



Welcome to the 2018 End-of-Year Newsletter with AGM minutes and other matters arising relating to the operation of the Association.

AGM Minutes

Committee Attendees

Darren Lister -Secretary

Sally Hall - Membership and rota secretary

Brian Jones - Chairman

Apologies

Colin Fox

Mark Davies

11 Association members attended and apologies from 6 members were received

Last years' minutes were approved with no matters were arising.

Reports

Brian opened the meeting and mentioned with sadness the passing of 2 club stalwarts in Bob Tanner, who had been Chairman for over 21 years, and De Blomley.

Further to the proposal made at the 2017 AGM, a moderate amount of money had been spent on upgrading the shop interior and this has been seen as a big improvement by members over the year – Brian thanked all those that helped with this.

The reduced opening times (opening at 10 rather than 9) during August had also been generally well received.

Colin had reported on the Association finances, the overall turnover was down by about 10% on 2017 and this was largely attributed to the very slow start to the year with a cold Spring.

The Association continues to maintain a healthy balance in reserve however and an additional £2000 has been moved to a savings account to benefit from some interest payments.

A total in excess of £850 was raised for charities (Independent Advice Centre - £355, Air ambulance – over £500, final figure pending.

Seed sales in the shop were down slightly but more members are now buying from Kings online.

Sally is standing down as the Rota / Membership secretary, she thanked all those who have supported her in manning the shop and was in turn thanked by the committee for her service in this role over recent years.

Terry Knight has stepped into the breach and hopefully you will all be as keen to support him in filling the rota up as you were with Sally.

Terry now receives emails from the Shoprota@wantagegardeners.org.uk address and his contact number is 07976 225598

The arrangements for the web page were discussed, until 2018 the costs for this have been shared with another local charity but they gave notice at the beginning of the year they no longer needed the facility. On this basis, the Association will now pick up the full costs of the web page (approximately £82 for 2019). This was agreed as being very worthwhile.

Election of the Committee.

The committee remained unchanged with the exception of the Membership and Rota secretary where Terry Knight has agreed to pick this role up following Sally's move from the area.

Other Matters

RHS Membership

The Association is an affiliate member of the RHS, the main benefit this gives us is Public Liability insurance for operating the shop but there are additional benefits.

- The association is entitled to one free group visit (up to 55 members) to any of the 4 RHS sites
- We can also purchase cards which entitle members to a 30% discount on entry to the RHS sites.

We will look into ways we can use these additional benefits in 2019.