

# LONG ASHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the Jubilee Pavilion, Long Ashton Village Hall  
Long Ashton on 23 November 2015 at 7.30pm

**Present:** The Chairman, Kate Anthony Wilkinson  
16 members of the Committee and of the Society

**Apologies:** Ted and Sheila Baker; Sarah Wiseman.

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

### 1. **Minutes from the 2014 AGM**

The Minutes from the AGM held on 11 November 2014 were approved.

### 2. **Matters Arising**

The Chairman reported that following the last AGM the question of sponsorship of classes was considered, but the Committee decided that it would not be actively pursued at this time. If members or others wished to sponsor a class then this would be accepted for the following Show.

### 3. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman presented her report for the year. It had once more been a busy year, starting in March with a stall at the Village Market to raise the profile of the Society and introduce more people to the Flower Show and a further stall in June to publicise the Show. In May there was another successful Plant Sale which as usual generated a healthy sum to support the Flower Show. The 90th Show had been held at the start of September and had been very successful. Thanks were extended to everyone who had provided plants for the Plant Sale and who had helped out at both the Village Markets and the Plant Sale.

The website – [www.lahortsoc.co.uk](http://www.lahortsoc.co.uk) - was looking very professional with photos of the Show and information and special offers which might be of interest to members. This was particularly due to the hard work of Jim Exon. Members were encouraged to visit the website.

The Society had benefitted from very good publicity throughout the year, through posters around the Village and articles and references in all the local magazines. Thanks were extended to Cynthia Griffiths and Sarah Wiseman for all their efforts. It was clear from the entry forms for the Show that more of the newer residents to the Village were now aware of and taking part in the Show.

The Chairman thanked all the Committee for their dedication and hard work over the course of the year and expressed her view that the Society was in very good shape to ensure the continuation of the Flower Show for a good more number of years.

### 4. **Show Secretary's Report**

The Chairman presented the Show Secretary's report. The 90th annual Flower Show had been a great success, one of the best yet. There had been 150 individual exhibitors (142 last year), a

number of which were new on the previous year and 659 exhibits (652 last year). This was an extremely good sign and suggested that the introduction of new classes which were intended to be more inclusive and fun (such as the largest rhubarb stick) and the superb publicity throughout the year was attracting more entries.

Positive feedback had also been received about the photos of “Share Your Garden” and members were encouraged to take photos of their gardens through the year to add to the display at the Show. Jim Exon had also produced large posters with historical facts and information about the Society and Flower Show which were displayed on the walls and could be used in future years. The bunting in both halls added a Village fete feel to the event and again could be repeated in future years. Jane Hicks was thanked for standing on ladders putting up meters of bunting! As usual the refreshments and raffle were very successful and thanks were extended to the cake bakers and washing up team as well as to Josh Peak and the team who sourced the raffle prizes for a successful raffle. There were some lovely photos of the day, exhibits and the winners which could be seen on the website ([www.lahortsoc.co.uk](http://www.lahortsoc.co.uk)) as well as on the boards at the AGM; thanks to Jane, Jim, Cynthia and Peter for their producing very colourful visuals to share.

The Chairman thanked Ann Basset, Show Secretary, for organising the team with their roles and duties and ensuring everything remained on target, to Peter Griffiths for managing the Show Schedule, to Sue Gorwyn for ensuring all cups were collected, cleaned and ready for presentation, to Julia Peak for managing entries and winnings and to all the Committee, friends and helpers who contributed to the entry inputting process, setting up, running of the day or the clearing away. It was down to the great team that the Show had run smoothly and been so enjoyable; it would not have been possible without them – a superb team effort!

The members were invited to comment on the Show. All were very positive about the event and there was unanimous agreement that the Show had been very successful.

## **5. Treasurer’s Report**

Julia Peak circulated copies of the Society’s accounts for the year ended 31 October 2015. The accounts showed that the net cost of holding the Flower Show was £216.50 (£474.60 last year) so a vast saving on the previous year’s partly due to a one-off saving on the cost of the tables (which would not be repeated next year) and savings on printing. Show income had been £978 (£809.50 last year) helped by an increase in the price of refreshments and raffle tickets. Door takings were similar to last year. Show expenses had been £1195.70 (last year £1,294.10).

Total other income for the year was £897.50 (last year £922.20) and total expenses for the year were £426.15 (last year £800.29). The Plant Sale had raised £282.50 (£253.20 last year). Membership subs and Plant Sale takings were therefore necessary to cover the shortfall in the cost of putting on the Show. In total the Society had made a profit of £471.35 (£121.91 last year). The Society had therefore been profitable for the last 3 years.

Total assets therefore stood at £2,498.54 (£2,027.19 last year) which would ensure the continuation of the Show for the foreseeable future.

The members unanimously approved the Accounts for the year ended 31 October 2015 produced to the Meeting. Thanks were extended to Julia Peak for her diligence and hard work in maintaining the accounts and ensuring the financial integrity of the Society.

**6. Membership Secretary Report**

Mary Lord gave her membership report. 70 members had signed up for the current year to date, which was an improvement on the position at this stage last year. In addition £63 of donations had been received from members. Members were encouraged to ensure they provided an email address to Mary (if they had one) to enable easy communication. Thanks were extended to Mary for taking over the role and doing a great job collecting subs and updating membership data.

**9. Election of Officers**

The following were nominated, seconded and unanimously agreed.

President	Ted Baker
Chairman	Kate Anthony Wilkinson
Membership Secretary	Mary Lord
Treasurer	Julia Peak
Publicity Secretary	Cynthia Griffiths and Sarah Wiseman
Show Secretary	Ann Bassett and all members of the Committee
Show Schedule Secretary	Peter Griffiths
Website/Communications	Jim Exon
Cups	Sue Gorwyn
Other Committee members:	Barbara Hinch; Jane Hicks
Show day helper:	Bill Roberts

New members were also welcome to come along to Committee meetings and lend a hand where they felt able to do so.

**7. Any Other Business**

(a) Talks/Events – initial discussions had taken place with Brackenwood Garden Centre about the possibility of them putting on a talk or event for members at the Garden Centre in the Spring. The general consensus was that a weekend afternoon would be the best time, but if this was not possible then a weekday afternoon. Mary Lord would discuss options with the Garden Centre manager.

Stafford Grundy extended thanks, on behalf of the Society, to the Committee for all their efforts.

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

Unfortunately the President, Mr Ted Baker, was unable to attend but had sent his best wishes to the Society’s members.

**8. Close**

The Chairman thanked the members who had attended and invited them to stay for refreshments. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm

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Chairman

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