

Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society
Minutes of A.G.M. held on 28 September 2022 in the Parish Rooms

Present: Martin Cripps, Bryan & Catherine Laxton, Georgie Keates, Brenda Garrett, Kathy Turner, Alistair & Gill Leech, Chris Doorly, Sheila Caryer, David & Gill Twissell, Tom Coomber and Iain Langdon.

	Items	Action
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> Liz Hodges, Peter Kendall, Nicola Hobbs, Steve & Lou O’Kane, Heather Langdon	
2.	<u>Minutes</u> of the AGM held on 3 November 2021 were approved and signed.	
3.	<u>Matters Arising:</u> Nothing to report	
4.	<u>Chairman’s Report:</u> see attached The committee thanked Sharon for her role as Secretary and will present her with a voucher.	
5.	<u>Treasurer’s Report:</u> see attached Iain Langdon queried the amount paid for First Aid costs at the show. It was agreed it is an essential element to the safe running of the event and that alternative quotes are being sought for the next show. The accounts were adopted, proposed by Martin Cripps and seconded by Gill Twissell. Ben Hobby was thanked for auditing the accounts.	
6.	<u>Election of Committee:</u> All current committee members agreed to remain. Proposed by Martin Cripps and seconded by Chris Doorly. Martin Cripps thanked all current committee members and added that we are always open for new people to join the committee or volunteer to help at events.	
7.	<u>Election of Officers:</u> Martin Cripps (Chair), Georgie Keates (Vice Chair) and Bryan Laxton (Treasurer) were all unanimously re-elected, proposed by Sheila Caryer and seconded by Brenda Garrett. The position of Secretary is vacant.	
8.	<u>Appointment of President:</u> Following Lord Cranworth’s resignation, Nicola Hobbs was invited to become President for one year which she was delighted to accept. All were in favour.	
9.	<u>Donations of Surplus Funds:</u> It was agreed at brief committee meeting prior to the AGM that donations will be made following discussions with the church for local causes/initiatives which might include the church foodbank and luncheon club. The funds are to be used to support those within the local community. The amount to be £1,500-£2,000 in order that a surplus is retained of approximately £10,000 to cover the rising costs of running the show. To be discussed at the next committee meeting in November.	

10.	<p>Plans for 2023 : Dates for next year: Hidden Gardens 10 & 11 June Village Show 15 July (Entries Night 12 July) Garden Party: date to be agreed. David & Gill Twissell kindly offered to host Patron's Supper: date to be agreed (end March)</p> <p>Iain Langdon mentioned that the Parish Rooms might not be available on Wednesday evenings. If this is the case, meetings will be held in the Village Hall.</p>	
11.	<p>Future of Society & Village Show: Georgie Keates and Catherine Laxton will take Minutes of future meetings and a Show Event Co-ordinator is being sought. All on the committee to consider potential candidates. Martin Cripps, Sharon Cripps and Bryan Laxton to put a full timeline of key dates and jobs together so that jobs can be distributed to the committee.</p> <p>The marquee needs to be booked with a 25% non refundable deposit. Georgie Keates and Iain Langdon are happy to work on the programme together. Georgie to approach sponsors. Committee happy to continue with usual roles. Brenda Garrett will not be able to do catering for the show. Bryan Laxton to speak to Lucy Shemmings to see if FOGS can help with catering.</p> <p>The Garden Party might have a different format of a pudding evening. Gill & David Twissell offered their garden. Brenda happy to help but not co-ordinate.</p> <p>Martin Cripps ended by stating Hort Soc donations over the last 12 years 2010 – 2015 £13,300 2016 – 2021 £10,850 In 12 years = £24,000</p> <p>The committee should be very proud of this great achievement. In addition, the events raise more than this for other charities and organisations such as the cake sales at Hidden Gardens, teas and other stands at the Village Show.</p>	
12.	<p>Correspondence: Thank you emails from Hannah Baird who raised £410 from her stall at the show towards her Kenya trip; Rotary Club Woodbridge who raised £420 on their tombola which will be donated to RDA; John Anderson of RDA raised nearly £400 at the show and they also thanked us for our donation of £1,000.</p>	
13.	<p>A.O.B: Please see below for dates of future committee meetings, to be held in the Parish Rooms or Village Hall;</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed at 8.35pm</p>	

