

GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING

AGM – 29th November 2018, 7.30pm

Location:	The Wheelhouse, West Horsley
Directors Present:	John Fluker, John Whitlock, Lyn Payne, Ray Beard, Ashley Brown, Nicki Douet, Amanda de Haast, Robin Satow, Helena Stuart-Matthews, Michael Trower, Bob Spackman
Apologies:	David Pile, Dana Leigh Strauss
Chairman	Amanda de Haast
Minute Taker:	John Fluker

Agenda Item	Discussion Points
1. Welcome by Chairman: Amanda de Haast (approx 40 pax attended)	<p>Everyone was welcomed to the 10th AGM.</p> <p>First thing I need is your approval to chair the meeting. <i>Proposer: Bob Spackman, and Seconder: Bruce Edwards.</i> Members' approval by show of hands.</p> <p>Resignations:</p> <p>One third step down. Resigning this year: Amanda de Haast, John Fluker, Nicki Douet, Helena Stuart Matthews, Ashley Brown, and all have put themselves forward for re-election.</p> <p>Re-election of Amanda, Nicki, John, Helena and Ashley. <i>Proposer: Tom Suffolk and Seconder: Su Johnson.</i> Members' approval by show of hands.</p> <p>Stepping Down: Lyn Payne is stepping down. Amanda thanked her for all her hard, enthusiasm and delicious recipes posted on the website and hoped she would continue contributing. Presentation of gifts – round of applause.</p> <p>Joining the Directors: Rob Treble. He was thanked for his (and the building team's) invaluable input to date. <i>Proposer: Jane King, Seconder: Helena Stuart-Matthews.</i></p>

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2. Chairman's Report:

The garden is looking Amazing. Members were reminded to stop when arriving at the garden and reflect on what it was like 10 years ago.

- **Potting Shed** – Thanks given to Rob and the Building team for creating a perfect environment for all to enjoy while at the garden (even talk of a dart board going up). HCPS thanked for their continuing support, this time with a contribution towards the guttering.
- **Tithe** – Was again a great success. 12 weeks. 33 volunteers delivered 380 boxes to 35 addresses. So our thanks go to Helena, and Nicki and all those involved in the garden, to the Wheel of Care for the deliveries and of course to John Whitlock for planning and growing vegetables to fill the boxes.
- **Flowers** – Helena with Brigitte produced beautiful bunches of flowers throughout the summer. 460 bunches to brighten up our homes and also G&F. Helena asked that all members should be thanked for their continuing support in buying the flowers. Round of applause.
- **National Trust** - Thanked for the Grace and Flavour road sign which helps signposting our location, in addition to the recently purchased G+F banner which adorns the gate. Colourful flyers and business cards were printed this year to give out at various local events and talks.
- **Tom's Terrace** –Thanks to Tom Suffolk who masterminded and ran with turning the 'slagheap' of rubble into the grassy terrace it is now. A much improved welcome to the garden.
- **Cropping Shed Oaks** – it was sad to see the two selfseeded oaks removed but the effect their growth was having on the ground water/nutrients/shade), potential structural impact on the potting shed and financial cost in regular pruning had to be considered. Several alders will be planted beyond the North wall to support wildlife.
- **Pergola** – using materials already onsite the building team have erected a pergola which will in years to come provide shade during tea breaks in the summer, as well as support for vines.
- **Squires** –for two concurrent Saturdays a stall was set up outside Squires selling a variety of squashes and increasing our profile within the local area. Squires have been very supportive this year providing lavender plants for the terrace and keen to continue with this support.
- **Bodgers**. Sue and David Reeve and a small group of interested members meet on a Monday to bodge! Hopefully later next year outdoor seating and even trugs will be available for use, using home grown wood.
- **Talks** – Bob Spackman and Robin Satow were thanked for the talks they have given to various interested groups over the year. Surrey Hills Plein Air artists spend a day in the garden and pictures of their paintings were shown on the slideshow shown at the beginning of the evening.
- **GDPR** –Ashley and Nicki were thanked for all their hard work in updating our membership database in preparation for being GDPR compliant. Privacy policy and safeguarding policy are now in place, as is a specific risk assessment for the west wall, in addition to our current risk assessment.
- **Thanks** -too many people individually to thank so everyone was invited to applaud themselves and those in the room. Nicki Douet was specifically thanked for overseeing the social diary and keeping it active and up to date.

