

South Molton in Bloom (SMIB) Annual General Meeting

Held at: The Coaching Inn, South Molton on Monday 21st February 2022 7pm

The Coordinator, Sue Harrison, welcomed members and new members of SMIB to the meeting and passed on apologies given by: Christine Goddard, Bridget Smith, Debbie Woolley, Dawn Wellstood, Will Locke, & Mary McMonnies (Treasurer)

Present: S. Harrison, (Coordinator). J. Lucas (Secretary). Cllr. D. Worden, D. & A. Beagley. E. Symons, M. Chester, S. Sewell, J. Vaughan, S. Mudge, K. Zrabkowski, S. Bourn, G. Mcleod, H. Waller, K. Maxted, B. Simmons, K. Halls, A. Brookes. (Members). C. Mazlean, F. Khan, M. Harrison, K. Maxted & R. Mcleod. (Non Members).

Coordinator's report Sue Harrison

It feels like we have been together for years ..not just one year!

What we did, in those first five months, was truly amazing.

We came together as a group and took South Molton by storm!

We were stronger than Storm Eunice!

I'd like to thank each and every one in the group, not only for working so hard but for inspiring and supporting me.

Apart from winning gold and The Ayres Cup and improving the town in so many ways, we have formed so many friendships and had such fun which is what I hoped it would be about!

Like any group, we have had a few issues to contend along the way but the group, as I said earlier, is a force of nature to contend with and we have overcome them !

Thanks to David Worden who in the beginning helped us meet via Zoom and has very much supported us since.

The sponsors, both individual and business, have been so generous! You will see from the financial report that together they have given us over £10000

Thanks to Ann Beagley and Debbie Thrower for organising plant sales and thanks to Gail McCleod and Darrelyn Gunzburg for organising the fundraising towards the end of the year, we managed to raise over £2300 in all. This was a great amount considering Covid restrictions were present

We are very lucky to have Helen Waller on the group ...she is not only a superb gardener but an incredibly skilful graphic designer, as shown by our calendar, our wonderful logo and our posters. Because of her, and David Beagley doing all our printing for free, we manage to disseminate so much information around the town.

Now we have the use of the Day Lewis window, we can also do so many displays and spread our news, bang in the centre of town.

My son helped us get our website up and going and also helped his IT illiterate mother do so much to get this group going, bless him, but this year we are lucky to have Matthew Tapp from South Street on board who is kindly going to manage and further develop our website for free!

The front garden and window competition was organised by Julie Vaughan and proved extremely popular and hopefully this year Julie and Margaret Chester will make it even bigger and better. Luckily we not only have Lady Arran on board again this year for judging but we also have Christina Williams , RHS gold winner at Chelsea Flower Show in 2011, judging the front gardens.

Julie's husband Keith has also been helping us put water butts up around the town and again has plans for even more installations this year which is fantastic!

The artwork in town was of course down to our two busy elves ..Bridget Smith and Elaine Symons, who have got even bigger plans this year and never cease to amaze us not only with their ideas but their energy too!

It is great now that we have some male gardeners on board .. so welcome to Andy, Kacper and Samuel. They have already started proving their worth in the few months that they have been with us.

Through Christine Goddard, we managed to acquire the support of Squire's Court residents and on judging day, it was a delight to see them all clapping on their balconies as they watched us being judged! This year they are entering the business award as part of South Molton in Bloom.

Now gardening is the chief reason we are here and we could not have done this without Bridget Simmons, Dawn Wellstood, Sue Sewell, Kirstie Halls, Margaret Chester, Julie Vaughan, Elaine Symons, Rev. Jane Lucas, Mary McMonnies, Helen Waller and Gail McCleod , all of whom have worked their socks developing and maintaining the beds and watering like mad everywhere. This core group are all incredible and without them we could not have achieved gold and this group would be nothing !

Lastly we cannot forget, although not officially part of the group, Stephen Huxtable the town council gardener and maintenance man and Andrew Coates the town clerk, both of whom

with the help of home made food from Elaine and me are most helpful and supportive in so many ways!

Thank you to everyone who is in our group, including all those not mentioned above, Thanks for all your hard work, love, support and friendship. Thanks to everyone in South Molton who has supported us both financially and also with kind, encouraging words!

I personally believe that we can now win Gold again AND The Champion of Champions Cup this year SO forget the storm, **we will be a hurricane this year and take every other town by storm!**

SH. gave the Treasurer's report on behalf of M. McMonnies. (summary attached) .. the summary was passed around for all to see, audited and signed off by A. Coates.

SH. thanked Mr. A. Coates for auditing the accounts.

The Treasurer's report was proposed to be accepted by S. Sewell and seconded by B. Symons. All agreed.

Jane Lucas gave the secretary's report:

"I have been part of SMIB since the Spring of 2021 and at the next meeting was voted in as secretary!

I am a digger and planter, take minutes at meetings and then get them written out and published for members as quickly as possible. So I'm an active member of the team and I am willing to stand as secretary for the coming year."

Election of officers: (Only members voted)

Secretary: M. Chester proposed J. Lucas and seconded by S. Sewell. All agreed.

Treasurer: M. McMonnies proposed by A. Beagley and seconded by H. Waller. All agreed.

Coordinator: S. Harrison proposed by M. Chester and seconded by J. Vaughan. All agreed.

A proposal came from the Coordinator to adopt Lady Arran as Patron for South Molton in Bloom.

Proposed by S. Harrison and seconded by J. Vaughan and all agreed.

Next meeting is to be held at the Garden Room, Amory Centre on Monday 7th March at 10.30am to which all members are welcome, when plans for this year will be discussed.

Date of next Annual General Meeting to be held on 20th February 2023.

AOB. A vote of thanks to S. Harrison for all her hard work was proposed by Sue Sewell and all were unanimous in agreement.

D. Beagley said that he did the printing for SMIB for no cost, but he was available to do printing for anyone at cost price and any profits given back to SMIB.

That being all the business of the evening the meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Attached are the Constitution and The Annual Accounts

We have new insurance arrangements this year and need to know for sure who is part of this group in order to update the SMIB membership list for insurance and health and safety regulations, when working for SMIB. For those of you who have not apologised for absence

or attended the AGM, please email Sue to confirm if you want to continue as part of the group by February 27th 2022. A no reply will automatically cancel your membership.