**THE PENINSULA GARDEN SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2024 AT 7PM**

**AT LAMORNA VILLAGE HALL**

**Agenda Item 1 – Apologies for Absence**

26 members were in attendance.

Apologies were received from Jimmy Scobie, Jennie Massey, Genie Smart, Pat & Stuart Russell, Jo Hill and Sue & Terry House

In the absence of our President Jimmy Scobie, Stephen Tucker presided over the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2 – Chairman’s Report – Gerald Hayman**

Key Points:

* At the end of 2023, the PGS had no Chair or Secretary as both were stepping down from those roles.
* Gerald agreed to stand in a Chair and will be stepping down at this meeting but staying on as a committee member.
* In March, Penny Woods had offered to take on the role of Secretary. Gerald reminded the meeting that this role is crucial as communications hold groups such as the PGS together.
* Gerald extended his thanks to Penny and Eric for setting up the hall and projection equipment in advance of the meetings. He also mentioned their work on the Flora and Fauna page on the PGS website which has been set up to monitor the effects of climate change.
* It has been a very good year for the PGS; a varied programme of talks, a very enjoyable visit to St Michael’s Mount; and a successful Plant Sale; the main fundraiser for the year.
* As a consequence, the PGS is in a good financial position.
* The programme of talks for 2025 has been finalised and published on the PGS website. Garden visits will be added early in 2025.
* Finally, Gerald extended his thanks to the Committee, especially those members who are standing down; Miranda Penhaligon, Tony Neave and David Jackson.

**Agenda Item 3 – Treasurer’s Report – Nigel Heard**

Key Points:

* The unaudited accounts for the financial year end 30 November 2024 were circulated to members. To date, the final bank statement had not been received.
* 3 key income streams; 61 members (£610 membership fees); Raffle (£320 after the cost of prizes) and the Plant Sale (£475 including the raffle).
* The key outgoings were payment of speakers fees, although many had waived their fee this year; hall hire and raffle prizes.
* The membership fee for 2025 would remain at £10 per person, making it 10 years since it was last increased.
* The PGS has recently purchased an Epson projector.
* Development of the website continues.
* This leave the PGS in a good financial position but going forward, this depends upon the membership.
* The position regarding membership numbers will become clearer in mid January once membership fees have been renewed.
* The PGS needs to be attractive and relevant and reach everyone across Penwith.
* The Marazion Spring Show in March is the first flower show of the year and will be a great place for the PGS to have a public face.
* The PGS also links in with the St Buryan Horticultural and Handicraft Society. Quite a few members enter or are judges, Stephen Tucker is the Chair and Gerald opened the show in 2024.
* The PGS needs to maintain and grow its membership in order to have another successful year.

**Approval of the Unaudited Accounts for the year end 30 November 2024:**

**Proposed – Marcus Clark**

**Seconded – Carole Jeffery**

**Agenda Item 4 – Secretary’s Report – Penny Woods**

Key Points:

* Penny thanked Miranda for the support and help she’s given her since Penny became Secretary in March.
* Penny highlighted the successful programme of talks, the success of the Plant Sale and the Summer Cream Tea as key moments of the year.
* Thanks were extended to the members who volunteered to do the teas throughout the year.
* Thanks were also extended to Jenny Williamson for the loan of the Lamorna Society’s projector.
* Penny confirmed that she was happy to stay on as Secretary for another year.

**Agenda Item 5 – Membership Secretary’s Report – Tony Neave**

Key Points:

* There are currently 61 members; 11 new members had joined during 2024.
* The membership is the backbone of the Society as they spread the word and encourage others to join.
* Tony confirmed that he would be standing down as Membership Secretary.
* It is time for a fresh set of ideas to raise membership levels and a new Membership Secretary would facilitate this.

**Agenda Items 6 & 7 - Election of Officers and new Committee Members**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | **Nominee** | **Vote** | **Proposed** | **Seconded**  | **In favour** | **Against** |
| **Chair** | Nigel Heard | Y | Penny Woods | Miranda Penhaligon | All | None |
| **Treasurer** | Chris Andrew | Y | Bill Bankes-Jones | David Jackson | All | None |
| **Secretary** | Penny Woods | Y | Miranda Penhaligon | Marcus Clark | All | None |
| **Membership****Secretary** | Carole Jeffery | Y | Marcus | Avril Taylor | All | None |
| **Committee & New Committee members** | Chris Andrew, Bill Bankes-Jones, Marcus Clark, Gerald Hayman, Carole Jeffery, Stephen Tucker | Y en-bloc | Marion Heard | Eric Woods | All | None |

**Agenda Item 8 – Competition Winner 2024**

Gerald explained that a new competition Plant of the Month had been introduced in January and had worked very well, although it had proved quite difficult to judge.

Points were awarded each month for the top 3 places; 3 points for 1st, 2 points for 2nd and a point for 3rd. These had now been added up and the winner could be declared.

3rd place – Eileen Thompson

2nd place – Carole & Clive Jeffery

1st place – Marion Heard

Stephen Tucker presented Marion with the cup (photo below)



**Agenda Item 9 – The PGS Website – an update – Marcus Clark**

Key Points:

* About a third of those present raised their hands when asked if they looked at the website regularly.
* The cost of creating the website was £500; normally this would have cost £10,000 but a friend of Marcus has assisted with the website design, thereby greatly reducing the costs.
* The Events page has around 80-90 views per month.
* Eric Woods was commended for the good job he is doing on maintaining and updating the Flora and Fauna Page. This is an interesting way of recording the effects of climate change.
* The website is weak on content; there are around 1,000-2,000 visitors per year, the aim should be to increase this to 10,000.
* The website needs new content to attract new members, especially young first time gardeners.
* Marcus has created a new page called ‘Hot Tips’. Members were asked to send him any gardening tips for inclusion on the page.
* Gerald suggested that local information should be included on the website.
* Stephen advised that the National Trust Rangers for West Penwith regularly looked at the Flora and Fauna page.
* Paddy added that the University of Aberdeen were interested in the information being gathered on the Flora and Fauna page.
* Marcus suggested asking Sydney Cameron and Jim Whitfield if a copy of their paper on bee colonies at Carn Du could be published on the website.

**Agenda Item 10 – Any Other Business**

None

The meeting closed at 7:45pm and was followed by the Christmas Party.

**1st January 2025**