

Lindfield Horticultural Society

Newsletter - Winter 2017

(Editor - Chris Gurr - 01444482739)

AGM - Formal notice of AGM on 8 November 2017 and Chairman's Report

The formal notice of the AGM on 8 November 2017, agenda and minutes of the last AGM **are attached**, plus a form for nominations of volunteers to take on roles within the Society. Since last year's AGM, to date, volunteers have put their names forward for various roles but your committee are looking for a few more volunteers to carry out other roles in order that we can continue to run the LHS as efficiently as possible. Some of the vacancies are for roles that only require a few hours commitment on a very few days each year.

As mentioned in the Newsletters throughout this year, all our events in 2017 were successful. However, I repeat my comments of last year in that I am anxious not to 'sit on my hands' and if anyone has any suggestion for new events or what could be done to improve 'things' in general, would they please let me or any committee member know. Even suggesting a 'new' class at one of our shows would be welcome as was the suggestion for the inaugural Imposed Flower Arranging competition which was a success at this year's Autumn Show.

Our 2017 events have been very successful thanks to the organisers and helpers who should all be congratulated for all their hard work and, of course, the support of all those who attended the events is much appreciated. In my mind, there are too many hi-lights to go into in detail but I would like to mention that the inaugural Garden Forum was a great success and the four quest experts and the audience all enjoyed themselves, so much so that your committee are planning to discuss organising a similar event for 2019.

Another first for this year was the successful Willow Weaving Workshop which was one of my personal highlights of the year and is planned to be repeated next year. The Christmas Table decoration was also something new for 2016 and hopefully, something similar can be arranged in the future. Gill Jones has been running various trials for the first time at the Sundries Centre and would those involved please phone her on 01444 483040.

I am looking forward to attending as many of the LHS 2018 events as possible and one of my goals for the society in 2018 is to encourage all members to spread the word of our success in the hope of increasing our membership.

On a more personal level, one of my Horticultural New Year resolutions is to sort out my seeds in a timely fashion and take advantage of the seed swap at the Coffee Morning and plant sale on 2 February 2018 instead of leaving thinking about what seeds I want until it's almost too late.

Volunteer for role of LHS Treasurer

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, your committee is looking for volunteers to take on specific roles to enable the society to continue putting on the excellent and well run events which have been organised for many years. We are hoping that by the AGM on 8 November, a volunteer will have come forward to take on the role of Treasurer to replace Michael Elliott. As you know, Michael intends to continue as Treasurer until the 2018 AGM and during the next 12 months or so is prepared to mentor a new Treasurer in respect of his role within our society throughout the year, leading up to the presentation of the Annual Financial Report and Accounts to the 2018 AGM.

You will appreciate that the Society would not be able to function without a Treasurer

Sundries Centre

Gill Jones would like anyone to phone her on 01444 483040 if there is anything they would like to be stocked at the Sundries Centre. The final opening this year is on 29 October 2017 and Gill considers now to be the best time of year to prepare your garden for the future and to remember to feed your camellias if you want a good showing next spring.

Autumn Show Report

The Autumn Show on 9 September was, as usual, very successful and colourful. The extra effort in respect of the cut flowers was terrific, despite the rain a day or so before the show. Your committee is very appreciative of the amount of work put in by all the exhibitors and volunteers.

Visitors to the Show voted Jenny Purdon's display in the inaugural One Hour Imposed Flower Arrangement competition as being the best of the entries on show and it is planned to include another competition in a show next year

The cookery, Handicraft and junior classes were excellent and hopefully, this will encourage more entries at our next show particularly as there are the long winter months to prepare and create entries in these classes. Unusually but unsurprisingly, a joint first prize was awarded for the cakes on display. I'm wondering if those of you who saw the two cakes in question, would agree that they looked good enough to have been on TV's GBBO.

