

Wellow and District Horticultural Society

Annual General Meeting 2018

Held 15th November 2018, Wellow Village Hall

Present:

Bridget Woollen (Chair); Liz Hunt (Vice Chair); Avril Greig (Secretary); Sue Wordsworth (Treasurer); Sue Wilford; Mari Bartholomew; Colin Tremellen (President); Alex Martin (Vice President). 20+ members.

1. Apologies:

Geoff White; Ian Harris; Jill Lambert; Tara Gold; Helen Simpson; various other members.

2. Minutes of AGM held 16.11.17:

Approved as a correct record.

3. Matters arising from AGM 16.11.17:

None raised.

4. Chair's Report for 2018:

Bridget reported that her seed offer had been taken up by 25 households.

The theme for 2018, adopted at last year's AGM (bees and pollinators), had led to some very good events – an excellent talk, film, the making of a bee hotel and a bee walk around Wellow. Bridget extended grateful thanks to Hugh Prentice who had led and organised all these.

The Plant Sale in May had been a great success.

The Garden Party in July was a wonderful evening, with fine weather, a lovely garden and magnificent views across the Wellow Valley. It was very well attended. Many thanks for hosting were extended to the Sell family at Church Farm House.

There had been some excellent feedback on the success of the Flower Show this year (this drew a round of applause from members). However, it had run at a loss, given the increasing costs of putting on the Show. Bridget reported that in general, the overall figures in the bank balance had remained stable over the years, so at this point, there is no cause for concern about losses at the Flower Show. Overall, entries were down this year by 17 (from 676 to 659), probably due to the hot, dry summer leading to difficult growing conditions. However, thanks to the efforts of Annabelle Chapman and the PTA, school entries were much higher this year.

The use of the yellow stickers showed attendance of at least 780 people.

Bridget noted that 2019 is the 70th anniversary of the Flower Show, so should be a special event.

There is still one event to come – the Wreath Making on December 5th, being run by Mari Bartholomew and Jill Lambert. Members were advised to contact Mari (tel: 840889) to book their place. Mari reported that this is a very popular event and often attracts 2, or even 3, generations from the same families. Mulled wine and mince pies included.

Bridget also said that there is a plan to start an online gardeners' forum for members.

5. Report from the Treasurer:

Sue Wordsworth distributed copies of her report for this year and indicated there had been no significant changes to the healthy budget. She requested any comments or questions be directed to her. None were raised. The accounts were therefore accepted.

6. Election of New Committee:

Bridget reported that 3 committee members were standing down this year (Sue Wordsworth, Jill Lambert and Helen Simpson). All were thanked for their hard work and contributions to the Horticultural Society over many years. These 3 losses were in addition to the existing 3 vacancies on the Committee. It is very fortunate that we had received 5 nominations for new members (Gail Balfour; Gill Fee; Tara Gold; Ian Harris and Pam Pike). Alex Martin oversaw the appropriate procedure and all were elected unopposed, thanked for their willingness to stand and welcomed into the Committee. The Committee has appointed Ian Harris as Treasurer. Members were invited to put themselves forward for the one remaining vacancy, but there were no takers.

Bridget then reported that Colin Tremellen was standing down as President. He has had many years of working as a Committee member of the Horticultural Society, as well as his post latterly as President. He was thanked for his outstanding contributions and in recognition of these, presented with a card and a gift of vouchers to use for art materials.

In line with the Constitution, the Committee had considered Alex Martin a natural successor, given his very long-standing involvement and commitment. It was a great pleasure that, when invited, he agreed to take this on. The post of Vice President, which Alex has now vacated, is to be taken up by Janet Plater, who similarly, has had many years of working tirelessly for the Horticultural Society. Bridget welcomed them both to their new roles, while wishing Colin well on stepping down.

7. Proposed Amendment to the Constitution for consideration:

At the AGM last year, it was agreed to amend the Constitution such that the election of President and Vice President would be for 3 years in the first instance. This has been done and was duly ratified.

8. Presentation of Awards from Flower Show (adults):

Presentations were made to Clover Holland, Katie Millar (in absentia); Di Dalgliesh; Hugh Prentice; Alex Martin and Audrey Gerber (in absentia). Judith Wetherall was congratulated on her award of the RHS's Banksian Medal, received on the day. Children's cups had already been given out.

9. Seed Offer for Members:

Bridget informed the meeting that she would be repeating the free-seeds offer to members again for next year. This time the choice would include parsley, salad leaves, peas, leeks, coleus, sunflowers etc.

10. Events Planning for 2019:

Members were asked for their views on the various events we usually offer each year. There was a request that we retain the talks, which are found to be helpful and informative.

Hugh suggested a different theme for the coming year – climate change and the role of horticulture. Developing this theme, others suggested that learning how to manage gardens in very dry or very wet conditions would be good. It was suggested that the committee consider co-opting Hugh to help plan for this.

In terms of outings, it was mentioned that younger families find it difficult to manage weekdays. However, it was also felt that venues would be too busy at weekends to accommodate group visits. An idea for a visit was to combine Downside Nursery with a visit to Iford Gardens, as they are so close together. All suggestions to be discussed further at Committee meetings.

11. Any Other Business

A report had been received from Audrey Gerber on behalf of the Wellow Valley Green Gym (WVGG). Last year, a donation of £150 was given by the Horticultural Society, which was used to cover the cost of registration with the TVC (The Conservation Volunteers). Despite a small membership of 8 people, there had been a range of achievements. This year, there is a request for £80 to cover the costs of insurance. This was agreed. WVGG plan to plant the chicanes (having cleared them and laid them to gravel) in Spring 2019 and continue to grow vegetables with which to supply the village shop.

Alex queried how much people use the website. There was a request (as there was last year), for members to be alerted to when there is something new on the website. Bridget explained that we had moved to a new website and it was a work in progress. However, it was agreed alerts are a good idea. This could be done both directly via e-mail to members, but also via links inserted into the weekly Parish Post. Avril said that one of the new committee members has IT skills, so hopefully, this can be managed better in future.

Chris Wordsworth asked for an update following the removal of the container used by the Horticultural Society for storage. Avril reported that there has been an assurance received from Village Hall Committee that there will be a replacement in situ during January. Bridget said that this was an item on the agenda for the Parish Council next week, as they had agreed to oversee this happening.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm