

MILFORD GARDENERS' CLUB

MINUTES OF 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 3.00 pm VIA ZOOM

The Chairman, Sue Crabb, welcomed members to the 24th A.G.M. of the Gardeners' Club on our first Zoom meeting.

PRESENT: Members of the 2020 committee: Sue Crabb, Chairman, Jean Robinson, Marigold de Jongh, Iris Slee, Clare Kelly, Judith Holliday, Ginny McIlroy, Sue Berriman, Pam Shiell, plus 35 members of the Gardeners' Club.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Angela Gordon, Christine Barrs, Brenda Hazel, Juanita Woods, Richard & Liz Newson.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS A.G.M. HELD 19th FEBRUARY 2020:**

The minutes were read by the Secretary, Jean Robinson. It was agreed that the Minutes be adopted.

Proposed: Anne Jenks Seconded: Jenny Spenser

Passed by the Members.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Sue Crabb gave her report for the year 2020 .

This time last year I was just starting to feel comfortable in my role as chair and looking forward to an exciting year ahead! Well, what a year it has been, a year like no other we have experienced before.

We got off to a great start In January, with our talk from David Domoney of TV fame. This was courtesy of Jenny Spenser, who "won" him at Chelsea Flower Show, we couldn't have afforded him otherwise. He was entertaining, knowledgeable and charismatic and shared lots of good tips. Sadly Jen was on the other side of the world on holiday and missed him!

As sometimes happens, our February speaker discovered he had double booked but at least he organised a very able substitute, Mary Haytor from Brockenhurst, who talked about opening her garden for the NGS and about garden opening in general.

It was an enjoyable talk but I don't think anyone was rushing to open theirs, it all sounded a bit too nit-picky.

At the beginning of March the first rumours of this strange virus started appearing and by the time of the March meeting we were in lockdown. So despite hoping to be back, first in May, then in September, here we are at the start of another year with no end to restrictions in sight just yet.

Compost and seed became highly sought after articles and hard to obtain at the start of lockdown 1. It didn't stop our members from growing things though and as many of us were hoping the plant fair would go ahead, we ended up with spare plants. Kim and Derek Durham had a plant stall going outside their house as did Anne and Richard Bickle, both couples raising a goodly amount of money which was donated to NHS charities.

That set the committee thinking and Clare, our membership Secretary, who is also our IT whizz, suggested setting up a google group for members only, to offer spare plants or request certain ones and also to trade wanted and unwanted garden items. This worked very successfully and I can see it coming in very handy for this year too, the way things are going. Clare also set up a gallery on our website so that we could share pictures of how our gardens were looking but it wasn't as well used as I had hoped. It's not just for lockdown, pictures are welcome at any time.

I had the Committee round to my garden in two groups of six (the magic number of that time!) for tea, cake and a catch up in July, whilst the lockdown restrictions were slightly eased. It gave us a chance to exchange thoughts on the way forward for the club, but more than that, it was a great social occasion after all the months of lockdown.

Some of the Committee and Wendy Thomas did a big tidy of the Copse in July and again at the end of September when we planted 100 "wild daffodils" plus various other donated things including hellebores, primroses, foxgloves and pulmonarias. In December some of the Committee did a final tidy up, raking leaves, cutting back and Jen Spencer discussed with Josh, who works for the Parish Council what tree branches and larger bushes needed cutting back. He has the power tools and the muscle power! I'd like at this point to mention Richard Bickle who kept the grass at the Copse mown throughout lockdown and the summer, despite having a dodgy knee. He has continued to do a great job and has done so for many years.

We were so hoping to get back to meetings in September but the restrictions on numbers at the Community Centre made that a "no go."

In November, the Community Centre sent out a request to local organisations for donations to help with running costs as they were struggling, having no classes running and no income. After discussions with the committee it was decided that we could afford to donate £500. There was an opportunity for match funding and as I was aware of how this worked we agreed that I would make the donation online and claim it back from the club. On the appointed day I was on my iPad very promptly and I am delighted to say that our donation was match funded so the Community

Centre was able to benefit from £1,000. Sometimes a little knowledge is really helpful!

That more or less wraps up the year. I have tried to keep things positive with the newsletters and view them as my primary means of staying connected with all of you members. Let's hope the plant fair will be able to go ahead and that we are all able get together again, in person before too long.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: Sue Crabb read the Treasurer's report on behalf of Marigold de Jongh. No questions were raised.

We have 139 members, including 2 life members, at present and we hope to welcome more this year. Subscriptions for 2020 have brought in £1918.00. With donations this amounts to £1992.50. The Committee agreed that the Club's finances were in a position to donate £500 to Milford Community Centre. It has also been decided that members should be given a year's membership without subscriptions as there have been no meetings or other activities since February 2020. There was no Plant Fair, so we were unable to make any other donations to charities. I would like to thank Paul Garton for his invaluable support throughout the year and particularly for examining the accounts for us.

Proposed: Christine Twyford

Seconded: Anne Jenks

Passed by the Members

5. VOTE OF THANKS:

Sue gave special mention to Richard Bickle for his ongoing work mowing the Copse which he has done for many years, and is happy to continue.

She also thanked Paul Garton for the accounts help he has given to Marigold over the years.

Clare Kelly was thanked for the tremendous IT work she has carried out to enable our website to have greater use, and facilitate information swaps among members. Clare has offered to take over as Treasurer, so a vacancy will exist for Membership Secretary.

Marigold was thanked for being our Treasurer for almost 11 years, and there is a Garden Voucher ready for collection as thanks for the long service. Marigold will remain on the committee.

Pam Shiell and Sue Berriman will no longer be able to remain on the committee due to family commitments, but are happy to assist when they can. Sue is moving out of the area.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & ORDINARY MEMBERS:

As mentioned, Clare will become Treasurer, and a new committee member Sharon Perl is nominated – She will play a significant role in the Plant Fair when this resumes.

Nominations:

Officers:	Chairman	Sue Crabb
	Treasurer:	Clare Kelly
	Secretary:	Jean Robinson
	Membership Secretary:	vacant

Proposed:	Ken Barrett	Seconded: Bruce Halliday
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Passed by the members.

Ordinary members:	Jenny Spenser
	Judith Holliday
	Iris Slee
	Juanita Woods
	Ginny McIlroy
	Marigold de Jongh
	Sharon Perl

Proposed:	Josie Bemmer	Seconded: Sue Shaw
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Passed by the Members.

7. APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINER:

Paul Garton has offered to take on the role as the Examiner for the coming year and this is greatly appreciated.

Proposed:	John Clayton	Seconded:	Jenny Spenser
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Passed by the Members.

8. CHARITY FUNDS:

2 nominations were received at our last AGM but were not voted on, and no further nominations were submitted. No fundraising activities could be held in 2020 due to the

pandemic. The 2 nominated charities (below) were approved to be our Charities for the coming year.

FORCA nourish appeal - providing a take-home ready meal
After a day's chemotherapy

LYMINGTON HOSPITAL FRIENDS SCANNER APPEAL

These were unanimously passed.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Jenny outlined all the work she has done since the latest Covid-19 rules were announced. Unfortunately we will not be allowed to have a large gathering on the Village Green at the proposed date. Jenny has written to all the stall-holders, and given them our new date of Saturday 21st May 2022 to put in their diaries.

Whether other options are available – plant sales to members via website / plant fair later in the year / donate to community meadow, etc. will be discussed when we can have a Committee meeting.

Christine Twyford said that the planned date for the Flower and Produce show is Saturday 18th July. Whether or not this will go ahead is as yet unknown, but we may wish to add it to our diaries.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 3.36 pm.