

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Cornwall Garden Society Affiliated Societies
held on Friday 22nd November

Held at the Pinetum Park and Pine Lodge Gardens

1. Marion Barker, Membership Secretary, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. MB expressed pleasure that the number attending was over 30 with several new affiliated societies joining us. The idea behind the annual meeting was to discuss how we can help each other and most importantly for the different groups to meet and exchange information and ideas.
2. Apologies were received from Lelant Village Produce Association and Martin Pallett, Show Director.
3. Andrew Leslie, Chairman, added his welcome to MB's and stated that by the increase of attendees it seemed that November was a good time for the meeting.

AL welcomed Pat Ward who produces the List of Show Speakers and Show Judges for the affiliated societies.

The Christmas Gift card was available again this year and the number of nurseries offering our members 10% discount on plant sales has increased to 21. A list of participating nurseries and garden centres will be sent out with the December mail out and the website will be updated.

AL reminded members that the lectures were available to all members, the affiliated members being able to send two members and as a trial for the evening lectures in 2014 these will all be held at the Alverton Manor in Truro whilst the afternoon lectures will still rotate through the county.

We had again attended the Camellia and Rhododendron Society Show at Rosemoor where once again we were very warmly welcomed and given the opportunity to make our name known to a wider audience.

AL stated that we would welcome any gardening tips or hints that could be displayed on the website – all suggestions to Peter Gilmore who handles the input to our website.

This summer the CGS has been invited to have a presence at the NGS Open Gardens and we were able to hand out membership forms. Volunteers are always needed for this and members were asked to speak to Debbie Evans if there were able to assist.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. In the absence of Martin Pallett, our new Show Director, AL, reported that DE had done a wonderful job in raising the Show to a new level but for various reasons had decided to stand down this year. MP who has vast experience in fund raising and marketing volunteered to take over as Show Director and is currently working with local schools to encourage children (and their parents!) to attend by specific events to get children involved in gardening. Our guest this year will be Chris Beardshaw. The Show will remain at Boconnoc for at least the next four years. Volunteers are always needed in setting up the show and for stewards during the show days, if anyone is able to assist they would be very welcome and their contact is Debbie Evans. AL and DE are willing to visit affiliated societies and give a free talk on the history of the show and what is involved in the putting on of the Spring Show, they will of course bring along membership information.
6. It was asked that the coach for Boconnoc be better advertised, Peter Gilmore will be asked to flag it on the website.

Pat Ward asked if any affiliated society members knew of other speakers and if they would be prepared to pass them on to her. PW also asked members to let her know if they

felt that some speakers were not of the standard expected and she would see if anything could be done. PW also reminded members that Class 1 at the Show was not just for big gardens, neither need it be one person and suggested that members 'had a go'. A discussion followed regarding the most appropriate time for the List of Speakers to go out, no final decision was made. The cost of speakers was discussed and the question of negotiable costs was raised. PW explained that negotiable was the key word, explanation of the number of members will give the speaker an idea of what is a feasible cost.

It was requested that a full list of affiliated society members be put on the website and if possible information regarding their forthcoming shows.

It was suggested that a map showing the affiliated societies be on display on the Show in the membership area, MB agreed to source this.

15th and 16th March 2014 is the date for the West Cornwall Horticultural Society's show which is held in Penzance.

MB asked all members to speak to their own members regarding individual membership to the CGS.

7. There was no other business.

8. MB thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 11.30am

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The meeting closed at 12.15pm.