

Minutes for Charlbury Garden Society Annual General Meeting

21 October 2021, 7.30 pm to 8.00 pm on Zoom

(followed by talk on 'earthworms' by David Knight)

Committee members Present:	Hugh Belshaw, Zoe Burton, Alison Derham, Catherine Goyder, Angela Gwatkin, Geoff Holmberg, Geneviève Hug, John Moore, Catrin Weston
Committee members Apologies:	Susan Dunstall, Di Gold, Stephen Nelson, Harriet Lawson, Georgia Styring
Society members Present:	Jean Adams, Chris Beausire, Joan Belshaw, Peter Bennett, Angus Bentall, Kathy Broughton, Susan Burton, Marion Coates, Judy Dod, Jane Fitzmaurice, Rebecca Gilmore, Ann Lloyd, Anne Miller, Gillian Pratt, Sue Smith, Sue Way, Sarah Witheridge, Susan, Sandy, Chrissie, Janet, Pauline, Margaret, Victor
Chair:	Geoff Holmberg
Host:	Angela Gwatkin
Minutes:	Geneviève Hug

1. Welcome – Protocol (Alison Derham/Geoff Holmberg)

2. Minutes from AGM of 15 October 2020

Minutes agreed, to be posted on website.

3. Matters arising

As agreed as last AGM, the Committee has funded a memorial plaque for Peter Bridgman, which will be placed in the new Corner House garden bed by the Amelanchier tree. The tree itself has been dedicated to Peter's memory during the Coffee Morning & Plant Swop of 2nd October 2021.

4. Chair's Report (Geoff Holmberg)

Geoff summarised the Chair's Report.

Angela emphasised that our Plant Swop on the Playing Close in October 2020 (part of the 2020-2021 financial year, but not recorded as money went in and straight out again) raised £148 in donations. In total, we raised £418 for the Corner House and Memorial Hall, roughly equivalent to what we might have paid the CH and MH for room rental if we had been able to organise our events there as usual. So by doing things differently, we were still able to help the CH and MH at a time when their own income stream was much reduced.

5. Treasurer's Report (Catrin Weston)

Catrin pointed out that as our financial year ends on the 30th Sept, there is little time between it and the AGM to prepare the accounts, which is why the 2019-2020 accounts were not ready in time at last year's AGM. This year, thanks to Geoff's help, we are able to present both sets of accounts, for 2019-2020 and for 2020-2021.

Copies have been checked and signed off and will be held by the Secretary.

In 2021, we had decided to waive the membership fee, in view of the fact that we had not been able to deliver our full program in 2020. The Garden Society has been overwhelmed by the generosity of its members, who made significant donations instead. This allowed us to raise almost as much as we would have done by collecting subscriptions, enabling us to continue to support our greening objectives. We have for instance been able to donate £500 for the creation of a new bed in the Corner House garden, designed, planted and maintained by members of the Committee.

Judy Dod à Tout le monde

Thank you from the museum for all your work on the Corner House garden. It has come on so well in its first year and I'm sure will look wonderful in years to come.

The Sports and Social Club has decided not to take our offer of £500 for their gardening project, which means we are now free to allocate these funds elsewhere.

Donations Proposal

The following committee's recommendations for 2022 were agreed, in accordance with our greening objectives:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Charlbury Station garden (far side) | £500 (agreed in principle at last year's AGM) |
| • Charlbury station garden (near side) | £60 |
| • Charlbury Primary School | £60 |
| • Charlbury Pre-School | £60 |

After Judy Dod's and Hugh Belshaw's intervention, we agreed to add to this list:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| • Museum Garden | £60 |
| • Corner House Garden | £60 |

Membership Fees Proposal

The Committee's proposal to increase of our annual membership fee from £5 to £7 for single members and from £8 to £10 for joint members living at the same address was

agreed. Both memberships include all the children living at that address, and members benefit from a 10% discount at many local garden centres.

6. Membership Secretary's Report (Geneviève Hug)

2021 was a one-off year as we took the decision to automatically renew all our 2020 members for 2021 at no cost, suggesting a donation instead. This had two effects on the figures below:

1. It makes the Total Members figure for 2021 abnormally high, as not all 2020 members could have been expected to renew.
2. The Total Membership Income figure of £872 quoted includes a high proportion of donations.

Memberships Figures for 2019 to 2021

	2021	2020	2019
Total Members:	278	217	243
Joint Members:	126	93	103
Single Members:	152	124	140
Total Membership Income:	£872	£976	£1 119

New Members:	61	30	44
	22%	14%	18%

7. Officers and Committee members

Geoff introduced Zoe Burton, who joined the committee a couple of months ago under the co-opted rule. Zoe is also the recipient of this year's best allotment cup.

The Committee and Officers proposed by the Committee for 2022 were elected as follows:

Committee Posts	2021	2022
President	<i>vacancy</i>	John Moore
Chair	John Moore	Geoff Holmberg
Vice-Chair	<i>vacancy</i>	Alison Derham
Secretary	Angela Gwatkin (standing down) Alison Derham	Alison Derham Geoff Holmberg
Treasurer	Catrin Weston	Catrin Weston
Membership Secretary	Geneviève Hug	Geneviève Hug
Publicity Coordinator	Angela Gwatkin (standing down)	Alison Derham Geoff Holmberg
Events Coordinator	Catherine Goyder (acting)	Catherine Goyder

Show Secretary	<i>vacancy</i>	Geoff Holmberg
Show Cups Co-Ordinator	John Moore	John Moore
Minutes Secretary	Geneviève Hug (acting)	Geneviève Hug Zoe Burton
Booking Secretary	Alison Derham (acting)	Alison Derham
Corner House Rep	Di Gold	Di Gold

Teams	2021	2022
Publicity Team	Angela Gwatkin (standing down) Susan Dunstall Georgia Styring Geneviève Hug	Susan Dunstall Georgia Styring Geneviève Hug Zoe Burton
Events Team	Catherine Goyder Sarah Witheridge Sarah Potter	Catherine Goyder Sarah Witheridge Sarah Potter Di Gold

Other Members	2021	2022
	Harriet Peters Hugh Belshaw Stephen Nelson	Harriet Peters Hugh Belshaw Stephen Nelson

8. Constitution update (Catrin Weston)

Catrin summarised the changes proposed by the Committee, mostly to do with simplifying it and modernising the language.

No issues were raised. The revised constitution will be published on our website.

9. Any Other Business

Geoff gave a formal vote of thanks to Angela, who is stepping down from the committee after many years. Angela has been a tower of strength through very difficult times, taking on many different roles to fill in vacancies in the committee in the past couple of years and steering us forward. It is doubtful whether the Garden Society would have survived without Angela.

10. Date of next AGM: Thursday 20th October 2022

This will be followed by a talk on preparing the Garden for winter by Timothy Walker, ex-Director of the Oxford Botanic Garden.