

Lindfield Horticultural Society

Newsletter - Winter 2018

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14th NOVEMBER 2018 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 8th November 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 2018 (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

N.B. – There will be no election in 2018 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 attached form and must reach the Chairman Pat Whetstone by Wednesday 1st November 2018.

Minutes of AGM held on 8th November 2017

1. Chairman's Welcome. Chairman, Chris Gurr welcomed everyone to our annual AGM.

2. Minutes of 2016 AGM Approved. (Proposed by Michael Elliott, seconded by Gill Jones)

3. No matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report (attached to AGM agenda). Since last year's AGM, to date, volunteers have put their names forward for various roles but your committee is 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 guest 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.

Chris then announced that he is retiring as Chairman but will still be involved in the Society and contribute to events. Neal McNamara then paid tribute to Chris and all the hard work he has done over the past two years.

5. Treasurers report. The Society has made a profit of £641.00. This was due to a reduction in printing costs. However the sundries centre sales have been sluggish and an overhaul maybe required. Concerns were expressed about membership. Membership has been declining in the last few years and this impacts on finances. Michael Elliott then thanked his team of Joyce Gladwell, Sandra Huggett and Anne Peters for all their hard work. He also went on to say that Anne was retiring this year as Assistant Membership Secretary but that Anne Bradshaw had agreed to take over her role. The accounts were adopted.

6. Election of Chairman. Our President David Hobbs thanked everybody for attending and announced that Pat Whetstone was taking over as Chairperson. Her nomination was unopposed. - proposed by Chris Gurr, seconded by Michael Elliott.

At this point, Pat Whetstone took over the meeting.

7. Election of Officers

Vice Chairman: Andrew Harding - Treasurer: Michael Elliott for 2018
Minutes Secretary: Susan Barrett - Show Secretary: Deborah Novotny
Catering Supervisor: Debbie Anscombe - Sundries Centre Supervisor: Gill Jones
Flower Arranging Stewards: Jacqui Essen and Gill Jones
Membership Secretary: Joyce Gladwell - Publicity Officer: David Barrett
Show Superintendent: Andrew Harding

***Pat pointed out that as she was now Chairperson there was a vacancy for Hon. Secretary. She asked that anyone who was interested in taking on the role to get in touch with her.

The Election of officers - proposed by Chris Gurr, seconded by Neal McNamara - was unopposed.

8. Election of Committee

Sheila Hobbs, Anne Marsden and Chris Gurr were staying on the committee. Joining the committee were Clare Wilson in the role of Assistant Show Secretary and Jacqui Essen as Joint Floral Steward. The election of committee members was unopposed - proposed by Neil McNamara, seconded by Debbie Anscombe.

9. Appointment of Examiner

Malcolm Springall agreed to continue and he was thanked for his support.

10 A.O.B

Four committee members are retiring Heather Martin, Jenny Samuels, Anne Peters and Janice Black who is retiring on a temporary basis due to her husband's poor health and may return when his health has improved. It was emphasised that their work had been highly valued and they would be welcomed back. Their ongoing support will be welcomed and Jenny Samuels will organise a willow weaving event for March next year. In appreciation of their support they were each given a bouquet of flowers.

Chris Gurr mentioned a need for more able bodied people to help with coffee mornings and shows so that furniture and heavy items could be lifted.

Pat Whetstone stressed how important it is that someone comes forward to take over from Michael Elliott as Treasurer. In an ideal world someone would stand up tonight and say "I will do it" then I would shout "eureka" and give them a hug. But joking aside please remember that the society cannot run without a treasurer. We are the best HS in Sussex and we cannot give up.



NOMINATION FORM

I propose the appointment of:

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

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

I second the proposal - (signature.) - (address.....)

If appointed I am willing to serve as

signature -

Address

-
-

Chairman's Report (2018)

Despite the exceptionally warm weather causing havoc with the gardening calendar, we have had three great shows this year. Thanks to all the exhibitors for producing the exhibits and to all the officers, committee and volunteers for their help during the shows.

The talks, coffee mornings, outings and sundries centre have also been well supported. Thanks once again to all the organisers and volunteer helpers.

We have a great group of Officers and Committee members. I would like to thank them for all the hard work they do.

As you know, after doing the job for thirteen years, Michael Elliott is retiring as our Treasurer. The good news is that although we have not had a volunteer to take on the treasurer's job, Michael has agreed to continue to keep the accounts. He will no longer be on the committee and will not be doing any decision making.

