

MINUTES OF THE BLACK PEAR GARDENING CLUB HELD AT 47A ST ANDREWS ROAD

MALVERN ON MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT Brian Pam, Cathy, Jasmine, Irene Ken and Audrey, Roger and Barbara.

APOLOGIES June and Lorna

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 8TH APRIL 2014. Were read and agreed.

MATTERS ARISING The fund raising Coffee Morning held at Cathy's on the 6th August was enjoyable and made a profit of £92. A bit more support from members would have been nice, however it was a worthwhile event. 18 visitors came plus 10 members of the Committee. It was agreed to hold a Coffee Morning again next year but possibly in June or July. Jasmine reported that the attendance at previous "indoor" meetings were as follows 45 42 46 42 44. It was discussed whether we should have an indoor meeting in April and begin the visits after the Gardener's Market which is always held in May. It was therefore proposed that if the planned April 2015 visit did not materialise (yet to be confirmed) then an indoor meeting would be held, hopefully keeping the momentum of members fresh.

The Coach Outing to Yeo Valley garden in Somerset was a great success with lovely weather as well... 33 adults and 2 children enjoyed an interesting day and a profit of £95 was made. Income was £740 with expenses of £645. It was suggested by Ken that when future outings are arranged that an extra £1 be added to the cost – to cover the tip for the driver. This was agreed.

The numbers attending the Gardener's Market at Powick Village Hall on 17th May were disappointing despite lots of advertising and visits to Powick and Callow End Schools by Brian to promote the event. At the end of the day a profit only £72.38 was made which was poor considering all the effort of Stallholders and Committee members. It was discussed whether to revert to Callow End Village Hall as this would be cheaper – but the car parking was not as good. It was suggested that we leave it at Powick Village Hall for 2015 and reduce the time to 2 hours – from 11 am til 1 pm. This would cut costs, and advertising would be restricted to other Garden Groups and posters and not paying for newspaper advertising.

TREASURER'S REPORT Cathy reported a balance in the Bank of £1373 a healthy amount.

PROGRAMME UPDATE The programme for 2015 has been planned. Brian suggested that the members be asked (at the AGM) for ideas for next years outing. Brian also mentioned that lots of members were interested in having a visit to a "Winter Garden" and Dunham Massey in Cheshire was an obvious choice. Enquiries had been made re admission charges and it was necessary for a group of 15 or more to visit to be entitled to as group discount. A coach from Astons would cost approx £515. (NT members are free) A date of 28th February was suggested, leaving Malvern at 9 am and returning from Dunham about 3 30. This will be brought up at a future meeting.

AGM 2014 Brian asked if we wished to keep the same format as in previous years i e AGM business first followed by a short break for refreshments, and then the talk by Mr Neil Cook on the re-creation of Hanbury Hall gardens. It was decided this was a good formula. Ken and Audrey Webb and Irene Skeys would be standing down from the Committee at the AGM. They were all thanked for their hard work over the year and wished a restful “retirement”. Regarding “new blood” on the Committee Brian mentioned he would be approaching one or two members to ask if they would be interested in serving on the Committee. Mince pies and apple pies would be served with the tea and coffee at the AGM.

Roger Parker mentioned the “dress code” for the Christmas lunch at the Boughton Park Golf and Country Club insofar as no “jeans” would be allowed. Members who attend will be reminded of this.

A O B Brian had received a letter from Adrian James from “:Langdale Offenham – the venue for the next garden visit on 20th September giving directions and instructions re parking by the Village Hall. Brian said he had already advised members of this information in a previous Newsletter.

Membership numbers now stand at 87. When the Black Pear Gardening Club was formed 2 years ago it had reached 99. However it was felt we have a good blend of interested members whom we hoped enjoyed all our meetings.

The topic of a PA system was brought up. Apparently a system called ADASTRA PORTABLE SPEAKER SYSTEM had been recommended. This would cost (in total) £106.21 and it was unanimously agreed to purchase said system.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 15TH November 2014 (a short meeting after the AGM) and then January 17th 2015