URHP 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

HELD AT 6pm ON WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2021

1. WELCOME, ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES

Present:

Laura Yarham	Barbara Wilkinson	Caroline Daniel
Lloyd Gee	Dilys Griffiths	Lorraine Love
Liz Lyden	Tina Silva	Pierre Jean Cousin
Donald Purves	Vicki Pitman	

Apologies:

Louisa Hallowes	Edward Thompson	Anne Samuel
Sarah Donoghue	Don Rawson	

Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She then handed the meeting over to Barbara Wilkinson who had agreed to Chair it.

Note: The Agenda order was changed so that point 7. Any Other Business could be discussed at point 3. Other Agenda Items were moved on one point.

Vicki Pitman had said that she would have to leave the meeting at 7pm and had asked Liz to be her proxy vote for any items which needed voting upon after she had left.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM MEETING

Vicki had drawn attention to point 8 of the Minutes titled Sharing Events, in the first paragraph, the name of the Society should read as The Herbal History Research Network. This was duly noted.

The Minutes of the last meeting were then agreed as being correct, proposed by Liz Lyden and seconded by Vicki Pitman.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Pierre mentioned that the URHP were not on the website of the College of Natural Medicine (CNM), but Liz said that as we were not an accrediting body, so we wouldn't be on their website, but we do get members joining from the CNM.

(b) Tina asked whether students at Lincoln College had received an invite to the Autumn Gathering, this question was referred over to Donald as he was a lecturer there. A further question was asked as to whether these students would get free admission to the event. Liz and Donald said that students get a career bursary and they could use this to pay for the event. Otherwise the information on Eventbrite would need to be changed to include other non-URHP students as having free entry. Vicki asked whether that would include students on

other courses. Barbara said that this would need to be discussed further by Council Members.

4. OFFICERS REPORTS

(a) Education – Donald Purves

Donald said that we'd had 4 new members join during the year, also one had joined the mapping process and there were 4 others in the pipeline. One applicant recently qualified with the IRCH was working on her case studies before joining the URHP. Lincoln College were doing well on student recruitment on the herbal course and were also looking to recruit staff for the course. They also had a 6 months Introduction to Herbal Medicine course which was useful if someone would like to dip a toe into the herbal course. Other courses available were available at the Betonica School of Herbal Medicine and a Chinese Herbal Medicine course with the White Crane Academy. Please see the Education Officer's Report for full details.

Barbara thanked Donald for his report.

(b) Registrar – Liz Lyden for Trixie Voderman

As Trixie was currently away on sick leave and would be for a further month, Liz was providing the Registrar's report. She said as at 16th September 2021 we had 58 members (2 of who were honorary members), 12 student members and 4 Friends of the URHP. There were another 3 in the process of joining, and 6 members had retired. A few Members still had to be chased regarding their renewals and this was very time consuming, some hadn't responded so these had been taken off our members list. Liz said that if anyone had a problem with renewals they should either email or telephone to let Trixie know. The URHP also offers bursaries if there are hardship issues. The renewals form on the website had now been overhauled and this should prove easier on next renewals. Please see the Registrar's Report for full details.

(c) Treasurer – Liz Lyden

All members had been previously provided with the URHP Accounts together with the report. Liz said that we were £4,000 better off this year (as at 31st March 2021) than we had been the same time the previous year, due to less expenditure, mainly not having to pay EHTPA fees and no travel expenses as all meetings had been online. As The Herbalist journal would be produced on line and only 3 times a year from now on we would save £500 - £600 a year. Part of future spending would be the conference. Trixie, the Registrar had been paid £1,000 less this financial year (a further saving), as she gets paid by the hour, and is extremely efficient. Please see the Treasurer's Report for the full details.

Members were asked if they were happy to adopt the accounts. Caroline Daniel proposed and Pierre Jean Cousin seconded the proposal to adopt the accounts. It was unanimously agreed by the members and the accounts were duly adopted.

Liz also asked Members to decide who would be allowed to carry the Debit Card for the URHP.

Members to have the Debit Card would be Lloyd Gee, Laura Yarham, Liz Lyden and Trixie Voderman. This was proposed by Tina Silva and seconded by Caroline Daniel.

