Dear SGT member

Welcome to the Spring mailing from Sussex Gardens Trust. Below you will find details about the AGM to be held on 22nd April. Also enclosed are two brochures about ***Highlights of our Activities in 2022*** and details of our ***2023 Garden Visits Programme***. I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible at these events

Penny Vasey, Chairman SGT

27th Annual General Meeting of Sussex Gardens Trust to be held at 4.15pm on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at One Garden, Stanmer Park, Lewes Road, Brighton BN1 9SE

Notice is given that the 27th Annual General Meeting of members of the Sussex Gardens Trust will be held at One Garden, Stanmer Park, Lewes Road, Brighton BN1 9SE on Saturday 22 April 2023 commencing at 4.15 pm for the purpose of executing the following:

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Chairman's report
3. To receive & adopt the Minutes of the Twenty Sixth Annual General Meeting
4. To receive & consider the Report of the Trustees (Council of Management) "***Highlights of our Activities in 2022***" enclosed (see www.sussexgardenstrust.org.uk for a detailed Annual Report).
5. To receive & consider the Independently Examined Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2022 (attached)
6. To elect Sue Faulkner as Honorary Independent Examiner

Note:. Marcus Batty and Pat Dauncey resigned as Council Members during the year. **Sally Ingram** and **Jenny Howard** are retiring from Council in accordance with Article 48 of the Articles of Association. Sally is not seeking re-election, although she will continue as an active volunteer, but **Jenny** is seeking re-election. Two other members are also seeking election, long standing SGT member **Jennie Starr** (who was co-opted to Council under Article 44 following the 25th AGM) and **Katherine Meakin** (a profile for her is shown below).

7. To elect to Council Jenny Howard, Jennie Starr and Katherine Meakin.
8. Any Other Business

End of Business

Note: Two members may nominate a member for election to Council by notifying the Hon Secretary 7-21 days before the AGM (the nominee to indicate willingness to stand in writing). Members are entitled to vote by proxy. A form is required to be deposited 48 hours beforehand. This form can be obtained from the Hon Secretary Julie O'Hara, 8 West Hill Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 3RT.

Katherine Meakin

I've inherited my love of gardens and gardening from my mother, who could grow anything, seemingly effortlessly, and who took her children around many beautiful gardens. I spent my working life as an Information Technology Project Manager in the Financial Sector, working for customers all over the world. After retiring, I was very fortunate to spend part of the recent 'Covid years' studying for the RHS Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture at Plumpton College's campus at One Garden Brighton where I volunteered for 20 months. I have been volunteering also at Gravetye Manor garden for the past year. Gardening alongside very skilled, creative and dedicated professionals has been a privilege and a joy. When I lived in London, I was a member of the London Parks and Gardens Trust, with its amazing Open Gardens weekend, and, now I am living full time in Sussex again, I am delighted to be a member of the Sussex Gardens Trust with its inspirational talks, garden visits, conservation and research projects.

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of SUSSEX GARDENS TRUST held at 2.30pm at Borde Hill Gardens on 9th April 2022

1. Apologies: Sally Walker, Marcus Batty, John and Jackie Dorkings, Hilary May and Maggie Hill.

2. Chairman's Report: Penny Vasey welcomed the several new members who were attending an SGT event for the first time and expressed great pleasure that, thanks to the hospitality of Eleni and Andrewjohn Stephenson Clarke, SGT was able to hold its first in person AGM for two years. The Trust's achievements over the last year were considerable considering the constraints imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic:

Marcus Batty, Gardens Trust Volunteer of the Year 2021, was sincerely thanked for his uplifting Coronavirus Bulletin which so many members and their friends had enjoyed.

The SGT Zoom team supported a very successful SGT winter lecture series as well as some of the Gardens Trust's Unforgettable Gardens lecture series.

The Events team arranged visits to gardens at Wadhurst Park, Denmans Gardens and Michelham Priory - which were very much appreciated after travel/ meeting restrictions were lifted.

Sally Ingram – who has edited the Newsletter for many years – and her team are working on the new Journal which will replace the Newsletter under the new editor, Barbara Simms; the first edition of the Journal is expected to be published in Autumn 2022. This year, Sally also oversaw the publishing of the critically acclaimed "Gertrude Jekyll in Sussex". Penny congratulated Sally and her team on a remarkable achievement.

Despite the closure of libraries and record offices, Virginia Hinze and Jennie Starr have continued to support SGT's research activities – to the extent of even arranging in person meetings in car parks and other open spaces. Virginia has also enabled the Friends of Horsham Park to benefit from SGT's Small Grants Scheme.