Future Meetings all taking place at 7pm:
23 November 2022
22 February 2023
19 April 2023
24 May 2023
28 June 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022

Having had all our events cancelled in 2020 & only 2 events taking place in 2021, it was good to have a year when everything went ahead.

Things began as usual with Hidden Gardens, brilliantly organised by Catherine Laxton & a team of fantastic Volunteers. The weather was perfect & a large number of visitors attended: with cake stall & plant sales on the Village green, FOGS providing teas in Parish Rooms &, all village businesses reporting increased footfall, this weekend benefits much more than just The Society. We are indebted to our wonderful gardeners who agree to open their gardens to complete strangers as well as the whole village who put up with this annual invasion!

The Snail Trail morphed into a Hedgehog Hunt, we are grateful to Chris Doorly & Elizabeth Stephenson for organising. It was well received and great fun for a number of families who took part.

Moving on to the main event, The Village Show, having had to cancel 2021 the bones of this were in place. Using class lists, sponsors & prize money already in the bank. Our advertisers all returned with some new faces for 2022. Our Secretary, Sharon, slowly recovering from major surgery & able to spend short periods at the computer the other components fell into place.

Entries Night was a nervous time as weather conditions had not been ideal with the threat of heat wave & drought on the horizon. In the end numbers were down but not by a huge amount considering our record show of 2019. On the showground we did see a drop in visitors as well as those taking part. The Car Boot Sale did not attract its usual numbers & with stall holders cancelling at the last minute or just not turning up, spaces were noticeable. A possible suggestion is that all stall holders are charged in advance to encourage them to attend. Something for The Committee to consider.

After The Show the response from various visitors, volunteers, judges & stewards was very encouraging. Comments made by our Cup Presenter, Edward Creasy, were certainly appreciated by The Committee.

There can be no doubt that The Show like Hidden Gardens benefits far more than just The Society, with groups & organisations ending the day in profit. Two stalls reported income in excess of £400 & of course both FOGS & Football Club were very busy providing teas & Bar. As you will see from the Treasurer's Report we are extremely grateful for the financial support provided by our Sponsors, Patrons whose numbers continue to increase & our Advertisers.

The evening of The Show saw the grand marquee become the venue for the summer dance. Organised by Ben & Mandy Cook some 160 revellers danced the night away having enjoyed a hog roast supper. Music was provided by Grundisburgh's very own band, Larkside, the dulcet tones of Olly Bilsbury could be heard in Great Bealings!

Our final event was the Garden Party held at the Cottage, our thanks to Roger & Trish Lewis for hosting. A warm summer's evening spent in lovely surroundings with good company & a delicious supper followed by yummy puds. A well stocked wine table & Raffle helped to increase the income. Thanks again to all volunteers.

Catherine Laxton has continued to put together some great days out which are again proving to be very popular. Days spent at Fullers Mill, Marks Hall & Ulting Wick & recently East Ruston. In November we agree off to Bressingham. These days have boosted our membership numbers and are showing a small profit, thank you Catherine.

Some of you will have read my recent reports of doom & gloom, however, we are in a good financial position.

Again I must thank our small army of volunteers, we could not manage without you.

A SHORT STORY : I am sure a number of you will have a !"step counter" or" fitbit", the day after the show I bumped into 1 of our volunteers & thanked him for his sterling effort. His response was" I very much enjoyed it Martin, a really lovely day but very tiring, I did 29,000 steps "!!!

My thanks to my hardworking Committee who give up their time, some of whom were on the showground for more than 20hours over the course of 2 days.