Newsletter/Journal

Liz thanked everyone who had sent in articles for the Journal during the year and to keep sending them in, there had been a great variety of them. She also said that we needed a second editor for the Newsletter/Journal as this was too much for one person at the peak times of preparing it. She said the work as editor is enjoyable as she gets to read a variety of articles, but a lot of work for a short space of time prior to publishing. Anyone wishing to assist as a second editor should contact Liz. When the publication goes down to 3 a year as the URHPeherbalist (online) and also sharing articles with the AMH, it will include a variety of things such as a section on traditional herbal recipes handed down the generations, as mentioned in the recent Sharing Circle meeting. Trixie proof reads the articles and liaises with Andrew Mason, who sets them out for publication online. Please see the Newsletter/Journal Report for full details.

Barbara thanked Liz for her reports.

(d) Vice President – Lloyd Gee

(i) **EHTPA -** Lloyd said that the focus for him this year had been herbal collaboration and the EHTPA. As all meetings had been online there were no travelling costs for them, so the savings were being passed on to Professional Associations, and therefore on to the members of the PA's. There had been no new person in post since Michael McIntyre had left and Chris Etheridge had been doing the work voluntarily so far. The Herbmark was continuing to be used and there was also a sister scheme for practitioner supplies being operated by the BHMA which accredits suppliers using various benchmarks and quality checks. The EHTPA had changed its website address due to leaving the EU and this is now ehtpa.org.

(ii) **Herbal Alliance** – The collaboration between professional associations has resulted in the formation of the Herbal Alliance, initially there was the Herbal Unity group which then became known as Herbal Alliance. The website address is www.herbalalliance.uk. They have various CAT's (Community Action Groups) and Lloyd is a member of the shaping the future action team. Progress had been a bit slow as all members are busy people giving their time to volunteer for the work. Also the group needed to form a community interest company before being able to open a bank account. The website is at the 'soft launch' stage but members could login to the members' portal where various forums and discussion group can be accessed. There is also a research group at the HA who are trying to capture case studies to put into the system. Vicki mentioned the Herbal Reality website which have case histories logged into it (which can be viewed by the general public). Lloyd said that the Herbal Alliance case studies would be for members only, and it was for us to collate and promote them.

Please see the Vice President's Report for further details.

Barbara thanked Lloyd for his report.

(e) President - Laura Yarham

Laura said that she had 2 focuses at this point in time. Firstly it was such an important time for us as herbalists to nurture our relationship with each other and Professional Associations, but also with plants we use as herbalist. The Herbal Alliance gives us the opportunity to connect and raise the profile of herbalists and herbal medicine. What we do in our communities will become more important. She mentioned that at the last Sharing Circle Pierre told the story about his grandmother and her connection with the plants, we should share this ancient wisdom and knowledge for the future generations. As everything is changing all around us, we as herbalists should make this our time. She also said that the URHP naturally embraces diversity and our collaboration with other Pas will naturally increase because of our work in the Herbal Alliance.

As Chair of Council she wished to thank all the members of the URHP for the energy they put into various tasks on the URHP's behalf. Dawn Ireland manages our Facebook page, Barbara has been keeping the Instagram page. In the council, Lloyd, Barbara, Liz, Donald and John have been working behind the scenes and also Trixie as our ever conscientious and efficient Registrar.Dilys was thanked for stepping into the Information Officer so effectively, since early in the year. She thanked Liz for all her work for URHP as well as covering Trixie's work during the recent weeks. Tina had been co-opted onto the Council and she had given fresh energy and time into the Council. She thanked Donald for his additional work on the EHTPA accreditation board; Lloyd for being such a valuable and resourceful Vice President, and for his work with the EHTPA and Barbara, who had been on the Council for many years and had given her energy and collaboration skills in so many ways for the URHP, as well as managing the Instagram page. Barbara would be stepping down from the Council after this meeting.

Please see the President's Report for full details.

Lloyd thanked Laura on behalf of all for her leadership, hard work over the years.

5. ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

It was agreed unanimously that all the current Council members would be re-elected except Barbara who would be stepping down.

