

LONG ASHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the Jubilee Pavilion, Long Ashton Village Hall
Long Ashton on 22 November 2016 at 7.30pm

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

Apologies: Ted and Sheila Baker; Sarah Wiseman; David Neale; Lyn Birdsall.

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

1. Minutes from the 2015 AGM

The Minutes from the AGM held on 22 November 2015 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

There were none.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented her report for the year. It had once more been a busy year culminating in another great Show in September. During the year a few new events had been introduced for members. The year started in February with a visit to Brackenwood Garden Centre to view their private gardens and snowdrops. Despite the rather wet and windy weather there was a good turnout of members and following the tour of the gardens, there was an informative demonstration on container planting with question and answer session, followed by tea and cake in the café and then a spot of shopping enjoying a special extra discount. In March the Society was present at the Village market, looking to raise awareness of the Society and Flower Show. This was followed in May as usual with the successful Plant Stall outside the Co-op selling a wide range of plants and vegetables, the proceeds of which help finance the Show. In June, the team was back at the Village Market encouraging entries for the Show. Following the Show in September, members were treated to a very interesting talk by Jason Loh on Oriental Gardens; not only did we learn the meaning of many elements of an Oriental Garden but also a bit about Chinese culture and a few Chinese words over a glass of wine.

The Chairman extended her thanks to the Committee which operated as a well-oiled machine in ensuring the events had all run smoothly. A special vote of thanks was made to Mary and Mark Lord for organising the Brackenwood visit and the Oriental Garden talk.

Members were encouraged to look at the website – www.lahortsoc.co.uk – which carried details and photos of events as well as notice of other interesting events and offers available to members. Thanks were extended to Jim Exon for ensuring the website was up-to-date and professional looking.

The Chairman thanked all the Committee for their dedication and hard work over the course of the year which ensured the Society was in very good shape to continue with the Flower Show for a good more number of years.

4. Show Secretary's Report

The Chairman presented the Show Secretary's report. The 91st annual Flower Show had once more been a great success, despite the afternoon being wet and there being fewer entries than previous years. This was partly due to the Show taking place before the schools had returned for the new term and people still being on holiday. There had been 137 individual exhibitors, which was the lowest number for quite a few years (150 last year), but there quite a few people entering for the first time. There were 624 exhibits (659 last year). There had been some new classes introduced, such as for Geraniums, Cracked Gardens and Flower pot men. Each year the Committee considered changes to the Schedule to make it as relevant and interesting as possible to the community whilst still retaining the traditional classes.

The Village hall had looked very colourful with the extra bunting which gave the event a real Village fete feel. Although there were fewer entries, this actually meant there was more room in the main hall for people to sit and chat and have tea, encouraging people to stay for longer. Thanks were extended to the Committee members and the helpers who helped set up on Friday and clear away on Saturday which was completed in record time!

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 the raffle team and the Long Ashton businesses which kindly donated the prizes. There were some lovely photos of the day, exhibits and the winners which could be seen on the website (www.lahortsoc.co.uk) as well as on the boards at the AGM; thanks to Jane, Jim, Cynthia and Peter for capturing the event and sharing the photos.

It was noted that the large green banner which was on the railings opposite the Co-Op for the week before the Show had been stolen on the Saturday night. Peter Griffiths had been round asking for information, but members were asked to notify the Committee if they heard any rumours about who may be responsible. Consideration would be given to getting a new banner.

The Parish Council had been in touch to ask that consideration be given to changing the date of the Show so as not to clash with the Village Market. The Show had been held on the first Saturday in September for as long as anyone could remember, whereas the Market was a relatively new operation. It was felt that both could operate in the morning without too much difficulty but to move the Show back another week would impact on the produce and flowers available for showing. Enquires had been made, but the Village Hall and sports hall were already booked by other organisations for the following Saturday and therefore changing the date would mean not having a venue. Consequently, the Show would remain on the first Saturday of September and the Village Hall was booked for 2017!

The Chairman thanked Ann Basset, Show Secretary, for organising the team with their roles and duties and ensuring everything remained on target, Peter Griffiths for managing the Show Schedule, Sue Gorwyn for ensuring all cups were collected, cleaned and ready for presentation, Julia Peak for managing entries and winnings, Mary and Mark Lord for manning the membership table throughout the day and Cynthia Griffiths and Sarah Wiseman for all the publicity. As always the hard work of the Committee ensured everything ran smoothly – a true 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 once more been successful.

5. Treasurer's Report

Julia Peak circulated copies of the Society's accounts for the year ended 31 October 2016. The accounts showed that the net cost of holding the Flower Show was £345 (£216 last year) but this was in part because we had not been charged the full amount for tables last year, and this year we had to pay for alternative delivery at short notice. Show income was £842 (£978 last year) reflecting the reduced entries and visitors (due to the wet afternoon). Total other income for the year (donations, plant sale, membership fees etc) was £913 (£897 last year). The profit for the year was £254 (£471 last year), so although down on the previous year, it was still higher than 2013/14 where the profit had been £121.

Plant sale income was £252 (£282 last year). All plants had been sold or gifted by the end of the sale. Vegetables remained the most requested, and members were encouraged to remember to grow some spare for the Plant Sale next year. Total Assets stood at £2,752, up from £2,498 last year so the Society was in a strong financial position.

The Chairman commented that next year it was proposed to increase the entry fee from £1 to £1.50 – this would not impact members who would continue to benefit from free entry. In addition all class entry fees would be 30p meaning an increase of 10p for children's class entries. This was to ensure there was more available to pay the winning entries.

The members unanimously approved the Accounts for the year ended 31 October 2016 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. There were currently 77 members signed up, which was an improvement on last year. This had been partly due to more members renewing at the flower Show. In addition, as shown in the accounts a number of donations had been received. Mary reminded members of the benefit of being members and that the membership fee remained at £5.

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 Lord for her great organisation on the membership front.

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	Sarah Wiseman and Jane Hicks
Show Secretary	Ann Bassett and Cynthia Griffiths
Show Schedule Secretary	Peter Griffiths
Website/Communications	Jim Exon
Cups	Sue Gorwyn
Other Committee members:	Barbara Hinch

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

7. **Any Other Business**

(a) Talks/Events – ideas of talks/visits were requested – suggestions included Gatcombe Gardens; University Botanical Gardens; LA Allotments; Dennis’s allotment; Cleve Garden Centre; talk by the Avon Wildlife Trust.

Di Chadwick extended thanks, on behalf of the members, 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.