

SMIB Meeting at The Amory Centre 10.30 am Tuesday 18th October 2022

WELCOME .. Sue welcomed all and congratulated everyone on winning Gold!

APOLOGIES..Will Locke and Anne Beagley

MEMBERS.. Sue said how we had lost Julie Vaughan and how hard she had worked especially painting the bollards and doing the stump but that Vonn would now take over the stump. Also said how sorry we were to lose Helen Waller from the group and hoped that she may return to do gardening. Sue welcomed though all our new members since the last meeting ie Vonn, who apart from the stump has been so valuable this year with the gardening competition...Sheila, who already has done loads of digging and gardening in the short time she has been with usGloria who has already been a valuable link to Mill on The Mole since joining us..Chris Almond who does our mowing and Poppy, his daughter, who has already done lots of gardening on The Gateway Path.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ...all approved and no actions needing addressing

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Sue thanked everyone for their hard work in helping to achieve Gold. A fantastic result. The Diamond Show and the Bingo night were reported on and the figures attached were explained. All remaining alcohol and biscuits will be kept for the next night in February. Because the Diamond night was so popular and many have asked to repeat a live music night, we have booked Steve again for a 'South Molton Rocks' night on Saturday 25th February 2023. It was agreed by the group that we would have cheese and biscuits.

Helen has kindly reproduced the banner that goes across Church Walk for us saying we have now won gold in 2022 and Paul has agreed to reproduce at the same price, so we will get this made and put up after Christmas.

Jane and Sue did a talk about South Molton in Bloom to Bishops Nympton Gardening Club and it was so appreciated, they gave us £50, so they are going on tour!

We have not been able to do winter planting because of the lack of money but after the two fundraising events, we can now look to start this.

The Rotary Raffle has also raised £180 plus the £20 for The Rotary Club and Sue said about pushing this harder next year as an easy way to make money. The draw takes place on November 22nd.

The Animal Remembrance Wall now seems to be taking off and we can use some of the display cabinets in The Pannier Market. We have got another £7 from one owner and have another enquiry.

We have raised £61.10 so far for our Queen's memorial garden .. comprising of money raised from Gloria at Mill on the Mole £30 , £1.10 given to Elaine at the market as left over

change, £5 from Tina Trevena, £10 from Mike Morgan and £5 from me as I bought a planter off Gloria and £10 from David Worden.

David Beagley has given us all some lovely notepads and continues to do our free printing which is so much appreciated.

Bloomers Corner .. the vandals have been identified through CCTV and dealt with by the police.. One lad and his Mum have agreed to help to clear the mess up on Tuesday 25th October if anyone can help out at 2pm. Not so much success at the moment with the other lad but Sue to recontact the police.

The sale of Squires Court was discussed and said how said to have such a successful patch removed from In Bloom but that most of the plants had now been moved to The Gateway Path but that a few were just too heavy! David Worden said The District Council are now looking into whether this is a legal sale as a wildlife corridor but it was unanimously agreed that we could not garden this bank again as it had wrecked too many backs and joints!

However Bloomers Corner was then discussed as the same could happen there and we said how Jane Pagano said we should apply for an Asset of Community Value and David agreed to look into this. **Action: David Worden**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary said we had £14.87 in the Nat West and £1671.60 cash but Sue was going to pay £1500 into the bank tomorrow plus two cheques ..one for £30 for Diamond tickets and £50 from BN gardening club.

Mary then explained how she was giving a month's notice to resign as Treasurer as per the Constitution and also leave the group, as her life had changed and other things were taking priority. A vote of thanks was proposed by Sue Sewell and everyone thanked Mary and Sue H said how Mary had come to the rescue in taking on the role when we were desperate at the beginning.

(Kim said she was happy to stay on and would prefer to work Wednesday mornings.)

The SWIB results were fed back and the presentation awards ceremony described. It was explained how we did not get given marks this year, how none of our photos were shown at the ceremony and how the only negative comment on our marking sheet was the lack of pruning of the lime trees which was beyond our control and the judges were aware that there was a preservation order on those trees. In the interests of fairness, openness and transparency, Sue has queried all of this with The RHS.

Lady Arran gave her thanks and congratulated us all. She said she would give us a tree to plant in our Queen's memorial garden and apologised about the butts at Bloomers Corner.

Sue said how we had been given £250 to buy more water butts around the town and she had asked the hospital if we could site some there. Everyone was asked to think of other

sites. Kim told us how the one at Mint Vintage has fallen over and her and her husband had tried to rectify but too heavy **Action: Sue H to ask Andrew Coates for help**

Sue agreed with Mary that we would retrieve her water butt as agreed if she left the group and praised her on all the watering in East Street this summer.

Andy has agreed to re-site the wood from Squires Court across to The Gateway Path.

Queen Elizabeth 11 Memorial Garden ...to be where the wild flower meadow was on The Gateway Path and therefore in the middle of our Queen's Green Canopy. Agreed to use free tree from Lady Arran and the plants from Squires Court bank and so the collected money could now be used for a sign. Service to be held by Jane on Saturday 29th October at 11am.

Elaine has made lots of crackers for The Fat Stock Show on Sunday December 4th .. help needed for running the stall please. **Action: David Beagley** has agreed to print some jokes off to go in the crackers. We are to sell wreaths and wooden xmas trees and decorate one of each as an example. Fabric wreaths left over from last year also to be sold.

The group have agreed to do a wooden Xmas Tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in the Church.

Brenda Savery is going to plan a complete revamp of the Pannier Market beds in the spring.

The proposal to get involved with the revamp of the Hospital back gardens was discussed and the possibility of moving all the farm equipment from BC to there or near the sheep pens. Further discussion to take place at future meetings when more is known about BC and also the plans at the hospital.

The Mural Gardens and the Library Gardens were discussed but agreed unless CCTV was installed at a higher level and working, we would leave for the moment.

David told us how The Community Gardens had won gold and Sue praised both The Community Gardens and Sheep Fare Field. She also went on to say well done to Squires Court who won gold, Eastleigh Care homes who both won silver gilt, silver for The Coaching Inn and bronze for The Town Arms.

The use of a water bowser and the prospect of watering next summer was discussed **Action : SH to talk to AC**

NEXT MEETINGS

TUESDAY 15th NOV 10.30 Amory Centre

MONDAY 5th DEC 3pm Amory Centre

