

Corbridge Gardening Society
Minutes of The Annual General Meeting
Year ended 31st December 2024
Corbridge Parish Hall
Thursday 13th March 2025 at 7:30pm

Apologies for Absence

Lowrie Potts, Mary Gray, Anthea Stephenson, Moira Jocelyn, Kim Clouston, Eileen Laidler, Jane Hastings, Hazel Hughes & Eric Bramfitt

Minutes of previous AGM

This was held 21st March 2024, these were approved by the attendees without amendment. Acting Chair Nick Steenberg (NS) commented that the AGM closed at 7:45 and not 8:45 as has been published.

Matters Arising

There were none

Acting Chairs Report:

We have I believe had another successful year.

We had a full programme of speakers including two on Zoom one in January & one in February with a further 3 talks throughout the year.

We had our Spring show in April, the exhibits were of a high quality though the number of entries were disappointing, (sadly no summer show last year.)

At the time of writing, we are planning to have a Spring show & Summer show in 2025.

The Plant sale was again really well supported and made a profit of £1,066.00 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 the 2025 year's sale. Tony Dance who has organised this for many years has again indicated that he wants to stand down. However, despite many requests for a volunteer to take over no one has come forward yet. 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.

In June we had a very popular coach day trip to Beningbrough Hall & Thornton Hall Gardens, which was well attended by the members.

In July an enjoyable self-drive Day Trip to The Moore House in Whalton. Likewise, well attended.

Sadly, our proposed trip to Chillingham castle was cancelled due to lack of interest.

The Holiday to the Fife coast was a resounding success and sold out very early on.

I was very delighted to report that the society was able to enter a tree in this year's Christmas Tree Festival, particularly as it was the 1350 anniversary of St Andrews Church

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work in making this a successful year. We have nearly 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 tonight.

I only agreed to take on the Acting Chairman's post for 2024. Hopefully someone else will now take on the role as I will be resigning after the AGM.

We are also losing Geraldine Bates & Jen Simpson from the committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jen Simpson who is retiring tonight. She has been a stalwart of the society for many years but has expressed her desire to stand down as President at tonight's AGM.

Finance.

Cicely Mortimer (Treasurer) reported that the society had made a surplus of £216 for the year. She commented there had been no Summer Show which might have had a bearing on the society's costs.

Plant Sale had increased profit by £201.00. Room hire costs down by £200.00

She wished to express her thanks to Derek Walker who ably assisted her in preparation of this year's accounts.

Mandy Senior inspected the accounts on behalf of the society and advised they are in order, she signed them off.

Reappointment of Inspecting Accountant

Mandy Senior had carried out the inspection of the accounts on behalf of the society and she has kindly agreed to carry out the inspection again next year.

NS informed the members there had been no charge for this year but highlighted she might charge the society next year

She was duly reappointed by a show of hands from the membership.

Election of Committee

Jen Simpson & Geraldine Bates are standing down

Jane Hastings has agreed to rejoin the committee, she was proposed by Cicely Mortimer and seconded by Tony Dance

Kim Clouston has also agreed to join the committee, she was proposed by Derek Walker and seconded by Nick Steenberg

The rest of committee were re-elected en bloc

NS stands down as Acting Chair at the end of the meeting. Note: a new chair will need to be elected at the next committee meeting

Any Other Business

Ruth Bramfitt requested that members support the Spring Flower Show and handed out the brochure to members.

NS presented a bunch of flowers to Jen Simpson for her many years of service to the society.

Jill Steenberg acted as secretary for this meeting

AGM Meeting closed at 7:45pm