ELTHAM AND AVERY HILL CARDENS SOCIETY

AGM Minutes March 29th 2019

**Present**: Barbara Crowe, Michael Hill, Roger Brown, Greg Hammond, Pat Middleton, Dave Middleton, John King, Iris Griffin and approximately 22 members.

**Apologies for absence**: Sam McKerell, Graham Farrant

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were read, agreed and signed by Barbara Crowe

**Any matters arising**: None

**Treasurers Report**: Mike thanked Chris Reynolds for checking the figures. A copy of the accounts was handed to all attendees. The financial position was stable, down slightly during the year. Trading surplus remains stable at £300 for the year. Other items remain very much the same. The show made a profit of £35, rather than the usual loss. This was because we saved the expense of engraving the cups, using certificates instead. One new item was the Anthony Noel Lecture on Small Gardens at St Marys in October 2018. This made a loss of £95. It was very well attended and was enjoyed by everyone. The offer of tea was not taken up by many. It was proposed to see if we can hold another lecture. Everything remains quite stable financially.

**Show Report**: The show in 2018 was again very successful in spite of the very dry weather we had. We had 242 exhibits by 23 entrants. Roger said these are about the same figures from his time as Show Secretary, with figures remaining stable for about 15 years. We had a big headache finding the judge for the show as two judges dropped out. We eventually had Peter Tate a national dahlia specialist. A new class; Items of Interest had no entries. We have sorted a Guest of Honour for the show which will beheld on the 14th September 2019. Andrew Martinovs runs Thompsons Nursery at Shooters Hill. We have Peter Tate to judge flowers and Sam has been talking to the domestic Judge Annabelle Parsons regarding domestic classes. Once again, we will provide certificates to winners. Tony Crowe asked if we could get a vegetable specialist to judge the vegetables. Mike will try and e-mail a new vegetable judge, John Heath.

**Trading Report**: Pat would like to thank all the people who work in the shop on a Sunday. The shop is well stocked. Price lists are available in the shop and are also available on the Web site. Potato orders were down this year. We have more Society members who do not have plots using the shop than plot holders. Please support the shop.

**Memberships**: We currently have 104 members, some new members. About three quarters of these have provided e-mail addresses, some addresses on the membership forms are not written very clearly. Very few Newsletters are hand delivered now. According to the Societies constitution membership last for 12 months plus a three-month grace period. Roger is writing to people who have gone over the three month ‘grace’ period.

**Allotment Liaison Officer**: As of today 29th March 2019, we have three plots available and there will probably be more soon as invoices are going out shortly. There are currently three people on the waiting list. Pat is showing one of the round on Tuesday 2nd April. The Council has said that paths around and between plots MUST be maintained – even if the path is between two plots that you work. People are dumping rubbish on plots that do not appear to be worked. Pat has reported that there have been incidents of theft from plots, both vegetables and tools. Keys to the gate and the locker room are NOT to be handed out. These should only be obtained from the shop for personal use. Duplicates ARE NOT to be cut. If people are found to be doing this they will be reported to the Council. The Society is trying to get something done about the fence alongside the Green Chain Walk. The cost to renew the fence is exorbitant. The Council will remedy this as far as possible, but will not be replacing the fence.

**Webmasters Report**: Graham cannot be with us tonight but has advised that all events, shop price lists etc are posted.

**Committee Membership**: Sue Pennycook and Michelle Dowlers have resigned this year. John King has joined the committee. Barbara asked if anyone else would be interested in joining. Brian Greenwood agreed and was seconded by Pat Middleton.

**Any other business**: The Spring Outing this year on Wednesday 12th June is to Sheffield Park. If anybody would like tickets please get in touch with Richard Mattinson.

The lecture by Anthony Noel on Small Garden Designs was very successful. If we have another we will do away with refreshments, but as it was a success, we will look to do another one. Barbara asked if there was any particular topic, we thought would be interesting. Tree pruning and Bugs in the garden were suggested – i.e. invasive species. Tony Crowe suggested a slightly higher entrance fee.

Barbara thanked Liz Banks and Sheila Hammond for providing refreshments.

The raffle made a profit of £32.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

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