Congratulations should not only go to the following prize winners but to all exhibitors for yet again making the Newcombe Hall look so spectacular:-

Andrea Fall - The Bob Lacey Salver
Tim Richardson - The Massey-Dawson Cup
Tim Richardson - The Helena Hall Cup
Michael Figg - The Dahlia Members Cup
Tim Richardson - The Huddart Cup
Rolf Lloyd-Williams - The President's Salver
Michael Figg - The Dahlia Championship Cup
Jacqui Essen - The Penny Cup
Jean Sedgley - The Harry Tester Cup
Eleanor Anderson - LHS Junior Cup
Ian Cooper - The LHS Pumpkin Cup
Michael Elliott - The Peter Day Cup

The Best in Show winners were Tim Richardson for Vegetables, Richard Watson for his fruit, Janis Dyer for her Handicraft and Jocasta Fearn and Debbie Anscombe jointly for their cookery exhibits.

The LHS Annual Cups/Awards (full details of which appear in the Annual Schedule) for accumulated results during all the 2017 Shows went to:-

Debbie Anscombe -The Lady Wilkinson Silver Tray
Maureen Manley - The Morecombe White Cup
Jean Sedgley - The Proctor Cup
Ian Cooper - The Shepherd Cup
Andrew Harding - The Ron Pickett Trophy
Florence Fearn-Hughes - .The LHS Junior Perpetual Shield

You will notice that Michael Elliott won the Peter Day Cup. I am one of many members with fond memories of Peter who was, for many years, a loyal and hard working member of the LHS and its Committee I would like to record the appreciation and thanks of the committee to his wife Katherine who has sponsored the Cup and class in his memory and Michael was its first winner.

**LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30pm
AT THE KING EDWARD HALL, LINDFIELD**

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Approval of the AGM Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd November 2016 and 11th January 2017 (attached below)
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report (attached below)
5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2017 (to be laid round)
6. Election of Chairman
7. Election of Officers:
Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Show Superintendent, Show Secretary, Catering Supervisor, Sundries Centre Supervisor, Flower Arranging Steward, Membership Secretary and Publicity Officer.
8. Election of a committee of not more than nine members
9. Appointment of an Examiner
10. Any other Business
Shadow Treasurer to be appointed Treasurer in 2018 and assistants to help the Show Secretary and Membership Secretary

N.B. – There will be no election in 2017 for the President, David Hobbs or the Vice Presidents as their 3 year term of Office does not expire until the 2019 AGM.

N.B. - Nominations for Chairman, Officers or Membership of the committee should be made on the following form and must reach the Honorary Secretary Pat Whetstone by Wednesday 1st November 2017

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**LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.30pm
AT THE KING EDWARD HALL, LINDFIELD**

1. Chairman's Welcome

Chairman Chris Gurr welcomed all attendees and thanked all the committee and members who gave their time to help the LHS. As his report had been previously circulated to all members he had nothing more to add.

2. **Approval of the AGM Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2015** The minutes were approved. Proposed by Betty Billings and seconded by Sheila Hobbs.

3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

4. **Chairman's Report:**

The formal notice of the AGM, agenda and minutes of the last AGM are attached, plus a form for nominations for the vacancies on the committee and various specific roles, namely Editor of the Annual Show Schedule, Show Superintendent(s), Assistant to Deborah Novotny, the Show Secretary and Assistant to Heather Martin's role as the Publicity Officer. These specific roles do not necessarily involve attending committee meetings apart from standing in for Deborah and Heather if neither of them is unable to attend committee meetings.

Whether you attended a show, coffee morning, an evening talk, garden visits, Christmas Social, helped at our stall on Village Day or called at the Sundries Centre, I think you will agree that the events over the last 12 months have been very successful and the organisers and helpers should be thanked and congratulated for all their hard work.

As far as I am concerned, there are too many hi-lights to detail any event, many of which have been mentioned in Newsletters over the last 12 months.

Although it's not the official start of the year for the LHS, the enjoyable Christmas Social is for me as good a social occasion as any New Year celebration. Since last year's social, 2016 has been an enjoyable year but I am anxious not to 'sit on my hands'. As such, we are always looking how we can improve the Society. At the end of this newsletter is a form on which to put your ideas and to return to the Secretary in advance of the AGM or speak to me or any Committee Member.

I'm looking forward to the events which have been and are being organised for 2017. As usual, there are the 3 shows, coffee mornings, trips, talks and Village Day and Gill Jones has offered to manage the Sundries Centre and a price list will be provided in the new year. The first day of opening in 2017 is 19 February.

