

LONG ASHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the Jubilee Pavilion, Long Ashton Village Hall
Long Ashton on 14 November 2012 at 7.30pm

Present: The President, Mr Ted Baker
The Chairman, Kate Anthony Wilkinson
Members of the Committee and 12 other members of the Society

Apologies: Tabatha Newman; Clare Sheahan; Sarah Trigg-Wells; Heather Clarke; Dennis Chadwick; Di Chadwick; Julia Peak; Robert Bassett; John Glew; and Jean Carroll.

Kate Anthony Wilkinson took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes from the 2011 AGM

The Minutes from the AGM held on 15 November 2011 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

Kate Anthony Wilkinson presented the Chairman's report for the year. The Plant Sale had once more been very successful and generated a good level of profits for the Society to assist with the staging of the Flower Show. The Plant Clinic had been combined with a publicity stall at the Village Hall. This had not been particularly successful as a Plant Clinic with few enquiries regarding plants, but had served to highlight the Society to the market visitors. Consideration would need to be given as to whether this was repeated in the same format next year. The Plant Sale would certainly be repeated in May 2013.

The Society had managed to continue during the year with a very small Committee running the events and the Show; happily some new volunteers had stepped forward and this would significantly spread the load for the coming year and ensure that the Plant Sale and Show would continue. Consideration was also being given to increasing the use of electronic communication and the potential for an on-line Schedule and all members were encouraged to provide email addresses where possible for Newsletters and communication. A new website would also be established during the next year to increase the Society's profile. Thanks were extended to the Committee for their hard work during the year.

4. Show Secretary's Report

Kate Anthony Wilkinson presented the Show Secretary's report. The 87th annual Flower Show had been a great success, and despite the poor growing weather during the summer, had resulted in a wonderful array of exhibits. The number of exhibits and the number of exhibitors were down on the previous year, and interestingly the mix of exhibits had changed. There were fewer apples,

pears and tomatoes due to poor growing conditions, but an increase in the number of entries for preserves, drinks and baking. This indicated that residents still wanted to take part in the Show despite fewer horticultural entries. Children's entries were once again a pleasure to see and encouraging that new children were taking part.

Fewer entries in fact meant that there was more room in the main hall, which made it easier for people to socialise and view the exhibits. The refreshments were of the usual high standard and the raffle run by Laura and Agnes was a great success with some super prizes donated by local businesses. A new addition was the children's activities run by Sarah Trigg-Wells which was successful. The atmosphere at the Show was very relaxed and many positive comments had been received from visitors.

Thanks were extended to all the Committee for all the hard work which went into the Show, to the Judges, friends and helpers without whom the Show would not have been possible and to all exhibitors and visitors to the Show, without whom there would be no Show. Particular thanks were given to Ann Bassett for her great organisation of people and jobs to ensure that everything was covered.

The members were invited to comment on the Show. Positive comments were received from the floor and there was helpful discussion on potential changes to classes, engraving of cups, encouraging school participation, alternative dates and how additional space could be achieved for tea tables. In general, the consensus was that engraving of cups was nice to do where there was space on the cup although there was recognition of the additional cost of engraving. It was suggested that a nice certificate could be awarded to adults instead of having the cup engraved – this would also enable winners to take the cup away on the day of the Show; this would be discussed at the next Committee meeting. All agreed that engraving for children's cups should continue. Ideas of changes in classes would be considered by the Schedule Sub-Committee in the Spring.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mark Hessey circulated copies of the Society's accounts for the year ended 31 October 2012. The accounts showed that the cost of holding the Flower Show was £667.86 (last year £804.83). Show expenditure continued to rise particularly in relation to table hire and the engraving costs were significant, but savings on the printing of the Schedule by changing printers and not buying any new cups meant that the total Show expenditure was £1,225.25 (£1,376.48 last year).

In terms of Show income, this was down on 2011 at £557.39 (£571.65 last year) due to slightly reduced entries and visitors. However the refreshments and the raffle had generated good levels of profit and exceeded those from last year.