Also retiring this year are Joyce Gladwell our Membership Secretary and Anne Bradshaw, her Assistant. Joyce has been doing the job for many years. The good news is that Joyce and Anne have both said that they will help with the raffles. Jacqui Essen and Christine Crawley have agreed to take on the jobs of Membership Secretary and Assistant Membership Secretary.

I have continually been asking for more assistance from members to help. Apart from two or three members who always volunteer (thank you) I have not had much success. I am afraid that the time has now come that unless we have more assistance, the LHS cannot continue to run as it currently does.

At the present time we need a Secretary. I am still doing the secretary's job along with being Chairman. We need more committee members. Although Michael Elliott is continuing to keep the accounts, we still need someone to do some of the accounting jobs that he did. I am sure that Gill Jones could do with a few more volunteers at the Sundries Centre. Deborah Novotny is retiring as Show Secretary and Debbie Anscombe is also retiring as Catering Supervisor. 2019 will be their last year.

We need help, for about two hours, from 5.30pm on the Friday evening before each show to get the hall ready. I, for one, am fed up of having to carry tables and boxes of vases from the shed into the hall because we do not have enough men to help. We also need help on Saturday morning from 10.30am to set up the tables and chairs in the jubilee room for afternoon tea. On the Saturday afternoon of each show we need volunteers for about an hour to give a break to the people doing the raffle, taking money on the door and membership renewals. I also know that Debbie Anscombe's list of helpers for serving tea and coffee at the shows and coffee mornings is getting shorter. And of course after the show we need help clearing up. The tables and boxes that came out of the shed need to be put back!

We are not asking for members to help at every show, talk or coffee morning. In an ideal world it would be great to have a list of volunteers who we could call on. We could then work out a rota of volunteers for each event.

In the same ideal world it would be great if we could get someone to take over as Show Secretary as they could then work with Deborah Novotny in 2019 to learn the ropes. It does not have to be one person. It could be a couple or two friends. The only criteria is that you have to be computer literate. The same goes for the job as Catering Supervisor - for this job you don't need to know how to work a computer, just know how to make a good cup of tea.

Please remember that if we do not get more help we may have to cut out one of the shows and cut down on the talks, coffee mornings, outings and sundry centre openings.

The committee are looking at making some changes to the Christmas Party as from next year. Again, because of the amount of work involved we are thinking that we will prepare the food as usual but may pay for some help to serve each course and to clear the tables between each course. Another thing we are thinking of doing is letting members bring their own drinks and glasses. This would save us having to apply for a license, purchasing all the drinks and asking someone to run the bar. It means that the committee would be able to sit back and enjoy the evening like everyone else.

Another idea we are thinking of is allowing members to pay their subscriptions directly into the LHS bank account. Many people nowadays have online banking and many more pay their bills by standing order or direct debit so why not pay your LHS subscription that way. **You would of course still be able to pay by cheque or cash to the membership secretary at the shows, talks or coffee mornings and by post.** Perhaps you could let me have your thoughts on this.

Once again, I would like to thank the officers, committee members and the unsung heroes who give up their time to help. Please don't ignore this report. If anyone wants any information about vacant jobs or just about helping out please contact me. We have a great society and nobody wants to see it decline. The future is up to you - the members.

Pat Whetstone
Chairman Lindfield Horticultural Society
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Email: whet25@btinternet.com

Autumn Show

The King Edward Hall was looking at its best on 9 September at the Autumn Flower and Produce Show. The quality, variety and large number of exhibits was exceptional and did not disappoint the 150 plus who attended the show, most of whom were particularly drawn to the astonishing high standard, variety and colour of the considerable number of dahlias on Show.

Congratulations to all who took part, particularly to the following winners of the various trophies and awards:-

Ian Cooper - The Bob Lacey Salver
Richard Hilson - The Massey-Dawson Cup
Richard Hilson - The Helena Hall Cup
Richard Hilson - The Dahlia Members Cup
Richard Hilson - The Huddart Cup
Alison and Michael Elliott - The President's Salver
Richard Hilson - The Dahlia Championship Cup
Jenny Purdon - The Penny Cup
Wendy Dumbleton - The Harry Tester Cup
Alice Anderson and Noah Stoney - LHS Junior Cup
Alice Anderson - LHS Junior Shield
Eleanor Anderson - Kieron James Toys Shield
Ian Cooper - The LHS Pumpkin Cup
Michael Elliott - The Peter Day Cup