Your committee is always receptive to suggestions to do something different and how we can add to our regular events. New events are being planned, namely 'Create a Christmas Table Decoration' and a Gardeners' Forum on 14 June, details of which will be provided in due course but in the meantime, please amend the title of this event on your membership card if this has not already been done.

The Chairman's report was accepted. Proposed by Neal McNamara and seconded by Wendy Dumbleton.

5. **Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Statement of Accounts for y/e 30th September 2016:**

Unfortunately Michael Elliott had been unable to attend the AGM and had forgotten to leave copies of the accounts for members approval. Martin Higgins pointed out that as members had not seen the accounts they could not give their approval. (Subsequently, notice was given to members on 29th December 2016 that a Special General Meeting of the Lindfield Horticultural Society would be held at 8pm on Wednesday 11th January 2017 in the King Edward Hall to clear outstanding items not full addressed at the AGM in November as follows:-

1. Receive and adopt the Society's Accounts for 2015/16
2. Confirm the election of the President and Vice Presidents for a period of three years from the 2nd November 2016.)

6. **Election of Chairman:**

President David Hobbs took over the chair and thanked all members for attending and on behalf of these members he thanked the Chairman and Committee for all their hard work. David made a special mention of the Autumn Show and said how much he had enjoyed it especially the fantastic teas. Chris Gurr was re-elected as Chairman. Proposed by Margaret Carter and seconded by Wendy Dumbleton.

7. Election of Officers:

Vice Chairman: Vacant, Treasurer: Michael Elliott, Secretary: Pat Whetstone Show Superintendent: Vacant, Show Secretary: Deborah Novotny, Catering Supervisor: Debbie Anscombe, Sundries Centre Supervisor: Gill Jones. These officers were accepted en-mass. Proposed by Heather Martin and seconded by Betty Billings.

8. Election of a committee of not more than nine members:

Committee: Heather Martin, Anne Marsden, Susan Barrett, Jenny Samuels, Sheila Hobbs and Andrew Harding. The committee were accepted en-mass. Proposed by Neal McNamara and seconded by Jim Stockwell.

9. Appointment of Show Superintendent, Editor of the Annual Show Schedule, Assistant Show Secretary and Assistant Publicity Officer: There were no nominations for these posts.

10. Appointment of an Examiner:

Malcolm Springall agreed to carry on as Examiner. Proposed by Margaret Carter and Rolf Lloyd- Williams.

11. Members Proposals: There were no members proposals.

12. Any other Business: Gill Jones and Jacqui and Jeff Essen had agreed to share the job of Floral Art Superintendent. Chris, with help from Gill, would organise the Show Schedule for this year.

Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the Lindfield Horticultural Society held on the 11th January 2017 in the King Edward Hall Lindfield.

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming the Members and explaining why it was necessary to call a Special General Meeting, basically the Accounts for 2015/16 had not been approved at the AGM and the President and Vice Presidents had not been elected for the correct term.

Apologies for absence were received from Martin and Ann Higgins and Sheila and David Hobbs. The Chairman took item 2 of the agenda first and proposed that David Hobbs be elected as President for the next three years, this was seconded by Mrs Wendy Dumbleton and agree unanimously.

Mr Hugh Parkyn then proposed that Mrs Alison Elliott and Messer's Neal McNamara, John Stephens and David Macmillan be elected as Vice Presidents, all for the next three years, this was seconded by Mrs Rose Mortenson and again agreed unanimously.

The Treasurer then took the floor and apologised as he failed to have copies of the accounts available at the AGM. He then presented the accounts to the meeting drawing attention to the high costs of administration and the write down of stock at the Sundries Centre, there had been a small loss of £125 in the year but overall the Society was in a very strong financial position. He thanked all the generous Members who had donated cakes for the Show Teas and prizes for the raffle. Finally he thanked his team Joyce Gladwell, Sandra Huggett and Anne Peters without whom he could not manage. He also thanked Malcolm Springall who examined the accounts and kept him very much on the straight and narrow. It was proposed that the accounts be adopted by Neal McNamara and seconded by Diana Leggatt and agreed by the meeting.

NOMINATION FORM

I propose the appointment of:

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as..... of the Society for the forthcoming Year.

Signature.....Address.....

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I second the proposal

Signature.....Address.....

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If appointed I am willing to serve as.....

Signature.....Address.....

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