(a) Election of Council Officers

(i) Education Officer – It was proposed that Donald Purves be re-elected as the Education Officer. Proposed by Lloyd Gee and seconded by Caroline Daniel. Agreed unanimously.

(ii) **Treasurer** – It was proposed that Liz Lyden be re-elected as the Treasurer. Proposed by Caroline Daniel and seconded by Tina Silva. Agreed unanimously.

(iii) **Vice President** – It was proposed that Lloyd Gee be re-elected as the Vice President. Proposed by Donald Purves and seconded by Tina Silva. Agreed unanimously.

(iv) **President** – It was proposed that Laura Yarham be re-elected as President. Proposed by Caroline Daniel and seconded by Tina Silva. Agreed unanimously

(b) Election of co-opted Council member, Tina Silva

It was agreed that Tina Silva, the co-opted Council member be elected as a Council member.

(c) Self nomination of members onto the Council

If any members of the URHP wished to self nominate themselves onto the Council then they could do so. The Council was looking to recruit members to shadow Officers in their posts or to attend Council meetings as an observer in order that they can see how things work within the Council. Each Officer would give suggestions of names as a shadowing member to Laura during the next few weeks, then these members would be contacted to ask whether they would like to give some time to the URHP in this way. It would help the Register in the future so that we had fresh, new energy in the Council as some Officers would be stepping down within the next few months. Laura, the current President would be stepping from her role as President next year but would stay on the Council, Barbara would be stepping down from Council and from her work on the Instagram for URHP after this meeting. If a member did agree to self nominate then their membership fee would be reduced by 50% for that term. Any interested members are asked to contact the Information Officer in order to put their name forward.

6. HERBAL ALLIANCE UPDATE AND FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PA'S

Lloyd said that the formation of the Herbal Alliance had been an interesting process. Laura, Lloyd and Phil Deakin had met 2 years ago to set a calendar of events (The Herbal Alliance calendar), Sebastian Pole had then begun forming the idea of Herbal Unity, which after the first meeting, then became The Herbal Alliance. It is a bottom up system with no 'management' layer. There are CAT groups which each have 7 volunteer members within them but they need more members. The way forward had been held back as a constitution was needed, in order to open a bank account for a beneficial organisation. He was on the shaping the future team. The website was now live and there was 2 parts to it. The first part was the public area where events and other information would be placed; the second part was the members' portal. It worked a bit like Facebook where members could have 'chats'. Some groups were already set up and members could join them. They are in need of volunteer moderators and if anyone would like to offer their help they should let Lloyd or

Sebastian Pole know. The website address was www.herbalalliance.uk. In order to register to be a member on the site you needed to give them your PA's membership details or qualification details. Laura would prepare an email to be sent out to all URHP members within the next week with details about the Herbal Alliance and links to the website.

Barbara thanked Lloyd for his report.

7. MEMBERS SPACE AND DISCUSSION

Tina said that members should be asked to come to a Council meeting as an observer to see what goes on and they could give feedback.

Lloyd said that there could be a position on the Council for a student representative and in the past both Cassie Sheriff and Rachel Boon had been student members of Council.

A questionnaire would be sent out soon to all members about what's working in the URHP and what we could do more of in the future An idea put forward was that URHP could pay for a member to attend a seminar if they then write an article on the seminar attended for the URHPeherbalist in return. Barbara said that some have better writing skills and other are better verbally, in this case then maybe someone else could do a verbal interview instead. Comments welcomed from all members at any time on this subject, please contact info officer.

There was a further discussion about drawing in new young blood into the Register so that we had various outlooks on the herbal world. Anyone with information about potential new members should contact Donald as the Education Officer.

Further discussions were had about the benefits of the Herbal Alliance and its way of uniting various PA's.

Barbara said that we needed to look to the future and that someone younger taking over the Instagram page would likely open up more collaboration and connection.

Laura thanked all members for their contributions during the meeting and also Barbara for chairing the meeting. Dilys would send out the Minutes when they were ready and the meeting had been recorded as all had seen at the beginning of the Zoom session.

Barbara thanked all for attending the AGM and drew the meeting to a close.

Barbara finished with the quote: "Be like a Tree: stand tall and proud, go out on a limb, remember your roots, drink plenty of water, be content with your natural beauty, enjoy the view."