walker, Treasurer; Sylvia Pinkerton, membership; Karen Melvin, Holidays & Day trips; Ruth Bramfitt, Shows, Geraldine Bates, Talks; Tony Dance, Plant Sale; Jen Simpson, President.

Note: Jen Baker and Harry Fawcett both stood down.

Derek also reported that two members had offered to join the committee, Susan Ketelaar and Cicely Mortimer. Jane Hastings proposed they should be invited to join the committee. Derek Walker seconded and the proposal was carried.

Note: First meeting post AGM to be held at Derek Walker's house, Dilton Cottage, Corbridge, NE45 5QX. 17th April at 3:00pm.

Finance.

Derek Walker reported that although the annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 had been completed for sometime, Miles Middleton, the accounts inspector (previously called an auditor) was unable to carry out the inspection due to illness in the family. *They will be produced and circulated to members post meeting.*

Reappointment of Inspecting Accountant

Not surprisingly Miles Middleton has indicated that he will be now retiring as Inspector for future years. Derek informed the meeting that he would write to Mr Middleton to thank him for carrying out the Annual Accounts inspection work for many years.

Any Other Business

There was none

Meeting closed at 8:45pm