

Chairman's report 2024

Hello again, fellow members

It hardly seems possible, but it is a year since my last message to accompany the papers for the AGM. So, it's once more my pleasure to report briefly on another excellent - and enjoyable - year. (Although I am probably biased!)

As well as having two very accomplished officers in Christine and Pat, we are also very lucky to have an excellent, hard-working Committee, and I am pleased to say the majority will continue next year. (Deborah is leaving us and we thank her for her years as our Minutes Secretary). You will find their names and roles both in our annual schedule and on our excellent website. (many thanks to Tim). Whilst everyone is involved in the preparation of, and busy helping at all of our events, I would just like to mention those who are responsible for our main attractions.

I am sure all who entered and/or visited them will agree that Clare and Tim again organised three magnificent and colourful seasonal Shows, and I was very pleased to see so many members both supporting and attending these.

Heather once again arranged a varied choice of trips for members, both coach outings and self-drive visits. She even went the extra mile by finding local hostleries where we were very adequately fed and watered between morning and afternoon visits,

Although we have an ongoing mandate from the 2022 AGM to raise subscriptions, I am very pleased to say we have again been able to keep these to the very modest £6 for an individual and £10 per couple. Assisted, as Jim Stockwell explains in his note below, by the very useful amounts received from the popular sale of plants etc that he organises, both at our events in the KEH and Lindfield Village Day on the common.

*“Sales of members' home-grown plants and home-made jams again proved to be very popular with visitors, giving growers/cooks a fair reward for their efforts as well as providing a major source of income for LHS. Figures for this year (with last year's figures in brackets) were approximately: total sales £3,000 (£2,700); paid to members £2,000 (£1,700) - of which £1,900 (£1,350) was donated by growers/cooks to St Peter and St James Hospice. After expenses, the remaining surplus of £1,000 (£900) was credited to LHS - helping to keep subscriptions and entry charges low. Thank you to all those who donated plants or sold on a shared basis.
Jim Stockwell”*

Naturally, I will have more to say at the AGM and I hope to see you there. If not, perhaps at the Christmas social. However, if you cannot attend either, can I wish you a Merry Christmas, and thank you for your continued support.

Richard

Richard Harding
Chairman

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 2023 AT THE KING EDWARD HALL, LINDFIELD

- 1) Richard Harding welcomed members and thanked everyone for coming. He went on to call for a minute's silence to mark the loss of our former President, David Hobbs, who died earlier this year. To commemorate the contribution of both David and Sheila Hobbs to the Society over the years, a silver salver has been purchased to be awarded annually to the person accruing the most points in floral art classes over our three shows.
- 2) Minutes of the previous AGM were approved and signed. (Proposed by Wendy Dumbleton and seconded by Betty Billins)
- 3) There were no Matters Arising other than regarding membership fees. Although approval had been given at the last AGM for annual subscription fees to be increased, this will be carried forward as an increase has not yet become necessary and the fees will remain at £6/£10 for the coming year.
- 4) Richard had nothing further to add to his written report which accompanied the AGM agenda and is reproduced below, other than to advise that the Sweet Pea Workshop is now fully subscribed and that we are hoping to run other such courses and workshops in the near future. He also restated his sincere thanks to the excellent and hard-working Committee and called for volunteers to assist Clare with organising the shows and to help at other social events.
- 5) Treasurer, Pat Whetstone, presented the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2023. She explained the figures and mentioned that a small overall profit had been made. The accounts were adopted. (proposed by Jenny Harding and seconded by Pat Baker)
- 5a) Neal McNamara introduced the election of Chairman, and as there were no other contenders for the post Richard Harding was re-elected to the role. (Proposed by Betty Billins and seconded by Audrey Kite)
- 6) The following were elected en bloc to the Committee for the coming year. (proposed by Sue Stockwell and seconded by John Rieley):

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) Richard thanked Neal McNamara for his proactive involvement during his first year as President, and he was duly re-elected to the role. (Proposed by Jacqui Essen and seconded by Heather Hitchcock)
- 8) Gordon Marples, was re-elected as Examiner. (Proposed by Richard Harding and seconded by Jim Stockwell)
- 9) Any Other Business – John Rieley asked about the future of the Sundry Centre and was advised that this would be decided at the next Committee Meeting in January 2024.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30pm
AT THE KING EDWARD HALL, LINDFIELD**

AGENDA

- 1) President's Welcome
- 2) Minutes of previous AGM
- 3) Matters Arising
- 4) Chairman's Report (attached)
- 5) Secretary's Report
- 6) Treasurer's Report (Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2024 to be handed out)
- 7) Election of Chairman
- 8) Election of Committee:
 - Pat Whetstone – Treasurer
 - Christine Cawley – Secretary
 - Clare Wilson – Show Secretary
 - Tim Richardson – Assistant Show Secretary/IT
 - Carolyn Drew – 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
- 9) Election of President
- 10) Election of Vice-President
- 11) Appointment of an Examiner
- 12) Any other Business