



AGM Summary & 2020 Round Up

We held a virtual AGM for the first time for obvious reasons. It went well but we had an extremely low turnout, hopefully members did not feel excluded from the meeting due to lack of technical awareness or equipment.

Darren has written the minutes and they are attached, summary points are below:

Membership

Membership fell to around 150 but that does include 21 new members. Given a lot of members were isolating for a large part of the year this wasn't thought to be too bad. Collection of membership subs was a bit hit and miss too so the figure is not as accurate as in previous years.

Committee

The committee all agreed to stand for a further year and there were no proposals for new members and so the committee remains:

Chairman - Brian Jones
General Secretary - Darren Lister
Rota secretary - Terry knight
Treasurer - Colin Fox
Publicity / webmaster - Mark Davies

Wisley Trip

Many members signed up for the trip to Wisley which was ultimately not practical due to the various restrictions.

Obviously this was disappointing but thanks were again passed on to Alan for organising it. We hope to re-arrange for late summer this year but this is again dependant on the situation at the time.

Finances

Takings from the shop for the year were higher in 2020 than for the previous 5 years which we felt was surprising but an indication of the popularity of gardening during the lockdown. We have also invested in more stock than we have for several years and so we are in a good position to continue to supply members when the shop re-opens.

Colins full report is attached.

Allotment Insurance

We have offered plot holder insurance for the last couple of years via the NSALG as we thought this would be appreciated by allotment holders who don't have any other means of covering themselves. We only had very minimal uptake however and so its is not practical to continue to offer this.

Overall, given the circumstances it was felt we had a successful year and hopefully we can build on this in 2021.

Diary Dates

AGM – Thursday 26th November 2021 – Venue to be decided.
WGA Charity Plant sales(s) / Grove plant sale – TBA.

Other Points

Shop Re-Opening

We have reviewed the current situation and we feel that the normal opening date of the first Saturday in Feb is not practical and will probably result in low sales in a not very comfortable environment (outside in February).

As it stands, we are proposing to open on the 6th March instead. This is subject to review depending on the lockdown situation but we will at least want to start to sell the potatoes by then.

We propose to run a 'click and collect' format again where members will be asked to order in advance and collect as pre-picked lots from outside the shop between 10 and 12.

We will also offer a delivery service again to those who are shielding or self-isolating in the local areas.

We will send out further details through mid-February. If you are desperate for particular supplies before then then please send an email and we will do our best to sort you out.

Seed Sales

A reminder that we offer an excellent discount scheme to buy seeds from Kings (they give us 30% discount). Please note however that they have recently emailed to say they have already sold approximately double the amount they had by this time last year and have currently suspended taking new orders for around 2 weeks. Maybe its worth thinking about checking wherever you usually buy from as soon as possible.

If you are interested in the Kings scheme when they re-open, follow this link <https://www.kingsseeds.com/Secure/Register?ur=wantage> .

Potatoes

Darren has ordered potatoes again and they will certainly be available for the March opening date. We will also send a form to order these as with normal products to allow you to ensure you obtain your first choice of varieties.

Details will be sent out during February.

Thanks for your continued support, particularly the stalwarts who help us out as shop volunteers. Hopefully we will see you again this year and please tell your gardening friends and acquaintances about the association to help us continue to provide the services we currently offer.

Stay Safe and Best Regards

WGA Committee

Statement of Accounts 1/11/16 to 1/11/20

INCOME	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	Difference 2020-2019
Annual Subscriptions:	£146.00	£190.00	£165.00	£223.00	£223.00	
Shop sales	£8,736.60	£7,498.90	£6,226.94	£7,960.12	£8,423.69	
NSALG membership	£30.00	£12.00				
RHS visit	£630.00					
Seed sales	£46.54	£0.00	£206.83	£0.00	£138.13	
Refund From Kings Seeds *	£156.00	£144.08	£175.63	£104.40	£141.73	
Plant Sales	£0.00	£119.10	£156.00	£144.40	£241.90	
Total	£9,745.14	£7,964.08	£6,930.40	£8,431.92	£9,168.45	£1,033.68

EXPENDITURE	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	Difference 2020-2019
Honoraria	£260.00	£270.00	£270.00	£270.00	£300.00	
Carry over from previous year	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£110.00	£60.00	
Sub Total	£260.00	£270.00	£270.00	£380.00	£360.00	
Post & stationery	£40.00	0	£14.30	£0.00	£38.43	
RHS membership/insurance	£120.00	£120.00	£110.00	£105.00	£105.00	
Allotment Insurance	£30.00	£31.00				
Rent	£800.00	£800.00	£800.00	£800.00	£800.00	
Refurbishment	£0.00	£0.00	£311.48			
King's seeds	£203.81	£100.69	£191.83	£97.36	£298.47	
Purchase of microchodial fungi	£0.00	£12.80				
Shop supplies	£8,186.04	£6,388.28	£5,469.78	£6,763.80	£7,442.63	
Hire of Church Hall	£0.00	£20.00	£20.00	£20.00	£20.00	
Sally Hall leaving present	£30.00					
Gazebo	£206.98					
RHS Visit refund	£240.00					
Web hosting	£0.00	£101.39	£35.94	£62.23	£-31.20	
Card reader/tablet computer	£20.00	£153.76				
Adverts	£12.00	£80.00	£60.00	£45.00	£41.00	
Total	£10,148.83	£8,077.92	£7,283.33	£8,273.39	£9,074.33	£794.59