The Best in Show winners

Richard Hilson - Vegetables
Ian Cooper - Fruit
Maureen Manley - Handicraft
Jocasta Fearn - Cookery
Jenny Purdon - Floral Art
Andrea Fall - Trug/Basket

The Annual Cups/Awards (full details of which appear in the Annual Schedule) for accumulated results during all the 2018 Shows went to:-

Helen Dunlop - The Lady Wilkinson Silver Tray
Jeff Essen - The Morecombe White Cup
Jean Sedgley - The Proctor Cup
Richard Hilson - The Shepherd Cup
Andrea Fall - The Ron Pickett Trophy
Florence Fearn-Hughes - The LHS Junior Perpetual Shield
Alice Anderson - The Shepherd Perpetual Shield

As usual the volunteer team of 'caterers' were kept busy the whole afternoon in the Jubilee Room where the slices of many homemade cakes on sale (with tea/coffee) were very popular. The Jubilee Room also had excellent quality plants on sale and looked very colourful with each table displaying one of the many 'last minute' flower arrangements made from the 'left overs' of the flower arrangers in the main show. Some of these 'left overs' also went into the colourful display of flowers in 4 large vases 'dotted' around the Newcombe Hall and Jubilee Room.

Thanks to the help of the various organisers, volunteers, judges, exhibitors and visitors, the show was another very successful LHS event. However, more volunteers are required to ease the pressure of organising our shows, particularly clearing up at the end of each show and returning our tables etc to our store (*Chris Gurr*)

Outings

On 13 September, the weather was lovely for our final trip of the year and the visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace and Woolbedding Gardens was a perfect way to bring our season of outings to an end. Thanks to the efforts of Rose Mortenson, for many, these trips are enjoyable sociable events as well as being able to experience the interesting places that we are visiting, particularly the lovely gardens that Rose always makes sure are included on each trip. (*Chris Gurr*)

Reminders for your diaries

6 October - Sundries Centre is open

10 October - Evening Talk by Rosy Hardy - see below

13 October - Coffee Morning and plant sale

28 October - Sundries Centre is open for the last time this year

14 November - AGM, followed by a talk entitled "How to commit the perfect murder and put the body to good use in the garden afterwards" by Guy Deakins

7 December - Christmas Social (see below)

Events in early 2019 (See Show Schedule and Programme due in January for further details)

9 January - Talk by Barry Newman about vegetable growing in a raised bed

2 February - Coffee morning, plant sale and Seed Swap (see below)

13 February - Talk by Sheila Preston on 'Churchyards as important areas of nature conservation'

13 March - Talk by Peter Lovett on 'native orchids of Sussex, Surrey and Kent'

Talk by Rosy Hardy - 10 October - Rosy's nursery, which grew out of her and her husband selling plants at car boot sales 30 years or so ago, won their 23rd Gold Medal at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. What she has to say will doubtless be very interesting and the talk will be worthwhile attending. The entry fee will be £2 for members and £5 for non members who, if they wish, can join the LHS before the start of the Talk.

Christmas Social - 7th December - tickets go on sale to members only at the October Talk, the October Coffee Morning and the AGM. The ticket price is as last year at £10. The entertainment this year is provided by the Sundown Ukulele Band. Come along and enjoy yourselves, the format of the evening as always, remains the same – good company, good food, a glass or two of wine and great entertainment including a seasonal song or two or more. More information Pat Whetstone 483236

Seed swap 2019 - A reminder to bring your surplus seeds (including unused purchased seeds) for the seed swap at the coffee morning on 2 February 2019 and following events at the KEH.

Membership Reminder

It is planned for the 2019 Show Schedule and Programme to be delivered to all paid up members in January. At the same time, reminders are delivered to members who have not renewed their membership before then. To avoid the need to do this, if you haven't yet renewed your membership, please endeavour to make sure you do so before the end of 2018 (at the October Talk, Coffee Morning or at the AGM). If this is not possible, please telephone Jacqui Essen on 01444 454816

Catering

A Big Thank You to all those ladies & gentlemen who have kindly given their time to help over the past year at our flower show teas, coffee mornings and with donations of cakes. It is very much appreciated and we simply couldn't do it without your help. I would also like to say an especially big Thank you to Audrey Kite & Alison Elliott for overseeing the Summer show teas. There is always room for more helpers, so if you would like to lend a hand with teas, or bake a cake for the teas please do get in touch with me.

Thanks again, and look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas social. Debbie.
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