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3. Garden report –John Whitock	<p>John started by saying that the weather had been a bit strange this year but that he felt that he would likely be saying the same every year for the foreseeable future. This caused problems for some crops: late sown vegetables and salads which have not thrived, parsnips which are a bit strange, runner beans (one variety, Painted Lady, was very poor), onions which were much smaller than usual, asparagus which has not been as good as previous years and Little Gem lettuce for the tithe which had to be bought in as seedlings.</p> <p>On the other hand there were many successes: celeriac, cauliflowers, spring onions, summer broad beans, cabbages, sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, potatoes (no scab despite the dry weather), calabrese and cucumbers (perhaps too many?). All the fruit was excellent thanks to Dana-Leigh and David, Tim (blackberries) and Bob (soft fruit).</p> <p>What was new for 2018 : A new greenhouse –good peppers but disappointing aubergines (particularly in contrast to those grown outside on Helen Paterson's allotment), a new fruit cage which meant a huge amount more soft fruit, autumn raspberries now fully developed and cropping until November, fabulous Borlotti beans, Heritage seeds which were a disaster (partly due to climate), trombone squash which although a success may have been picked too late, and finally all crops including carrots were grown under the “no dig” regime.</p> <p>What of the future : Review our potato varieties (more Charlotte less others?), chilli peppers (and better labelling), broad beans to be grown in modules to try to avoid mouse problems, grow peas in the fruit cage where the rhubarb was to avoid pigeon problems, more dwarf French beans which seem to be preferred, grow Edaname beans (Helena and John have had success with these), grow grape and kiwi vines over the pergola, create new beds for the asparagus and globe artichokes and grow the aubergines in bigger pots and/or outside.</p>
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<p>4. Allotment Report: Michael Trower</p>	<p>This year seems to have been fairly successful for allotment holders despite the very hot weather during the summer. Fortunately the area avoided any water restrictions although the tanks may have taken longer to fill at times.</p> <p>Some smaller trees were planted where the large cherry tree had to be removed, and these seem to have taken satisfactorily.</p> <p>The action taken to eradicate the moles in 2017 seems to have succeeded with no recurrence this year (some doubt was expressed with regard to this by those attending) and only the occasional rabbit having been seen.</p> <p>A skip was ordered for the 10th/11th May weekend, but was rapidly filled before the intended Skip Sunday was going to be held, so another skip was ordered for 6/7th October weekend and a lot of surplus material from the allotments was placed in it, so this was a worthwhile exercise.</p> <p>At renewals time there was a bit of a roundabout with three plots being given up, two new plot holders and one swapping plots. Again all plots are under cultivation and there is no waiting list.</p> <p>There was a question from a plot holder re possibility of using a hosepipe during spring/summer, even if it meant paying extra.</p> <p>Michael referred him to John Whitlock's post on the G&F Website:-</p> <p>"Unfortunately the diameter of our water pipe into the garden area is not really suitable for our gardening needs when there is a severe dry period. As a result we can only water a small area at one time using sprinkler hoses, drip hoses, or sprinklers. We can only use two sprinkler hoses at the same time or the pressure drops so much that they are ineffective. Even two can be difficult as pressure drops when people are hand watering on the garden or allotments adjacent to the garden, or even filling the boiler for a cup of tea".</p> <p>The matter will be discussed at the next Committee meeting in January and the outcome will be advised accordingly.</p> <p>Amanda thanked Michael for keeping our Facebook page current.</p>
<p>5. Financial Results: Ashley Brown</p>	<p>Presentation of slides.</p> <p>Separate report is attached. Key elements include</p> <p>Income: Just over £7,000. Only £24 less than last year.</p> <p>Expenses Slide: Around £5,000.</p> <p>Fruit Cage & Guttering: Not spent yet.</p> <p>Cost of Sales: Things John W spends money on. Nothing out of the ordinary.</p> <p>Potting Shed: Only spent around £2,000 this year. £39,939 spent in total of which £26,639 is grants.</p> <p>Auditor: Need to reappoint our auditor, Brian Manners. A box of vegetables and bottle of wine will be given as a thank you.</p>

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<p>6. Membership and Website: Ashley Brown</p>	<p>A great deal of work had gone into tidying up the contacts list and database. There were 300 on the newsletter list but only 50% actually opened it. Ashley sent out 50 emails and 40 were rejected. Nicki has written to a dozen who did not provide email addresses, again enquiring if they wanted to continue being listed on the database.</p> <p>Ashley said that any suggestions/contributions with regard to the newsletter and the website would be welcomed and he also requested more historic and current photographs to be emailed to him for the gallery.</p>
<p>7. Wildlife: Edward Woodhouse</p>	<p>Eddie showed slides of the birds in the Garden and confirmed that there were 9 blue tit and 3 great tit nests this year, the blue tits having much larger families than the great tits.</p> <p>Unfortunately all the robin nests were predated this year. The original wire fronted nest box did not work so Eddie has a new design with a wire fronted porch for next year.</p> <p>The Mandarin ducks have now been nesting in the Garden for 6 years and this year there were three pairs of which two were successful. Eddie has made 2 more duck boxes to keep pace with demand.</p> <p>The Mallards were not successful this year although they tried twice, once immediately outside the potting shed and a second time in the middle of the Garden. On both occasions the eggs were taken probably by a fox. Last year of course they were luckier and raised 10 chicks.</p> <p>Eddie has cleared the area beyond the north wall where the new alders will be planted and he explained that they would be very good for wildlife attracting birds such as Red Poll, Siskin, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Mistle Thrush and Chiff Chaff. Tim has also moved some of the more rampant blackberries to the fence beyond the north wall.</p> <p>The pond is maturing very well and has lots of newts but no frog spawn although Eddie has now seen some frogs. He has also spotted some juvenile wagtails near the pond but has not located the nest.</p> <p>The bug hotel on the north wall was doing well with 70 solitary bees using it. Unfortunately a week later they were all eaten by a woodpecker.</p> <p>Eddie was thanked for his continuing hard work in keeping an eye on our wildlife and nurturing it so well.</p>
<p>8. AOB:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>
<p>9. Thanks and Close: Amanda de Haast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to the directors and Eddie for making their reports tonight. • Thank you to those who organised this evening including providing delicious refreshments. Ashley and Nicki thanked for putting together the presentation. • Thank you to you all for coming this evening and your continuing support of this wonderful community project.