

Marlborough Gardening Association
Minutes of AGM 2020
held on Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Wesley Hall

Apologies for absence were received from Anthea Hayden, Elizabeth Cross, Deirdre Watson, Anne Robinson.

Minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated. Anna Marsden proposed they be accepted, seconded by Jacqui Taylor, and this was agreed.

Chairman's Report

The Association has enjoyed another very successful year, with membership numbers steady at around 160. Meetings had been very well attended, with extra chairs needed at some meetings. The proceeds from the monthly raffle helped us to keep our subscription low and thanks were due to Rosemary Hawes and her helpers for organising this. Thanks also to Sue Jackson for organising the refreshment rota – both the raffle and the drinks each month were a valuable source of additional funds for the Association. Excellent talks had covered topics as diverse as gardening for bees, Darwin and the Beagle, Creations with willow and Hedges and lawns. Very popular visits included West Green House and the Vyne, Blenheim Palace flower show, Highgrove and the gardens at Miserden and Rodmarton Manor. The weekend trip to the Midlands in June was excellent and as always very enjoyable - thanks to Carol and Cheryl for organising it. The annual lunch at Marlborough Golf Club was well supported with over 30 members enjoying a delicious lunch and an interesting short talk. The plant sale last May was again held in the Wesley Hall and worked very well. Many thanks to Heather Bridgeman and her team of helpers for organising the event.

This year a sound amplification system had been installed in the Hall and thanks were expressed to Christchurch for organising this. It had made a big difference to the sound quality at meetings and was much appreciated by all, not just those with a hearing loss. We had offered a contribution towards the cost of this but it was not needed because it was funded through grants and by Christchurch itself. However, we had given them a contribution towards the cost of the new heating system which was also installed last year.

Looking ahead, we have an equally exciting programme of meetings for the coming year - thanks to Jan Lillywhite for arranging it. Details of all the meetings and visits for the coming year were included in the new yellow programme. Members were urged to read the newsletter each month – it was there to keep you informed of future events and also provided useful gardening tips and other information. Many thanks to Anne Crawley for producing it every month, and as you will have read she is now stepping down as editor. Deirdre Watson is taking over this role with help from Jacqui Taylor. Finally, thanks were given to the committee: Amelia for her work as Treasurer and membership secretary, Jan for the programme, Anne for the newsletter, Miranda and Jane for organising the programme of visits and Pauline, Jacqui, Janet, Deirdre and Dorothy for all that they do to keep the Association running smoothly.

Treasurer's Report

The statement of accounts had been distributed to members. The raffle and teas had made a useful profit. MGA was in a healthy financial position and as a result membership could be retained at £7.50. The accounts were unanimously agreed, having been proposed by Marion Roundhill and seconded by Julia Peel. There was a healthy surplus of funds and the possibility of giving small grants to worthy causes was discussed. Anna Marsden recommended establishing a set of criteria against which gardening-related requests could be judged, and it was noted that this would be brought to the Committee for consideration.

Committee

All members of the current committee (membership and officers), were willing to stand again. One new member, Carol Davis, had been nominated to join the committee. The committee was agreed en block, proposed by Pauline Liardet and seconded by Cheryl Swan.