

LONG ASHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

held at the Jubilee Pavilion, Long Ashton Village Hall
Long Ashton on 20 November 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: The Chairman, Kate Anthony Wilkinson; The President, Chris Young and 17 members of the Committee and of the Society

Apologies: Jane Hicks; Sue Hart.

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

1. Minutes from the 2017 AGM

The Minutes from the AGM held on 21 November 2017 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 included another successful Plant Sale in May and the Society had had stalls at both the March and June Village Market.

A very interesting talk had been held in the Spring on Perennials which had included slides and an opportunity to buy plants. A second well received talk was held in October on Gardening for Wildlife and had included information on developing a garden with wildlife in mind together with some wonderful photographs of both flowers and wildlife. Super cakes and refreshments had been available at both talks and attendance had been very good with both members and non-members attending. A couple of new members had also signed up on the night.

The hope was to continue the programme of Spring and Autumn visits and 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 93rd annual Flower Show had once more been a great success despite the timing (before the schools had returned after summer) and the rather strange weather which we had all experienced through the Spring and Summer.

There had been fewer entries (613 this year compared to 650 last year) with about the same number of exhibitors (140), but the standard of entries had once again been very high. It was also encouraging to see new exhibitors taking part. The Show had attracted a large number of visitors and positive comments had been received.

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 more detailed rules should be included on the website about how to display exhibits and what to look for. There was discussion on various rules and the Chairman explained the desire of the Society to be flexible on some rules in order to encourage participation. Support was given to the heaviest potato class and the smallest potato class - perhaps the latter could become an official class for next year. It was noted there was already a homemade compost class.

It was noted that photographs of the Show were on the website (www.lahortsoc.co.uk) and there was discussion on the implications of GDPR and the Committees decision not to include people's names on the website and not to include photographs of children. A revised privacy policy would be developed over the next year. The Chairman explained that members data was safeguarded, only used in connection with the Society and its events, and never sold or given to third parties.

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 (with the raffle running out of tickets) 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.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the next Show would be the 94th and would be held on Saturday 8th September 2019.

5. Treasurer's Report

Julia Peak circulated copies of the Society's accounts for the year ended 31 October 2018. The accounts showed that the net cost of holding the Flower Show was £171 (£235 last year) mainly due some cost savings. Show Income was £966 (£1,004 last year) reflecting a small reduction in visitors and consequently refreshment sales. Total other income for the year (donations, plant sale, membership fees etc) was £1,186 (£875 last year), the increase being due to the talks which had been held. It was noted that the Society did not intend to make a large profit from talks or the Show, but sought to cover costs and return a small surplus to ensure that the Show could continue for a number of years even if entries/visitors fell.

The profit for the year was £677 (£309 last year), and Total Assets were £3,639 (£3,061 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 2018 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 91 for the period to end of October 2018 (85 last year). It was thought that the talks helped encourage new members as well as renewing members. 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	Chris Young
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

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 visit to the University Botanical Gardens – best done in May – contact Nick Wray. NB Mary Lord and Sue Gorwyn are Friends of the Botanical Garden. Suggestion that one of the students could show us around as this may be cheaper.
 - a talk on fungi – perhaps the University Dept of Botany could suggest a speaker.
 - a visit to Cleve Nursery (now under new ownership).
 - another visit to Brackenwood Nursery.
 - a visit or talk in relation to the wood owned by the owners of Brackenwood for community purposes.
 - a talk or visit by Avon Wildlife Trust in relation to Feeding Cities. This may also be of interest to the Transition group/Grow It group.
- (b) Chris Young would do a talk on fruit, fruit trees and fruit entries for the Show – probably in February 2019 – date tbc.
- (c) With sadness, the death of member, John Glew, was noted and details of his funeral provided.

7. **A few words from the President**

The Chairman extended her thanks to Mr Ted Baker who had retired as President of the Society at the Show in September, and introduced Mr Chris Young the new President. Chris extended his support for and thanks to the Committee for their hard work and commitment over the year.

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.