

LONG ASHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the Jubilee Pavilion, Long Ashton Village Hall
Long Ashton on 21 November 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Apologies: Sarah Wiseman; John & Sue Hart; Bill Clarkson-Webb.

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

1. **Minutes from the 2016 AGM**

The Minutes from the AGM held on 22 November 2016 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. The year had started with a visit to Riverside Garden Centre, where members were shown round and heard how the centre operated as well as being introduced to a number of different plants available, followed by tea and cake in the café. Another successful Plant Sale had been held in May and the Society had stalls at both the March and June Village Market.

In addition to the Show in September, a very interesting talk by Don Pope on Perennials had been held in October. The hope was to continue the programme of Spring visits and Autumn talks for the coming year.

The Chairman thanked all the Committee for their dedication and hard work over the course of the year to ensure that not only was the Show held but that members had a programme of events.

4. **Show Secretary's Report**

The Chairman presented the Show Secretary's report. The 92nd annual Flower Show had once more been a great success, with an increased number of exhibits (650) and exhibitors (141) compared to the previous year. The Show had attracted a large number of visitors, both new visitors and old faces.

Thanks were extended to the Committee and their friends and family who had helped set up, run the Show and clear away. The effectiveness of the team meant that the Show ran smoothly.

There was discussion on classes and members were asked to consider what new classes may be introduced to keep the Show fresh and to encourage new participants. Ideas should be passed to any Committee member. It was suggested that there were official photos of cup winners and some group photo taken which would be provided to the press (subject to winners' agreement).

Members were very positive about the Show and there was unanimous agreement that it had once more been successful.

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.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the next Show would be the 93rd and would be held on Saturday 1 September 2018.

5. Treasurer's Report

Julia Peak circulated copies of the Society's accounts for the year ended 31 October 2017. The accounts showed that the net cost of holding the Flower Show was £235 (£345 last year) mainly due to the increase in takings. Income was just over £1,000 (£842 last year) reflecting the increase in door, raffle and refreshment takings. Total other income for the year (donations, plant sale, membership fees etc) was £875, slightly down on last year (£913 last year). The profit for the year was £309 (£254 last year), and Total Assets were £3,061 (£2,752 last year) so the Society was in a good financial position to ensure the Show could continue.

The members unanimously approved the Accounts for the year ended 31 October 2017 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 85 members signed up, which was an improvement on last year (77). This had been partly due to more members renewing at the Flower Show and the recent talk. 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	Cynthia Griffiths and Jane Hicks
Show Secretary	Ann Bassett
Show Schedule Secretary	Peter Griffiths
Website/Communications	Jim Exon
Cups	Sue Gorwyn
Other Committee members:	Barbara Hinch; Sarah Wiseman

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 a wildlife gardening talk and Harry Williams agreed to ask his daughter if she would be able to give a talk next Autumn.

Mary Lord advised that she had spoken to Jane Lyndsey who ran Twynings in Tickenham who would give a tour and talk with slides but would charge a fee; members agreed this this would be a good idea and Mary agreed to pursue it for the Spring.

Another possible talk would be on apple trees and Chris Young had indicated he would be available. Mary Magro suggested that this would be an opportunity to continue marking apple trees on the map of Long Ashton and Jim Exon agreed to investigate the status of the map which had been started a few years ag by another Village group (probably Transition).

Harry Williams and Ted Baker both extended thanks, on behalf of the members, to the Committee for all their efforts.

7. **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.