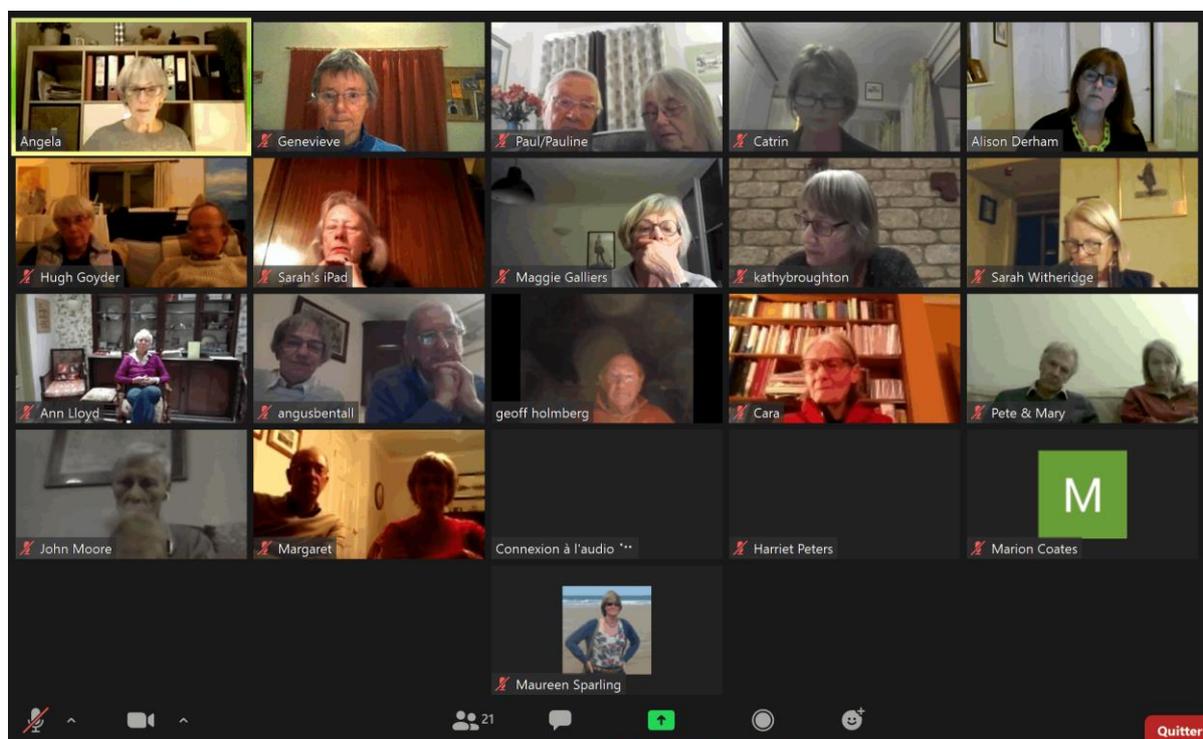


# Minutes for Charlbury Garden Society Annual General Meeting

15 October 2020, 8pm to 9pm on Zoom

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Committee Members present:</b>   | John Moore, Angela Gwatkin, Alison Derham, Catrin Weston, Geneviève Hug, Harriet Peters, Kathy Broughton, Catherine Goyder, Sarah Potter   |
| <b>Committee Members apologies:</b> | Georgia Styring, Susan Dunstall, Di Gold, Sue Cox, Liz Merry, Hugh & Joan Belshaw, Stephen Nelson  |
| <b>Society Members present:</b>     | Hugh Goyder, Maureen Sparling, Paul & Pauline Jackson, Geoff Holmberg, Mary Evans & Pete Bennion, Marion & Roy Coates, Cara Williams, Maggie Galliers, Ann Lloyd, Margaret & Graham Jowett, Angus & Mary Bentall, Sarah Witheridge |
| <b>Chair:</b>                       | John Moore/Angela Gwatkin  |
| <b>Zoom host:</b>                   | Alison Derham and Angela Gwatkin   |
| <b>Minutes taker:</b>               | Geneviève Hug  |



## 1. Welcome

**Presenter: Angela Gwatkin**

Angela welcomed the 26 participants and explained the protocol for the meeting (muting/unmuting, asking questions, voting).

