

2019 Our First Six months

Last year we launched a review of the Society's activities for the first six months of the year which was well received. In view of this we welcome you to the second edition for the same period this year.

We commenced the year on the back of a successful 2018 with 118 members and total funds of £5,934. For the first time in 18 years we started our programme with a speaker in January. The weather was kind and 73 members and visitors enjoyed a talk on "The Gardens of Early Modern London". The formal business of the AGM followed in February, with 66 present - an increase of 33% on the previous year - and included a welcome to Sue Newte and Kay Pemberton to fill vacancies on the CABAHS committee.

We expected a bumper attendance in March with the visit of Jim Buttress and were not disappointed. Jim reminisced on Greenwich Park to the 104 people who came along, including 15 visitors.

Our usual April Spring Flower Display attracted 68 entries through nine classes which were reviewed by our Chair, Vija.



Two further talks, Container Gardening and The Plant Hunters were held in May & June and attracted attendances of 92 and 73 respectively, the latter containing some rather gruesome descriptions which were not to everyone's liking. You may be pleased to know that the speaker on Container Gardening donated his fee to the Horticultural charity Perennial.



A popular item in our programme has always been our coach visits to horticultural venues. A very pleasant day was spent at Wisley in May, then we had



a “secret garden” visit to Dulwich, and in June a group visited the roof garden at Greenwich University (left), which was the subject of a very interesting talk last year.

Now a word about fund raising and finance. As far as income is concerned, subscriptions have reached £1,140, an increase of £100 on this time last year, and we have welcomed 23 new members to our meetings. Raffle profit is about the same level whilst Sales Table takings have increased by 37%, excluding our long-standing donation to the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice.



On the expenditure side, The Royal Greenwich Heritage Fund has increased our room hire by 25%, and affiliation fees have slightly increased. By far the biggest increase is in Speakers costs, partly due to very low costs last year and partly to an increase in market prices.

To summarise, income has remained the same as last year whilst expenditure has increased by 26%. Our profit for the six months amounts to £970 to carry forward towards the second half of the year, which traditionally has more expenditure than income.



Looking forward, we have an interesting group of speakers coming along which includes the TV gardener Nick Bailey in November. Fund raising activities include a stall at Mycenae House Summer Extravaganza (July 28th) and at the Horn Fair (Oct 20th). Along with our regular income sources, and with your support, this should lead to another successful year.

Ron Roffey, CABAHS Treasurer