

The Gardening Club

AGM Friday 26th February 2022 at 7.30

At the M.S. Centre, Tettenhall Road

1. Introduction by W. Davies: She welcomed us to our new setting at the M.S Therapy Centre and welcomed our President, Darren Rudge

Darren Rudge introduced himself as President and reminded us that he has held this post for nine years! He said that it has been a privilege to work with Wenonah. He too has plans for this coming year: he is currently arranging a Horticultural Course at Wightwick Manor in collaboration with Winterbourne College and a communal allotment is being planned at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. He will let us know more about this in future. A real celebrity in the Gardening world, he is known on radio as 'The Laughing Gardener' and has also produced videos for YouTube.

2. Apologies: M. Nicholls, B. Deighton, W. Taylor, P Hammond, S & R Bayley, C & V Payne, D & N Bruce-Carlyne, A Stanley, D & J Woolley, M Thomason, C Holder, A Uddin, R Young

3. Minutes of AGM February 2021: Agreed as a true record

4. Matters Arising: This year we hope to resurrect the school garden competition, (Paul Mobey is interested in helping) and put on a larger Annual Show – for this we have booked all of Tettenhall Wood Institute. Sarah Sylvester has offered to help with the website and social media and we have an interesting range of speakers for our monthly meetings.

5. Chairperson's Report: Wenonah Davies appreciated us all being together after last year's Zoom meeting and the Covid restrictions of the last 2 years. Although she had planned to resign 2 years ago, she has stayed as Chair for the last two years and has managed to keep everything ticking over despite the circumstances. She is standing down now as Chair after 7 years but hopes to continue on the committee. This year has seen a gradual return to our normal activities. The hut opened, supported by our volunteers and we had a stall at Tettenhall Fete. The very successful, though smaller, Annual Show attracted a variety of fruit, vegetables and flowers (particularly Dahlias). We received many compliments about the show and the refreshments. The Social evening was disappointing but the trip to RHS Bridgewater was a great success.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached. W.D thanked R.B for all his work over the last year.

7. Report on Trading Hut: We have managed to keep trading throughout the pandemic. R.N. is concerned that we don't have enough volunteers and would like us to consider new ways of attracting people to work in the hut and help with stocktaking etc. R.B is concerned about supplies. It is getting increasingly difficult to buy supplies in the quantity we need. Bonsers no longer stock many of our requirements and Homers are pushing us to buy from Codsall and Wergs – and require pallet sized orders. Storing and unloading then become a big problem for us. (And our profit margin is considerably reduced). D.R. believes he may be able to help and asked R.B. to send him a shopping list. W.D thanked R.N and R.B. for their work in the Hut.

8. Membership: 97 possibly 103 because some information is missing.

9. Publicity and Marketing: Sadly Shirley Norton, who has served on the committee and been responsible for our website, is leaving. Thank you, Shirley, for all your help. S.N. has sorted a new website for us and we can now consider asking local businesses to advertise on this site rather than in the show programme. W.D. posts regularly on Facebook. We have a new sign for the hut. R.N. and R.B. to ask for help to put it in place. Because we can no longer use Tettenhall college for our show, we will need new banners for our next show. W.D. suggested that we advertise on lampposts.

10. Social Programme: Because of Covid, the social programme was less active last year though we did have some Zoom meetings. Our next social evening will be '**Gardener's Question Time' with Darren Rudge and Mick Poultney at The Swan, Compton on Friday 25th March.**

11. Chair stands down: Darren Rudge, congratulated Wenonah Davies on her chairmanship of the Club for the last seven years. He admired her determination to push things forward and appreciated the effort and organisation required to produce our Annual Show. He is sorry that she is standing down, but pleased that she will remain an active committee member. He has given her 2 VIP tickets for 'Gardener's World' at the NEC. Richard Newnham agreed and reflecting on his 25 years as a committee member, considered Wenonah to be the best Chair during this time. W. said she had really enjoyed her time as Chair and felt that it is now time to let someone else take over before it became 'Wenonah's club'.

Wenonah stands down and Darren Rudge directs the meeting to elect the chair for 2022.

Paul Mobey volunteers and is seconded by...?

12. Chair takes over for the election of the committee:

- a) Treasurer: R. Billings. Seconded by Sarah Sylvester
- b) Trading Hut Manager: R. Newnham seconded by Pru Coleman
- c) Assistant Trading Hut Manager: Eimert de Graaff seconded by Pru Coleman
- d) Committee: Sarah Sylvester: proposed by W.D. Seconded by R.N.

13. Election of the Auditor: T. Cotton has kindly agreed to audit our accounts this year.

14. Schools' Garden Competition: Paul Mobey is particularly interested in the School Garden Competition and we hope they will take place again this year.

15. Charity for 2022: We contributed to the memorial bench for Alan Raby and are pleased to learn that his family has taken over his allotment plot. We did not choose a charity to support this year. However, there was money in the charity box. So, in view of the work that Alex and Fabian Dicken did to support Bees, we decided to take the money from the charity box, make it up to £100, and donate it to a Bee charity of their choice. We are waiting for a reply from them. This year The M.S. society was proposed, as our charity this year, by Sarah Sylvester and seconded by David...?

16. Any other business: S.S. and P.C. have offered to help Wenonah to set up the show this year.

D.R. noted the date of the show – **3rd September 2022**

We have been offered first refusal on a half plot on the Nursery Walk Allotments. The cost is £19 p.a. and it could be a tremendous resource for the Club. Everyone agreed and R.B. will write out a cheque for The Chair of the Allotment Association.

We will email our members to inform them of its acquisition and ask any interested to meet at the hut on the morning of **Sunday 27th March.**

Our next committee meeting will be at 7.30 on **22nd March** at **The Institute.** (W.D. to book). W.D will book a room at the Institute.

17. Next AGM Friday 24th February 2023

Meeting closed 8.55pm