It was clear that the prize monies paid out (£267.40) exceeded the entry income (£118) almost £150 and thought was therefore being given to reducing the number of £5 prizes. There was some discussion on prizes. Originally the larger prizes had been covered by specific sponsorship but this was not generally happening now. There was general agreement from the meeting that a review of prize levels, especially where there was also a trophy awarded, was sensible and this would be considered by the Committee.

Hall hire fees had reduced as committee meetings were being held at Ann Bassett's house (cost this year £16 cf £64 last year). The plant and seeds sale had generated increased income at £379 (£179 last year) due to the good selection of plants and a slight increase in prices charged.

Total income for the year was £737 (cf £625.65 in 2011 and £757.92 in 2010) with total costs for the year of £908.77 (cf £1,072.65 in 2011 and £686.13 in 2010). As a result the Society had made a loss of £171.77 (cf loss of £447 in 2011 and a profit of £71 in 2010). Total assets therefore stood at £1,972.87 which was an encouraging position compared to the previous year and would ensure that the Show could continue on the same basis for a number more years without severe financial problem.

A question was raised as to whether the trophy insurance covered the loss of trophies from houses/cars whilst they were collected/delivered. The Committee would review the policy. It was confirmed that Public Liability insurance was in place to cover the Show and other events. Kate Anthony Wilkinson confirmed that it was important to ensure that the Society had the appropriate insurances in place.

6. Membership Secretary Report

Bill Reports presented the Membership Secretary Report. The membership fee has been increased from £4 to £5 for the current year (Sept 2012 to Sept 2013). There were currently 51 paid up members (83 members last year). Some additional donations were also received from members. Mr Roberts commented that as the main activity of the Society was to put on the Flower Show, he proposed that membership should be renamed as Friends of the Flower Show with a minimum donation of £5 per person. There was discussion on whether there should be both members and Friends, or whether there should only be one category but with the option to give a larger donation. There was concern about creating too complex a structure with different categories. Comment was made that linking membership just to the Flower Show may result in a decline on other activities with the future focus just on the Flower Show. A wide variety of comments were noted including the need to retain some elements of tradition. As a result it was agreed that the Committee would consider a revised proposition whereby membership was retained but members were invited to make larger donations, primarily to support the continuation of the Flower Show.

6. Election of Officers

The following were nominated, seconded and agreed.

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| President | Ted Baker |
| Chairman | Kate Anthony Wilkinson |
| Minutes Secretary | Kate Anthony Wilkinson |
| Membership Secretary | Bill Roberts |
| Treasurer | Julia Peak assisted in the first year by Mark Hessey |
| Publicity Secretary | Cynthia Griffiths and Sarah Lloyd |
| Show Secretary | Ann Bassett and all members of the Committee |
| Show Schedule Secretary | Ann Bassett and Sue Gorwyn |
| Web Manager | Tabatha Newman |
| Cups | Shelia Baker and Sue Gorwyn |

Other Committee members: Jim Exon; Peter Griffiths; Tabatha Newman; Clare Sheahan; Sarah Trigg-Wells; Heather Clarke.

Thanks were extended to Mark Hessey for his contribution as Treasurer and to Sarah Triggles-Wells for her publicity work over the last few years, and the new members of the Committee were welcomed.

7. **Any Other Business**

(a) Publicity – a request was made to ensure that the AGM was inserted in the Parish Magazine.

8. **A few words from our President**

Mr Ted Baker said a few words to the meeting, commented that the Committee had put on a great Show despite the poor growing weather during the course of the year. He also commented that the AGM had been extremely lively and welcomed all the comments from the floor. He was encouraged to see younger members join the Committee and happy that it was clear that there was enthusiasm to continue the Society. He wished the Committee and the Society a good year.

8. **Close**

Kate Anthony Wilkinson thanked the members who had attended and invited them to stay for refreshments. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

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Chairman

The Meeting was followed by the enjoyment of mulled wine and mince pies provided by the Committee.