

Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society
Minutes of A.G.M. held on 3rd November 2021 in the Village Hall

Present: Martin Cripps, Peter Kendall, Bryan Laxton, Vivienne Baird, Sheila Caryer, Chris Doorly, Nicola Hobbs, Georgie & David Keates, Catherine Laxton, Chris Shemmings, Judith Bignell, Ben Cook, Liz Hodges, Iain Langdon, Graham Parker, Katherine Smith, Maggi Thompson

	Items	Action
	The Meeting was recorded for Minuting purposes.	
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> Sharon Cripps, Brenda Garrett, Suzanne Gould, Alistair & Gill Leech, Kathy Turner, David & Gill Twissell, Michael & Felicity Cambridge, Richard Garnham	
2.	<u>Minutes</u> of the AGM held on 23 rd October 2020 were approved and signed.	
3.	<u>Matters Arising:</u> Nothing to report	
4.	<u>Chairman's Report:</u> see attached	
5.	<u>Treasurer's Report</u> : see attached Maggi Thompson enquired about the cost of membership (£5pp) and Patronage (variable, £25+). Gift Aid is not appropriate as we are not a registered charity.	
6.	<u>Election of Committee:</u> Eileen Thompson resigned during the summer as she has moved away; Vivienne Baird, Nicola Hobbs and Peter Kendall are standing down and all were thanked for all their help over very many years. New committee members are Liz Hodges and Chris Shemmings, and all other committee members are willing to continue. Proposed by Martin Cripps and seconded by Catherine Laxton.	
7.	<u>Election of Officers:</u> Martin Cripps (Chair), Sharon Cripps (Secretary) and Bryan Laxton (Treasurer) were all unanimously re-elected; Georgie Keates was proposed by Bryan Laxton and seconded by Nicola Hobbs and was duly elected as Vice Chairman.	
8.	<u>Donations of Surplus Funds:</u> It was agreed at the September committee meeting to donate £4,000 to local good causes. The following split was agreed at the AGM: New playground in the Playing Field £2,500 Riding for the Disabled Clopton £1.000 Just 42 (Youth Club) £450 towards a new folding pool table Iain Langdon queried retaining a high surplus but it was agreed that we need to be cautious as next year's events are unknown. Local causes to be considered in the future are the food bank in the Church (suggested by Graham Parker) and the lunch club (suggested by Judith Bignell).	

	<p>During the break for refreshments, a presentation was made to Nicola Hobbs and Peter Kendall who have worked a combined total of 35 years as Society committee members undertaking a number of roles. Their contribution to the Village Show and our other events will be much missed.</p>	
9	<p>Plans for 2022 : Dates for next year: Hidden Gardens 11 & 12 June Village Show 16 July Trips and Talks: Chippenham Park Gardens for snowdrops 1st February. Marks Hall & Ulting Wick 26th April. Details are on the website. Possible talks might include Gardeners' Question Time. Garden Party: date to be agreed with Roger & Trish Lewis</p> <p>Village Show 2022 will have the same class lists as 2021; marquee deposit has been paid and the prizes will be carried over to next year. The dance will be organised by Ben & Mandy Cook. Georgie Keates to approach advertisers and Iain Langdon kindly agreed to compile the programme. Volunteers are needed to help run the show and we specifically need volunteers to plan/manage field entertainments. The marquee is currently not booked for the Sunday and is available if anyone has any suggestions.</p>	
10.	Correspondence: None	
11.	A.O.B: Dates of future committee meetings to be confirmed and circulated.	Sharon Cripps
	Meeting closed at 8.35pm	

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR A.G.M. 3RD NOVEMBER 2021

Yet another year of mixed fortunes, thanks to Covid. Following positive indications from the government regarding the lifting of restrictions, planning for all our events began in earnest in March.

Catherine Laxton was delighted with the response from our gardeners, who were all more than happy to open & very quickly over 30 gardens across the 3 villages were listed for our Hidden Gardens Weekend. Glorious weather over the 2 days of the 12th/13th June saw 700 visitors enjoy gardens large and small as well as cake stalls, plant sales and refreshments provided by a number of gardeners & F.O.Gs. All of the shops & businesses saw an increase in footfall resulting in a win, win for the village as a whole.

The weekend saw our 1st SNAIL TRAIL, the idea of Suzanne Gould. Suzanne and her team organised the event with 20 entries, all very imaginative and very humorous. We are very grateful to Williams' Stores for the use of their shop window for a fantastic display.

The Society is extremely grateful to our organisers, participants and volunteers who contributed in making this not only a record breaking weekend but one enjoyed by so many freed from lockdown.