Income less expenditure	-£403.69	-£113.84	-£352.93	£158.53	£94.12	£239.09
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Total assets at 1/11/20	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	Difference 2020-2019
Cash in bank - current a/c	£4,779.32	£5,052.72	£5,333.80	£7,708.13	£7,447.00	
Cash in savings a/c †	£9,846.63	£9,722.48	£9,642.89	£7,642.89	£7,500.00	
Savings Interest	£128.01	£124.15	£79.59			
Cash in hand	£45.00	£45.00	£45.00	£45.00	£45.00	
Total in bank/savings/cash	£14,798.96	£14,944.35	£15,101.28	£15,396.02	£14,992.00	-£145.39
Seed stock in store	£69.64					69.64
Stock in store	£5,292.07	£3,723.14	£3,856.46	£3,661.66	£3,830.12	£1,568.93
Total	£20,160.67	£18,667.49	£18,957.74	£19,057.68	£18,822.12	£1,638.57
Surplus/Loss 2019/2020						
Paid to Charities						
Independent Advice Centre	£347.50	£255.25	£355.14	£154.07		
IAC Air Ambulance ‡	£267.5 + ?	£373.50	£362 + ?	£495.35		
Total		£628.75		£649.42	610.12	

The figure in yellow highlight is the total from last year plus the total of the items in green highlight.

* Refund is based on seed sales from shop and seeds purchased directly by members from Kings.

† Interest payment are received in December and reinvested.

‡ IAC figure does not include money in collection box.

MINUTES FROM
WANTAGE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2020
HELD ONLINE DUE TO COVID 19 VIRUS

The chairman Brian Jones opened the meeting at 19:34

Present

Chairman Brian Jones
General secretary Darren Lister
Rota secretary Terry knight
Treasurer Colin Fox
Publicity / webmaster Mark Davies

Zelda Moorwood
Keith West
Bernard Connolly

With Apologies from

Alan McPherson
Alison Corley
Joanna Saddler
Darren read the minutes from the 2019 AGM. There were no matters arising.
These were proposed as true by Zelda Moorwood and seconded by Keith West.

Chairman's Report - Brian Jones

Brian started by saying that sales had gone well up into march when the Prime Minister announced that people must stay at home and certain businesses must close.

On the last day before closing the shop takings were £1400, a record.

After relaxing of restrictions, the committee decided to offer an ordering service where members could place an order by email then either collect from shop or have delivered. Thanks to Mark Davies for creating the spreadsheet to keep track of everything and thank you to Terry Knight for delivering further afield.

We were fortunate to have dry weather so that orders could be placed outside to make collection simpler.

This system worked well, thank you to Darren for arranging the deliveries and selecting alternatives when stock was unavailable.

Brian went on to say he felt that we were lucky to have the card reader contactless payments help stick to the 2m social distancing rules.

He also went on to say that a plant sale was held on the 30th may using a one-way system around the store this had been a success. Thanks to Treasa Wright and Helen Vale for helping also a big thank you to Helen Vale for selling plants from her home raising a total of £232.50 to be divided between charities.

He then went on to thank Alen McPherson for organising the coach trip to Wisely and successfully filling the coach - it was a disappointment that it was cancelled due to covid-19.

Brian finished by thanking both Treasa Wright and Liz Sanders for helping with the stock take on the last day of the season, a difficult job this year due to the amount of stock we are carrying.

General Secretary Report - Darren Lister

Darren started his report by thanking his fellow committee and all those that had helped with the shop and unloading lorries especially Keith West and Chris Finch who always seemed to be ready to help with a few hours' notice.

He went on to say that trying to keep up with ordering for the shop had been challenging at times with are suppliers struggling to get supplies to send out often needing to change brands.

Keeping fingers crossed things seem to be returning to normal.

Treasurer's report Colin Fox

Colin started by explaining that the membership seemed to be down on last year and that collecting membership numbers had been difficult

He went on to say that the allotment insurance we offered had only been taken up by 3 people but costs us £30. he had contacted Alan McPherson who organises Grove Road allotment group and asked to join them their rules don't allow us to join as we don't all grow there. The decision was taken to stop offering the plot holder insurance when it next comes up for renewal.

He continued to go through the accounts.

Darren read out a statement from Alan McPherson regarding the postponed coach trip to Wisley. These were proposed by Zelda Moorwood and seconded Bernard Connolly.

Rota secretary Terry Knight

Terry reported that the membership was 148 but that a few members could have been missed due to COVID-19 but was delighted to report that out of the 148 members 21 of them were new.

He went to report that finding volunteers was difficult due to COVID-19 but 21 members had put themselves forward to help either in the shop or unloading lorries and thanked them all.

He went on to say that he thought that the home delivery system had gone well and he thought that it should be continue, Mark agreed. It was agreed that a delivery service would be offered to those members that cannot get to the shop.

Publicity /Webmaster -Mark Davies

Mark reported that he has placed an advert in the Hanney News then due to lock down he hadn't placed any further adverts.

He went on to say that the web site was plodding along nicely, and he had sent newsletters out when needed.

Election of officers

It was decided that as all outgoing officers were happy to stand again so they would be elected on mass and would remain the same as last year. This was proposed by Keith West and seconded by Bernard Connolly.

Any other business

Colin asked if we could find some way to promote peat free compost. Darren agreed to ask Sylva Grow for a poster and any other material they could offer.

Zelda offered her thanks to all the committee and volunteers that had kept the shop trading through what had been a difficult year.

Keith West said how well he thought the online meeting had gone and he hoped we would do it again in the future.

The next AGM was pencilled in for Thursday 26th November 2021.

The date for the plant sale would be decided at a later date.

Brian closed the meeting at 20:25.