

**THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY HAMPSHIRE GROUP**  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 27 April 2023 at Chilworth Hall

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Paddy Parmee, Julian Noble, Glenda Davies, David and Jill Butcher, Olenka Snell, David and Christine Hughes, Anne Wanstall, Nick Fry, Elizabeth Wells.

**2. Minutes of the AGM held on 28 April 2022**

The Minutes of the last AGM held on the 28 April 2022 were approved by the meeting, proposed by David Mussell and seconded by Norman McLean.

**3. Matters Arising from last AGM minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Chairman's Report**

Hello it's that time again. An interesting start to the autumn after a very hot and dry summer, lots of plants continued to suffer as the dry weather continued into September. Thankfully it cooled down and most plants recovered and flowered, albeit a little later than usual. Even some of my Dahlias flowered towards the end after their crisping during summer.

We had another interesting selection of speakers and subjects, some on zoom and some at Chilworth village hall. All very well attended. We started in September with Raz Chizu a Transylvanian born UK based garden designer. 'Autumn bulbs in the Peloponnese and the last of the summer flowers'. October - Christopher Bailes 'The Dry garden: adapting to a changing climate'. November - Dr Timothy Walker 'A Rockery in the Garden'. December - via zoom we held our Christmas meeting. 3 short talks from myself, Christine Hughes and Julia Corden. We also had a very enjoyable quiz composed by David Butcher. January- via zoom Adrian Cooper 'Growing Alpines and Choice plants'. February - Anne Repnow who lives in Germany - 'My snowdrop garden'. Flowers to compliment snowdrops in the garden. March - Julia Corden 'Meconopsis - Butane in the footsteps of George Sherriff'. Also, in March we held the plant competition. The winner Mike Powell (with a nice Cyclamen libanoticum) was presented with the David Benton Rose Bowl. In April - we will have the AGM followed by a talk by Jon Evans - 'Wildside Nursery'. Finally in May - Diane Clement will visit and talk on 'Chinese Lanterns and Tibetan Prayer Flags - an AGS tour of Sichuan'. Also in May we will have the results of the photographic competition and the presentation to the winner of the Margaret Hedges Trophy.

Ben and Paddy's garden was open in February for the snowdrops and again in April for their spring flowers. With lots of plants to sell.

I would like to thank Ben and Paddy for their tireless enthusiasm for the group and the national AGS. Also for allowing us to invade their garden not once but 4 times and maybe again in Late May / Early June when their Primula are at their best. My thanks to all of the committee for their continued support for the group and continuing hard work. After a number of years' service Dorothy Searle will be taking a break and I would like to thank Dorothy for her years of service on the committee. My thanks to Steve and Angela Lobley for working on the newsletter and the photographic and plant competitions.

We are also preparing a display on behalf of the Hampshire Group and National AGS for the Gardeners World Event at Beaulieu at the end of April.

Finally, a special thank you to all of you for your continued support either at Chilworth, via zoom and the garden visits. Without you the group wouldn't be so successful; indeed our membership is now at its highest level for many years, at the time of writing it is 97 and hopefully if get a few new members at Beaulieu we may top 100!

Please continue to grow plants for sale and for the monthly raffle. Enjoy the rest of the program and hope to see some of you at one of the garden visits or The Gardeners World Event.

Malcolm Calvert.

**5. Secretary's Report**

The Group Secretary's Report is designed to summarise the Group's activities during the year and whilst the Treasurer's report covers our financial year from 1 Apr – 31 Mar, this report covers our more traditional season running from September through to the end of May.

This year we have been able to run a full calendar of events, six meetings at Chilworth Hall (including April and May 2023) and three zoom meetings with good numbers attending both types, indeed numbers attending the meetings at Chilworth Hall are getting back towards pre-covid levels.

Hampshire AGS has delivered its full programme of activities in 2022-23.

- By the end of May we will have had our full programme of lectures, our thanks to Paddy for arranging our speakers this year with a number of new faces from the lecture circuit.
- Mentioned by Malcolm, a successful seasonal zoom meeting in December.
- Plant competition in March organised by Angela and Steve Lobley and judged by Martin Sheader, thanks to all who entered and hopefully we can encourage a few more entries next year.
- Photographic competition entry deadline closes on 23rd April; if you've not entered yet and reading this online before the AGM, please send your entries to Ange and Steve Lobley by 23rd April. All entries will be shown on screen at the May meeting.
- Open garden events in February for snowdrops and again in April were good fundraisers for the Group and we anticipate a further event in May / June when the garden will be different again. They are also fantastic social events.
- We now run plant sales at all open garden events with thanks especially to Robin and Sue White and Stefan Rau for the donation / provision of plants and thanks to all other donors and purchasers and Paddy for baking lovely cakes!

The mix of meetings at Chilworth Hall and Dec – Feb meetings via zoom has now settled and suits our wider membership with something for all.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

This year our financial position is sound with a small surplus of £7.46.

The main item of expenditure is speakers, which whilst still within our budget (approx. £250pm) is higher than last year and reflects the quality of speakers we are attracting, distances travelled and requirement for accommodation. Hall hire is lower due to timing of invoices (we would normally have paid for April and May in the March invoice). We also paid the residual sum to the Ros Wiley Respite Project at Wildside Garden, collected during our 2021 open garden events. All other costs were minimal.

Mentioned by Malcolm in his report, our healthy membership numbers has generated increased subscription income and most other income streams are also positive compared to the previous year. As mentioned last year, the transfer from West Sussex Group was a one-off item.

Our reserves remain healthy. My thanks to David Mussell who has again kindly audited our books.

The Treasurer's report was proposed by Mike Powell and seconded by Val Le May Neville-Parry and approved by the meeting.

## **7. Election of Officers**

The following Officers and members of the committee agreed to serve for a further year.

The Officers and Committee Malcolm Calvert, Chairman; Paddy Parmee, Vice-Chairman and Speaker Secretary; Ben Parmee, Secretary and Treasurer; and Committee Members; Angela and Steve Loble, David Hanslow, Terry Raiseborough, and Jo Whitfield, were proposed en bloc by Jack Metcher, seconded by Mike Gurd and approved by the meeting.

## **8. Any Other Business**

A vote of thanks to the committee was offered by David Mussell on behalf of the Group.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 19.45.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

25 April 2024.