I end by thanking our retired Secretary, Sharon, who over the last 6 years has worked extremely hard putting the show together & most of my work as well. She will be greatly missed & we wish her well.

Grundisburgh, Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society
Hon Treasurer's report 2022
[2021 numbers in brackets]

Summary

This was an unusual year, but more akin to what we have been used to in the past with a semblance of normality and many more events in our calendar.

Overall, we had income of £13,979 [£7,716], expenditure of £14,377 [£2,496] and therefore a loss of £398 [profit £5,220] although a number of these headlines hide unusual aspects which are explained below.

We started the year with cash at the bank of £13,004 [£7,783] and ended the year with £12,605 [£13,004].

We received £1,375 [£1,085] from 19 [13] Patrons (some couples, some individuals) - See list below.

We have 40 [13] Members at £5 per member totalling £200 [£65].

We had general expenses, unallocated to any specific event of £552 [£74].

Village Show

We managed to run the Village Show this year after 2 years of cancellations due to Covid. We incurred some costs and gained some income last year for the cancelled Show, so this year's numbers need to be read in conjunction with the numbers for our year 2020/21. The formal accounts show the cashflow in this financial year, but my comments below deal with the whole Village Show which spanned two financial years.

Over the 2 years we made a loss of £1,371. There is no average for the Village Show, as there is always something different every time, but this is the largest loss since 2017/8. The biggest single cost by a huge margin is the Marquee, which this year cost us almost £3,700.

The loss comes despite the generosity of HomeStyle and DAB as major sponsors and our prizes being covered by kind sponsorship organised by Georgie Keates, plus advertising to help towards the cost of the Show Programme. Ben and Mandy Cook ran a dance in the evening which generated a surplus of £330 and Lyn & Robert Chapman worked wonders to run a raffle making a profit of almost £700.

We had some extra expenses in repairs to some of the cups (about £250) and we thought we needed some extra toilet facilities (which cost £225) but these were not used much during the day. Our printing expenses increased substantially to almost £1,000 as our printer became aware he had been under-charging us for a number of years. Our other notable costs of field hire, First Aid and the Hospital Band also rose by a total of almost £100 to £780. The direct loss needs to be put into context. There are a number of other entities who benefit from not only the publicity and engagement of having a stall, but some also make notable profits from their activities on the day such as FOGS who ran the tea stand. The financial benefit to the overall community needs to be borne in mind when looking at the net cost to us of running the very popular Show.

Hidden Gardens

Hidden Gardens was another enormous success. We made a surplus of £2,606 over the weekend with almost 600 programmes sold. We had 27 gardens open this year.

Garden Party

We had two Garden Parties in the financial year 2021/2 due to the postponement of the 2021 event into this financial year. The first Garden Party (an afternoon affair) made a profit of almost £540 selling 55 tickets and our evening Garden Party sold 52 tickets making a surplus of £620.

Trips & Talks

We held no talks but we did organise two trips to Fullers Mill and also Marks Hall & Ulting Wick. A total of 52 people attended the two events and they made a modest surplus of £70. The accounts show a surplus of £715 because we collected almost £700 for a trip to East Ruston which takes place in the next financial year (2022/23) but paid no costs out as at the end of this financial year. We also paid a deposit of £50 for a trip in November 2022 to Bressingham.

The net effect is that our cash at the end of our year is higher by £642.50p than would be the case if we accounted for the cash in the year the event took place.

Donations

We felt financially able to make donations this year, having decided the uncertainty the previous year made it inappropriate at that time.

We were very pleased to play an important part in the fund raising for the improved playground facilities on the Playing Field and we donated £2,500 to this cause. The local branch of the RDA (Riding for the Disabled) benefitted from a donation by us of £1,000. For the first time, we opened up the opportunity to the community to seek donations and we made a donation of £450 to the local Youth Club for their new Pool Table to go into the new Village Hall.

A total of almost £4,000 was therefore donated to local good causes in the Grundisburgh and surrounding area.

Bryan Laxton

Hon Treasurer