The Conservation Committee, headed up by Jim Stockwell with input from Virginia Hinze and others, has continued to provide authoritative comment on relevant planning applications.

Despite the strange times, new members have continued to join; John and Jackie Dorkings were thanked for being a welcoming first point of contact as well as dealing so efficiently with all SGT mail outs – which are backed up by Jim Stockwell's frequent MailChimp communications.

Penny gave special thanks to the Website team – Pat and Chris Dauncey, Jim Stockwell, Sally Ingram and Paul Tosey - who spent many hours of research as well as liaising with professional website and logo developers.

Since volunteers provide almost all the work that is needed to run SGT, Penny urged members to consider how they might be able to contribute with their own skills and knowledge.

3. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Twenty fourth and Twenty Fifth Annual General Meetings. Both sets of minutes were agreed and unanimously adopted.

4. To receive and adopt the Report of the Trustees for 2021: The report was received and unanimously adopted.

5. To receive and adopt the Independently Examined Accounts and Balance sheet for 2021. The accounts were received and unanimously adopted and the Treasurer, Jenny Howard, was thanked.

6. To elect Sue Faulkner as Honorary Independent Examiner: Proposed by Pat Dauncey, seconded by Jenny Howard, the motion was carried unanimously.

7. To elect to Council Jim Stockwell, Penny Vasey and Julie O'Hara who retire in accordance with Article 48 of the articles of Association and are eligible for re-election. It was agreed to deal with this motion en bloc. The motion having been proposed by Sue Stockwell seconded by Susi Batty, was carried unanimously.

8. AOB: Penny encouraged SGT members to contact any members of Council with any comments or suggestions for future SGT projects, visits etc.

SUSSEX GARDENS TRUST
Charity no 1052734 **Registered Company 03149760**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Year to 31/12/21	Year to 31/12/22
INCOME		
Membership Subscriptions	3,478.84	£ 3,504.06
Event Income	3,406.14	£ 4,081.17
AGM Income	-	£ -
Winter Lectures	1,317.57	£ 1,769.32
Gift Aid	690.36	£ 667.83
Publication sales	2,058.05	£ 374.35
Interest COIF	1.58	£ 65.48
Miscellaneous Income	480.19	£ 712.45
Total Income	**£ 11,432.73**	**£ 11,174.66**
EXPENDITURE		
Event Costs	3,829.04	£ 3,494.34
AGM Costs	100.00	£ 118.00
Winter lectures	100.00	£ -
Production of Newsletter	1,010.00	£ 2,012.00
Postage and stationery	585.06	£ 743.29
Advertising and Promotion	172.00	£ -
Subscriptions and Donations	338.00	£ 335.50
Insurance	260.00	£ 278.00
Research	24.00	£ 98.75
Website Costs	61.74	£ 5,067.71
Publication costs	5,037.00	£ -
Miscellaneous expenditure	109.40	£ 456.88
Total Expenditure	**£ 11,626.24**	**£ 12,604.47**
Surplus income/(expenditure)	-193.51	(1,429.81)
Accumulated fund brought forward	22,965.64	22,772.13
Accumulated fund carried forward	**£22,772.13**	**£21,342.32**

I have examined the balance sheet, income and expenditure account and associated vouchers relating to the year ended 31 December 2022 and found them to be correct.

Examiner signature **Date**



18/1/2023

Sue Faulkner, Examiner

SUSSEX GARDENS TRUST

Charity no. 1052734 **Registered Company 03149760**

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 2022

	31/12/2021	31/12/2022
Current Assets		
Bank Balances	20,400.30	18,964.36
Charities Ethical Investment Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00
Debtors	-	-
Total Current Assets	25,400.30	23,964.36
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	645.16	461.10
Net Current Assets	24,755.14	23,503.26
Total Net Assets	**£24,755.14**	**£23,503.26**
Represented by		
Accumulated fund	22,772.13	21,342.32
Small Grants Scheme	1,983.01	2,160.94
	£24,755.14	**£23,503.26**

Notes on Small Grants Scheme

Balance as at 31 December 2021	1,983.01
Credit to fund of Christmas raffle takings, etc	177.93
Balance as at 31 December 2022	**£2,160.94**

The market value of the Investment in Charities Ethical Investment Fund at 31st December 2022 was estimated at £5,256.24.

For the year ending 31 December 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

CHAIRMAN **SECRETARY**

P Vasey J O'Hara

date date