

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30pm
AT THE KING EDWARD HALL, LINDFIELD**

AGENDA

- 1) Chairman's Welcome
- 2) Minutes of previous AGM
- 3) Matters Arising
- 4) Chairman's Report (attached below)
- 5) Treasurer's Report (Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2023 to be laid round)
- 6) Election of Committee

Richard Harding - Chairman
Pat Whetstone – Treasurer
Christine Cawley – Secretary
Clare Wilson – Show Secretary
Tim Richardson – Assistant Show Secretary/IT
Deborah Novotny – Minutes Secretary
Jacqui Essen – Membership Secretary
Jim Stockwell – Plant Sales Organiser
Anne Williamson – Catering Supervisor
Heather Hitchcock – Outings Organiser
Jenny Purdon – Publicity Organiser
Chris Gurr – Newsletter Distribution

- 7) Election of President
- 8) Appointment of an Examiner
- 9) Any other Business

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 2022
AT THE KING EDWARD HALL, LINDFIELD

- 1) Richard Harding welcomed members and thanked everyone for coming. He went on to say that we have unfortunately lost three notable former members of our Society this year, namely Sheila Hobbs, ex-Chairman and stalwart of LHS, John Stephens, former Show Superintendent, and our Examiner, Malcolm Springall. He asked members to stand for a minute's silence in their memory.
- 2) Minutes of the previous AGM were approved and signed (Proposed by Gill Jones and seconded by Pauline Parkyns)
- 3) There were no Matters Arising
- 4) Richard had nothing further to add to his written report which accompanied the AGM agenda and is reproduced below, other than repeating his sincere thanks to the excellent and hard-working Committee.
- 5) Treasurer, Pat Whetstone, presented the draft accounts and explained that they could only be finalised once a new Examiner had been appointed (see Item 11 below). She and Richard thanked Michael Elliott for his help in the meantime.
- 6) There were no other contenders for the post of Chairman, and so Richard Harding will continue in the role. (Proposed by Jim Stockwell and seconded by Neal McNamara)
- 7) The Chairman briefly explained the reasons for the subtle changes to our Constitution, and the new version was duly accepted (Proposed by Neal McNamara and seconded by David Macmillan)
- 8) The following were elected en bloc to the Committee for the coming year:

Pat Whetstone – Treasurer
Christine Cawley – Secretary
Clare Wilson – Show Secretary
Tim Richardson – Assistant Show Secretary/IT
Deborah Novotny – Minutes Secretary
Jacqui Essen – Membership Secretary
Jim Stockwell – Plant Sales Organiser
Anne Williamson – Catering Supervisor
Heather Hitchcock – Outings Organiser
Jenny Purdon – Publicity Organiser
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- 9) Members were asked to endorse the proposal of Neal McNamara as our new President. Neal had previously been approached by the committee and accepted the role. (Proposed by Wendy Dumbleton and seconded by Hugh Parkyns)
- 10) The Committee asked for and received the meeting's approval to add former President, David Hobbs, and Andrew Harding (previously Vice-Chairman and Show Superintendent) to the list of Vice Presidents, alongside David Macmillan. (Proposed by Jacqui Essen and seconded by Heather Hitchcock)
- 11) Following on from Item 5) above, Pat Whetstone requested members' approval for the appointment of a new Examiner, Gordon Marples, who had been recommended by the local Parkinson's Society whose books he audits. (Proposed by Jeff Essen and seconded by Jacqui Essen)
- 12) The Committee asked members to endorse a proposal to increase the annual subscriptions for the 2023/24 year to £8 single and £12 for a couple, if our financial review shows that such a move will be necessary due to increased costs. (Proposed by Pauline Parkyns and seconded by David Macmillan)



Dear Members

We are at the end of another LHS year, although it doesn't seem 12 months ago that I prepared the last one, and it is again my privilege to prepare this annual report and acknowledgements to accompany the papers for the AGM.

I think your Committee have again provided some excellent events during the past year, appreciated I know by those members who attended them.

In the lead-up to Christmas we enjoyed another excellent extravaganza. 4/5 courses prepared and served by a number of our Committee members, followed by a jolly singalong of our favourite carols. Tickets for this year's Christmas Social aren't on sale yet, but please do contact Pat Whetstone (phone 01444 483236 or e-mail whet25@btinternet.com) if you'd like to register your interest.

We had three very successful shows this year, and four very well managed - and well attended - coffee mornings with many plants on offer.

There were again a variety of trips arranged for members, where we enjoyed surprisingly good weather, often despite adverse weather forecasts. We had a wide range of subjects for our talks and, despite the access problems during the year, another successful year of sales at the shed.

So, now time for me to thank everyone who made this all possible. Their names and titles are listed in our annual schedule, and whilst I shall naturally give their individual roles, I must emphasise how they all help out with everything we arrange. As they say on TV, in no particular order, but perhaps I will start with those who will be more readily recognisable to the majority.

- **Clare** and **Tim**, for all of their hard work in organising our shows, and also thanks to Tim for our excellent website.
- **Jim** for the multitude of plants he brings to sell, and also for his time and effort in helping Gill and Pat with the stock-take at the sundry centre, not forgetting his wife Sue for her home-made jams and preserves.
- **Heather** has again spent a lot of her time finding and arranging the variety of trips which we have enjoyed.
- And **Jacqui** has been her usual helpful, smiling and friendly self while taking your subs!
- **Christine** keeps us organised and up to date with all LHS news and details of up-coming events.
- And **Pat** spends hours ensuring our accounts are up to date. On that subject, our Sundry Centre's late September sale has naturally impacted on the completion of an audit of our year end accounts which will now be distributed at our AGM.
- **Anne** and her team have prepared tasty fare for our coffee mornings, and excelled themselves at our Christmas do.
- **Deborah** has been a great help to Christine by taking the minutes of our meetings.
- And we must thank **Jenny** for our advertising, which includes arranging the local traders advertisements which helps subsidise the cost of our schedule.

They are all excellent in their field, so please do use them if you can, and for our mutual benefit mention "seen in the LHS schedule".

- **Neal** has been a very interested and proactive President, and we thank him for being there to present the awards at our shows.
- A number of you have asked after **Chris**. Unfortunately he hasn't been too well lately, but does still attend events when he can.

I now move on to the two hard-working people responsible for our Sundry Centre and the talks, neither of whom wishes to be on our Committee (you might think quite sensibly!!) but they each do a lot of work on your behalf

- So our thanks to **Wendy** who sources and arranges the monthly speakers.
- And to **Gill** who supervises the Sundry Centre. She has once again "gone above and beyond" in delivering goods when we cannot get down Spring Lane to get them ourselves.

That's all from me for now. I hope to see you at the AGM and/or our Christmas do, and will avoid "Happy Christmas" until then.

Richard Harding
Chairman