

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on 3 June 2009 in the Salisbury and South Wilts Museum Lecture Theatre

The meeting began at 2.30pm and 30 Friends were present.

The Chairman, Jennifer Bowen, welcomed everyone, particularly the Very Reverend June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury, Patron; Lord Marland of Odstock, Chairman of the Trustees; and Tim Tatton Brown, Trustee.

The Chairman of the Trust thanked everyone for their continuing efforts on behalf of the Meadows in their 19th year which would be one of consolidation focusing on bridging the financial gap of £10K still outstanding on Rose Cottage. There was a need to look for new sources of income in these difficult economic times.

The Dean added her thanks to those expressed by the previous speaker. She then spoke of how the watermeadows need to be looked at strategically in the longer term and promoted both locally and nationally as part of the Salisbury Vision.

Peter Luton, Treasurer, circulated the accounts. Membership showed little change but sales of publications were slightly less. Over £1,000 had been spent on Rose Cottage garden but, with the income from the various events, it was still possible for £2,500 to be handed to the Trust this year.

In her report, Jennifer Bowen, the Friends' Chairman outlined the activities of the past year much of which had again centered on Rose Cottage, recently re-damp proofed, which has hosted another successful Open Day and the 5th Family Environment Day. Sadly two more poplars became unsafe and had had to be cut down but the

whole garden now has beautiful lawns. The Committee were thanked for their continuing support and hard work as was Hadrian Cook who now only works for us one day a week. There had been some notable occasions in the past year - Helen Marriage presented 'Mission Impossible', how she master-minded the Sultan's Elephant; Tim Tatton Brown gave a wonderful talk about the Meadows in the wider landscape and the Festival Walk attracted a record number of people. A tree complete with sheep was part of St Thomas's church Christmas Festival. Future dates include the opening of the garden of Myles Place in the Close, thanks to Mr and Mrs Kelly, in July; and before that a concert by the Cathedral Junior Choir and Jazzbytes in St Martin's Church. On 17 September our Patron, the Dean, has most generously agreed to host a party at the Deanery. There will be another Open Day at Rose Cottage on 20 September. The next long awaited talk on Heligan by Peter Stafford will be on 12 March 2010. In conclusion the Friends had had another very busy year but suggestions for future activities would be very welcome.

The management report was presented for the first time by Laura Prior of Strutt & Parker and appears elsewhere in this Newsletter as does the education report from Hadrian Cook.

Jennifer Bowen was re-elected and Dr John Beales and Lesley Wright both of Harnham, were elected to the Committee, (following the resignation earlier in the year of Malcolm and Jo Simmons). The meeting ended at 3.30pm and tea was served.