## 2. Accept and sign the minutes of the 2019 AGM

**Presenter: Angela Gwatkin**

The minutes of the AGM on 17 October 2019 were accepted and signed.

Matters arising:

Geoff pointed out that although the Minutes for the 2019 AGM state that the Show Secretary's Report was attached to the minutes, it actually had not been.

No other question was raised.

### **3. Chair's Report**

**Presenter: John Moore**

John read the Chair's report, summarising what had been without question an unusual and challenging year. His report and all other reports will be held by the Secretary.

No questions were raised.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

**Presenter: Catrin Weston**

Catrin reported on the finances of the Society. Although the accounts had been completed, they had not been audited, and therefore Catrin was not in a position to communicate detailed figures.

Due to the Covid restrictions preventing us from running our usual revenue-generating events, the Society has not been able to generate as much revenue in 2020 as anticipated. The bank and cash reserves however remain healthy at around £3500. Income from membership subscriptions has also declined slightly (£976 compared to £1,119 in 2019), not unsurprisingly as members often renew in person as they attend talks or shows. The spring 2020 lockdown probably also had an effect as members did not feel the need to renew their card to benefit from the Garden Centres discount. The membership fee had been held at the same amount as for 2019.

Despite the Covid restrictions, the Society has managed to organise opportunities to raise funds for donations to other charities:

- At the Christmas wreath-making demonstration a raffle raised £95 to be donated to Bridewell Organic Gardens.
- A self-drive visit to Boulters' Farm garden raised donations of £135 for the Songbird Survival Charity.
- The Virtual Open Gardens raised £120 for the Corner House & Memorial Hall.

The creation of our own website, a virtual meeting process through Zoom and events including a virtual Autumn Show and a virtual Open Gardens tour were achieved without significant cost.

The Garden Society wishes to continue supporting projects which enhance the green areas and horticultural interest of Charlbury as a town for the benefit of all who live here. To this end we propose financial support (amounts yet to be agreed) and advice/planting by interested members for the following projects in the next year:

- The Sports and Social Club
- The Station Garden (far side)
- The border in Corner House

The Committee have also made the decision to fund a memorial for Peter Bridgman who had been a key committee member for many years who died this year.

No questions were raised.

**Proposal:**

Confirm donations from 2019/20 surplus to be given to the following local organisations. These donations are offered for horticultural purposes, except where not applicable.

|   |            |                            |            |
|---|------------|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>The Leaflet</b>                          | <b>£60</b> | <b>Museum Gardens</b>      | <b>£60</b> |
| <b>Charlbury Website</b>                    | <b>£60</b> | <b>Primary School</b>      | <b>£60</b> |
| <b>Charlbury Day Centre</b>                 | <b>£60</b> | <b>Charlbury Playgroup</b> | <b>£60</b> |
| <b>Charlbury Station Garden (near side)</b> | <b>£60</b> |                            |            |

**VOTE:**

Because as mentioned above the accounts had not yet been audited at the date of the AGM, it was decided to postpone the decision on this proposal to a later date, once all the relevant figures have been finalised.

**5. Membership Secretary Report**

**Presenter: Geneviève Hug**

Geneviève gave her report on the membership status for 2020, see figures below.

**Memberships Figures for 2018 to 2020**

|                          | <b>2020</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Members:           | 215         | 243         | 240         |
| Joint Members:           | 93          | 103         | n/a         |
| Single Members:          | 122         | 140         | n/a         |
| Total Membership Income: | £976        | £1 119      | n/a         |

|              |     |     |     |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|
| New Members: | 30  | 44  | n/a |
|              | 14% | 18% | n/a |

Note: Membership Income may not agree 100% with number of members as it includes some donations, and excludes life/complimentary memberships.

No questions were raised.

