

Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust

ANNUAL GUARDIANS' MEETING 2021



Fruiting Southern Marsh Orchid

The annual Guardians' meeting of Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust was held at Kelsale Parish Hall on 10th December 2021.

Present: Janet Barnes, Jenifer Bridges-Adams, Gathorne Cranbrook, Janey Cullen, Keith Dickerson, Amanda Erlenbach, John Fisher, Flora Gathorne-Hardy, Serena Inskip, Julia McLean, Jenny Nutbeem, Steve Stocks, Pete Southgate, Piers Sturridge and Eileen Willis,

Coins were found for the electricity meters, and the heating system was activated.
Business commenced at 10.30 a.m.

1. The Chairman, Gathorne Cranbrook, announced changes in the Trustees and Officers First, the resignation of Sybella Zisman, who had moved to Devon. He thanked Sybella for many years of dedicated service. He noted that Sybella had sent a picture of an orchid she had found, confirming her continuing commitment to the preservation of native flora.



Sybella remains a subscribing Guardian, but has resigned from her double post as Trustee and Hon. Treasurer.

Two new Trustees were welcomed: Pete Southgate and Piers Sturridge, both of whom were present and were applauded by the meeting.

Also resigning and, by coincidence, moving to Devon, was Editor, Rose Batty. who was not able to be present for reasons of Covid omicron precaution



Having visited Rose in her new home, the Chairman showed a picture of the fern-rich verges of a nearby lane in south Devon, an irresistible attraction.

Ferny richness of Devon hedgerows



Guardian (and elected member of East Suffolk District Council, and Saxmundham Town Council) John Fisher had kindly agreed to accept the position of Hon. Treasurer. John was also thanked for his commitment in greeting visitors to the Trust's reserves at Open days, six of which were held during the year for the public, as advertised on the website



2. Two photographic competitions had been held during the year. The prize-winning images, and commended runners-up, were displayed, (1) for photographs of insects on either Reserve, taken during International Insect Week, and (2) superb images of Lepidoptera taken by Guardian John Rainer, at Orchid Glade, during the National Butterfly week.

3. Improvements at the Reserves included the installation of new signs



And new, easier to operate padlocks on entrance gates, on which the numeric code was unchanged



Code
unchanged

ONUJEMP Combination
Lock, 2 Pack Long Padlock
Locker Locks, Weather
Proof Heavy Duty Lock with
4-Digit Smooth Dial

And also the installation of protective matting at the entrance and car-parking area at Orchid Glade.

Hard wearing
surface
installed at
entrance and
car park,
Orchid Glade



4. The environmental management of the Mediaeval meadows of Simpson's Fromus Valley Reserve is reliant on grazing by Trust's small herd of British White cattle. The Chairman thanked Mr Philip Baskett for his role as Herd Manager, and mentioned the successes of the Trust's first-born registered bull, Fromus Premier, under Philip's care, at the South Suffolk Show and Royal Norfolk show. Premier has since been sold to Kelmarsh Estate, where the conditions of a bequest

require that the Park is grazed by British White cattle. A steer has been slaughtered and bought by Maple farm, where British White beef cuts are currently on sale in the Farm Shop.

5. Hon. Treasurer, John Fisher, circulated accounts for 2020-21, prepared by Sybella Zisman, and outlined the current financial situation for 2021-22.



6. The Trust's 8th Annual publication, *Retrospect and Resources*, was issued on this date, and copies were available for collection by paid-up Guardians. Editors Janey Cullen and Pete Southgate were applauded for their work. Janey was thanked for collecting the edition of 150 copies from the printer/publisher Leiston Press.

Co-editor, Trustee Pete Southgate introduced this volume, and outlined the contents. Free copies were collected by Guardians, and extra copies were bought at the advertised price of £12.

7. The meeting was opened to the floor. In general discussion of funding problems, a Guardian suggested that the annual subscription could be raised to £30. The Chairman replied that it was his personal opinion that increasing membership would be preferable to increasing subscription rates, but agreed that the matter should be passed for decision to a future Management Group that it was intended to form, as soon as convenient.

8. The meeting agreed that a Management Group should be formed.

9. The meeting closed at 12.00 midday. As advised by Parish Clerk, the hire charge for the room was £10 per hour. Guardians present contributed £2 per head to meet this cost.