Volunteer Meeting Minutes 1 October 2021

**Events and activities**

September

* 5 groups visited the house
* 2 weddings
* 19 September 2021 –Heritage Weekend, topic was edible, Saturday – Barbara Bowers in the garden answering questions from visitors on herbs with 18th c recipes hanging on the relevant plants, Free entry on Sunday
* 30 September – Friends of EDH private viewing of the art exhibition 10am – 11am
* The seminar day has been amended and will now be held on zoom, with 4 lectures over 4 nights. Tickets are £6 per lecture or all 4 for £20. Existing ticket holders will be contacted.

Future Events

Seminar Series on Zoom 11-14 October

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| Lecturers | Subject and Title | Date and time |
| Jordan Godman | The China World of Joseph Banks: James Lind, Whang at Tong, and the Macartney Embassy, 1775–1800 | 11 October  7.30pm |
| Patrick Kaye | Sir Joseph Banks and His Medical World | 12 October 7.30pm |
| Lord Waldegrave | Remembering Sir Joseph in the 21st Century. | 13 October 7.30pm |
| Paul Scott | Agrarian to Industrialist – Joseph Banks and the ‘promotion and improvement of manufactures of this country’ Taken from a quote by John Wallace 1787 | 14 October  7.30pm |

* QAVS – presentation 20 October – details to follow
* Jigsaw puzzle sale 6/7 and 8 am November – museum will be closed to visitors and numbers limited
* L2F procession – 23 October 11-11.30 am. Meet at the Cathedral at 10.30 in costume. It is a gentle walk down Dam street and Market Street. Anyone who wishes to participate please let the office know.
* 1 Dec 2021 – Dressing a Georgian Lady, lecture with mulled wine and mince pie. Pat Empsall has kindly volunteered to deliver this lecture. Numbers will be limited to 15 and tickets are selling quickly.

**Museum matters**

Jigsaw sale

* At the time of typing these minutes we have 600 jigsaws for the sale. Full details of the procedures at the sale will follow, but volunteers will be urgently required for the event. Please contact the office if you are able to help.
* If anyone has any spare carrier bags could you please bring them to the office. MB to contact Waitrose to see if they will donate the carriers they no longer use.

Children’s Trail – KP to create some pin on badges

Sales for Dressing a Georgian lady are going well. We need one volunteer to assist on the evening with the refreshments.

We can now accept donations only on the art fund website and donations through Virgin Giving have ceased.

Request to open the gents toilet – agreed will now be open

We have 5 wedding bookings for next year.

Garden Matters

The Royal Horticultural Society, which runs the nationwide gardening competition, ‘Britain in Bloom’, has added another gardening opportunity for groups such as ours at Erasmus Darwin House. It is called ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ and is described as ‘a non-competitive scheme for community groups who want to ‘green up’ local areas – adding some colour to your community, making new friends and getting active in your local area’.

When Lichfield city decided not to enter Britain in Bloom this year, we were encouraged by the organisers to have a go at the ‘Its your neighbourhood’ scheme instead, especially as this would mean we would be accessed on our own merits and not those of the whole city and would also receive a detailed report afterwards, telling us how well we had done and giving us advice for the future.

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded an ‘Outstanding’ and will be placing details in the garden.

The handrail for easy access to the patio is now in place.

Date of next meeting