Dulwich Society garden committee - minutes of meeting on Monday 16 September 2024

Present: Ann Rutherford, Elizabeth Rankin, Joanna French, Katharine St John-Brooks. Also present: Jeremy Prescott (by phone)

Apologies: Carol Britton, Jean Cary-Elwes

1. Minutes of meeting on 24 June
These were approved (since submitted to the DS Hon Secretary for publication)

2. Matters arising
None

3. Feedback on events
i) Visit to Great Comp / Chartwell, Thursday 27th June
Some changes proposed for next year

- Paper slips with timings for the day to be printed and handed out as guests board the coach to prevent delays accumulating during the day
- Sharpie/labels to be brought to prevent guests taking wrong plants home at the end of the day; + warn on coach

ii) Garden talk at Bell House, 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd July – Geoff Hodge
Bell House considered to be a better venue than the local schools as booking much less likely to be bumped, and audience of 60 easier to gather than an audience of 100+ required to break even at Alleyn's and JAGS.

iii) Visit to Grange Lane Allotments, 3pm Sunday 7th July
Visit went well, full house and very interesting.

iv) Ticket Tailor Experience
Ticket Tailor easy to use for ticketing, and better value than Eventbrite/. Jeremy to add a line to Terms and Conditions of ticket sales on refunds.

4. Visit to Fulham Palace Gardens, 11am Wednesday 18th September – reminder email sent. 21 tickets sold, between 14-16 due to turn up as some cancellations. Joanna to report back in November meeting.

5. Plans for 2025

i) Coach trip

- Coach trip again organised by Katharine – provisional date of 11th June 2025, with backup date of 18th June 2025. Morning visit to Sissinghurst (National Trust, doesn't offer tours) and second visit to Pashley Manor (lunch at café – seating capacity of 70). Katharine to find out whether Pashley Manor offer tours when checking availability for coach party. 250 yard walk from the coach park to the main entrance – to be made clear in the booking copy.
- Coach trip to be promoted in the March edition of Journal and garden brochure.

- Other venues discussed – Long Barn Gardens, Hole Park.
- Katharine to book venues and coach and report back.

ii) Spring talk

- Alison Marsden talking about how to have a great front garden (booked, 16 April 2025, Bell House)
- Second talk: Ambra Edwards on Head gardeners, end June/early July, Carol and Jeremy to confirm booking and date of talk
- Potential third talk/ speaker for following year: Tony Kirkham, former Tree Manager for Kew Gardens, Carol has contact details.

iii) Local Visits

- Jeremy and Joanna to meet to discuss. More local visits proposed to reduce the challenges of transport; Brockwell Park Community Gardens, Horniman Gardens, Morden Hall Gardens (very good roses in June)

iv) Activities to further support and engage community in gardening

- Workshops suggested, for example rose pruning (difficulty is finding venue, easier to find people to run workshops)

6. GDPR

A list is maintained by the DS Membership Secretary of members of DS sub-committees, with their names, addresses, email and phone number.
This is made available to members of the DS Executive Committee (the Trustees) but not more widely. Committee members present all confirmed they are happy for their data to be used in this way.

8. Next meetings

10.30am, Monday 18 November at Joanna's house

Approved..... J M Prescott

Date..... 18/11/24