**Proposals:**

- a) Give free 2021 membership to all 2020 members, in recognition of the fact that we could not offer the full program planned for 2020.
- b) Extend the 2021 membership to all children living at the same address [as the adult members], our intention being to plan more events for families.

## VOTE

As above, in the absence of audited financial data to back these proposals, it was decided to postpone these decisions to a later date.

## 6. Committee Members

**Presenter: Angela Gwatkin**

Angela gave her report about our intentions for the future directions of the Garden Society.

Angela also informed the participants of the acceptance by the Charlbury Garden Centre (ex-Hilltop Garden Centre) to give a 10% discount on their plants.

The Committee and Officers for 2021 were elected as follows:

| <b>Elected Committee Posts</b>                     | <b>2020</b>             | <b>Elected for 2021</b>         |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Chair</b>                                       | John Moore (acting)     | John Moore                      |
| <b>Vice-Chair</b>                                  | <i>Vacancy</i>          | <i>No nomination</i>            |
| <b>Secretary</b>                                   | Angela Gwatkin (acting) | Alison Derham<br>Angela Gwatkin |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                                   | Catrin Weston           | Catrin Weston                   |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>                        | Geneviève Hug           | Geneviève Hug                   |
| <b>Show Secretary</b>                              | <i>Vacancy</i>          | <i>No nomination</i>            |
| <b>Minutes Secretary</b>                           | <i>Vacancy</i>          | <i>No nomination</i>            |
| <b>Show Cups Co-ordinator</b>                      | John Moore              | John Moore                      |
| <b>Corner House Rep</b>                            | Di Gold                 | Di Gold                         |
| <b>Bookings Secretary</b>                          | Di Gold (standing down) | <i>No nomination</i>            |
| <b>Publicity &amp; Communications Co-ordinator</b> | <i>Vacancy</i>          | <i>No nomination</i>            |
| <b>Events Co-ordinator</b>                         | <i>Vacancy</i>          | <i>No nomination</i>            |

- In the absence of nominations for the Minutes Secretary's role, it was agreed to make this a shared task.
- In the absence of nominations for the Bookings Secretary's role, it was agreed to make this task a part of the Secretary's role.
- In the absence of nominations for the Co-ordinators roles, it was agreed that a representative would be chosen by the teams themselves.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Publicity &amp; Communications team</b> | Susan Dunstall<br>Georgia Styring<br>Angela Gwatkin<br>Geneviève Hug |
| <b>Events, Talks &amp; Socials team</b>    | Catherine Goyder   |

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Other Members</b> | Harriet Peters<br>Hugh Belshaw<br>Stephen Nelson |
|----------------------|--|

Thanks were recorded for the committee members who had already resigned during 2020, or were resigning at this AGM, some of them after many years in their role, and some of them stating that they were willing to help the Garden Society in their activities in the future, but without holding a formal post within the Committee.

**Proposals:**

- a) Post the minutes of our committee meetings on our new website, to be available publicly, any sensitive information having been removed by the Secretary beforehand
- b) Move the 2021 AGM to a date in November

**VOTE**

- a) Angus Bentall objected that Committee Meetings minutes were a matter of interest only to the Committee, and should not be open to debate. After it was agreed that the minutes of each meeting would only be published once approved at the next meeting, the proposal was accepted.
- b) There was some discussion around the fact that the AGM was traditionally held with the Harvest Supper, and that November was a bit late for a Harvest Supper. End of October being half-term is not suitable. Geoff proposed to separate the AGM from the supper. This would allow us to keep to the "harvest supper" idea, but have the AGM further away from the end of the financial year (30th September), leaving more time to prepare the year's accounts. It was agreed that the exact date would be chosen by the committee.

**7. Questions**

**Presenter: Angela/Alison**

Kathy Broughton asked whether there was any news about when the results of the Virtual Show competition would be available online on our new website. Alison has enquired but had not yet received a reply.

**8. Next Meetings**

As mentioned earlier, the date of the next AGM will be communicated at a later date. The last talk of the season will be on 19th November: "Apple Through the Seasons", see: <http://www.charlburygardensociety.org.uk/events/november-2020-talk/>