**FRITILLARIA GROUP OF THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 2nd October, 2016, at Theydon Bois Village Hall.**

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Brian and Carol Casey, Peter Erskine, Mary Ridley, Colin Rogers, Trevor Whitaker
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting were considered and declared a true record. Accepted by unanimous show of hands.
3. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairman’s Report:** The Fritillaria Group held two meetings during the year. Last October we all went to the excellent hall in New Haw in Surrey to hear about a “Fritillary Miscellany” given by Kit Grey-Wilson and the “Yellow Bells of Western Turkey” by myself and Rannveig. These have both been written up and appeared in the Group’s Newsletter thanks to the Group’s little recording machine and Pat Huff’s fantastic audio-typing skills.

In March we met in Wisley to hear Ron Mudd take us on a trip down route 101 in North America to see “The Chocolate Lilies and Mission Bells” using some fabulous photographs. This was followed by Arthur Nicholls’s “Memories & Treasures of Iran” recalling some of the highlights of his several trips to this wonderful country which has become rather difficult to access recently.

This brings me on to the Newsletter which is an excellent little journal, informative and beautifully illustrated. Pat does an excellent job in editing it but is running short of articles and pictures. This is my perennial plea for more. Please do try to write up some of your experiences in the garden, the greenhouse or the wild or may be just something which you have read about. Pat has now done this for more than 10 years and has asked if there is someone else who would take over from her. If it is of interest, please let her know and have a chat about what it involves.

The Group’s website has now been filled out with lots of information about the individual species their identifying features and how to grow them. A show of hands indicated that the members do indeed check the website from time to time but that the Forum is little used. Suggestions that we should try a different approach such as through social media, was not met with any enthusiasm.

As you have seen the Group is very active and it is run by quite a small team of people who are taking on an increasing work load in order to fulfil everything that the Group wants to do. The *Fritillaria Group* is constantly evolving and we need new blood, new ideas and new energy on the Committee. Please volunteer to be elected today. I am sure that we can find you a proposer and seconder. If we don’t find a new secretary, I fear for the existence of the Group and all that it has achieved over the last 20 years. It was suggested that the document detailing the role of the secretary be put on the website. **Bob W/Paul C**

It remains for me to thank the Committee for all their input during the year and in particular to Alice who is now resigning.

1. **Treasurer’s Report:** Brian Casey was unable to take on the role of Treasurer due to delays in the signing of the bank mandate caused by complications with the AGS Centre. He had therefore resigned from the committee in April.

Pat Craven has agreed to be the Treasurer of the group. He was formally elected to this post having been nominated by the Committee and approved by a show of hands.

The accounts show a slight deficit this year due to declining membership numbers. All members need to encourage people to join the group. Arthur Nicholls said the Cyclamen Society had reviewed their website and had increased their membership as a result.

There has been an increase in the printing and postage costs of the Bulletin. These costs need to be examined. The *Fritillaria Group* may need to consider having an e-journal to send to overseas members. Pat Craven said the group needs to reconsider doing the mailing themselves to reduce costs. Chris Gifford asked why the journals cannot be distributed at meetings. Pat Craven said the meetings are not held at the same time as the publications of the Bulletins. Arthur Nicholls said the Cyclamen Society had increased the memberships fees for overseas members to reflect the increased costs of postage.

Robin Alabaster asked about the Fritillaria Group having gift aid. Pat Craven said the group is not a charity and cannot receive gift aid.

Willem Wietsma asked if the Bulletin could be sent as a pdf. Bob Wallis said the group had voted in the post to have a hard copy of the Bulletin, and there had been concerns that the pdf could be shared.

Rannveig Wallis asked if the journals for overseas customers could be sent to one person in a particular country and then distributed to other members. Pat Craven said this could be worth considering for Australia and New Zealand where there are more members.

Pat Craven has asked Christine McGregor for an itemised bill of the printing costs.

 Pietro Roseo asked if the AGS journal and the *Fritillaria Group* Bulletin could

be sent out at the same time. Bob Wallis said this was not possible as they are printed at different times.

1. **Seed Exchange report:** Pat Craven reported that half the people who ordered seed had paid using Worldpay via AGS Centre. The process had been very straightforward and easy to manage.
2. **Election of Officers:** The following officers and Committee members were proposed and approved for continued office: Bob Wallis (Chair), Laurence Hill, Pat Huff (Editor), Pat Craven (Treasurer), Paul Cumbleton (Webmaster), Colin Everett, Kit Strange, Colin Rogers. Tim Ingram has agreed to join the committee. He was proposed by Bob Wallis and seconded by Alice Munsey.

Pat Craven said the *Fritillaria Group* committee needs to review the location of the committee meetings and find a suitable venue for the meetings to make it easier for committee members to attend.

1. **Any Other Business:** There was no further business.

30 people attended the meeting.