However, dark clouds were looming in the shape of Covid & although there was some confidence for The Show to go ahead, there was some concern regarding control of the restrictions already in place. The Officers of the Committee took advice from various people but it was the professionals that tipped the balance. Extra stewards, one way systems, sanitiser stations, additional toilet facilities & finally The Society being fully responsible for any failures, left us with very little choice but to cancel. I am extremely grateful to Peter, Bryan, Catherine & Georgie for all their help in contacting a huge number of people already committed to The Show. It is very reassuring that the response from everyone was so positive & understanding and we can look forward to their continued support in 2022.

The events finished on a more cheerful note with The Garden Party which was moved to Finndale House to make life easier & keeping restrictions in mind. Many thanks once again to Catherine & Bryan as hosts. 60 guests enjoyed Pimms & Fizz followed by Brenda & her team's savoury and cream teas and a profit was made. Many thanks again to all volunteers and committee members who helped on the day with set up, take down, washing up and returning tables and chairs etc on Sunday morning.

Our Trips & Talks were curtailed somewhat this year thanks to the pandemic, however, we had two very enjoyable visits, Columbine Hall and Fuller's Mill. I am grateful to Catherine for organising these and I know Catherine has plans in place for next year. Hopefully this will rebuild our membership numbers and generate interest in what we do.

We must now look to a more positive and exciting future and hopefully 2022 will get us all back on track but as will be revealed shortly, time and the effects of Covid have caught up with some of our long standing committee members. It is my view that we must try to promote The Society in a different light in order to attract new committee members.

We are always able to rely on our fantastic band of volunteers who support us at our events. We need more help at the planning stage in particular The Village Show. It is a unique event and one that is sadly dying out across the country and we must do more to ensure that it continues well into the future.

I have mentioned volunteers a number of times in this report, your help and support is invaluable and The Society is extremely grateful. We are indebted to our sponsor, advertisers, patrons and members who are generous in their support.

Finally, I must thank my hardworking committee for their ongoing help and support in what has been a very difficult year not just for the society but for Sharon and myself personally; which brings me neatly to madame Secretary without whom I could not function as Chairman.

Grundisburgh, Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society
Hon Treasurer's report 2021
[2020 numbers in brackets]

Summary

This was another unusual year, but we managed more events than in 2020, although it was disappointing to have to pull the Village Show at relatively short notice.

Overall, we had income of £7,716, expenditure of £2,496 and therefore a profit of £5,220. We started the year with cash at the bank of £7,783 [£11,434] and ended the year with £13,004.

Because of the uncertainty we made no donations during the year.

We received £1,085 [£760] from 13 [11] Patrons (some couples, some individuals) at an average of £83 per Patron. See list below.

We have 13 [30] members at £5 per member totalling £65 [£150] although we allowed many people to carry their membership from last year over to this year. See list below.

We had general expenses, unallocated to any specific event of £74 [£1,317].

Village Show

The Village Show made a notional profit of just over £577 with income of £2,190 and expenditure of £1,612. However, as the Show didn't happen, these numbers are somewhat misleading. The majority of advertisers agreed to us keeping their payments as the majority of the Village Show Programmes had been distributed and therefore they had received the publicity they sought.

The receipts from the class sponsorship (to cover the prize money for the classes) were rolled over to next year. This therefore increases our income this year, without being offset by the costs of the prize monies. This will result in a loss next year of this amount as the receipts are booked this year and the prize money will be distributed next year.

We also paid £860 to Anglian Marquees as a deposit for the marquee and they have kindly allowed us to roll this over to next year. The cost is therefore borne this year and the benefit received next year. This means the total cost of the marquee next year will be £860 less than otherwise expected.

Hidden Gardens

Hidden Gardens was a resounding success with a total profit of £3,423. This compares to the previous highest profit of £2,912 in 2017/8. We had over 700 people attending and benefitted from the easing of lockdown restrictions and the good weather. We cannot assume a similar financial result next year, but congratulations to everyone who was involved in this hugely successful and enjoyable event.

Garden Party

The Garden Party was postponed and we incurred no costs, but it was held instead early in the new financial year 2021/22. We may well have two Garden Parties in the financial year 2021/2.

Trips & Talks

We held no talks but we did organise 2 trips – to the bluebell wood at Gt Blakenham and a trip to Columbine Hall. There were a total of 66 people attending the two trips and we made a profit of £144 from these two trips.

Comparison with 2020

There is no real or sensible comparison with 2020 other than the Patrons and Members, which are noted below.

Patrons

We offered Patrons the opportunity of rolling over their patronage due to the lack of events last year, but a number decided to pay again in 2020/21, which was very generous of them.

Members

We also offered Members the opportunity to roll over their membership but a number were kind enough to pay again this year.