

Wellow and District Horticultural Society

Annual General Meeting 2020

Held 19th November 2020, via Zoom

Present:

Bridget Woollen (Chair); Liz Hunt (Vice Chair); Avril Greig (Secretary); Ian Harris (Treasurer); Gill Fee; Gail Balfour; Pam Pike; Caroline Thomas; Sue Wilford; Alex Martin (President); Janet Plater (Vice President). Members: Janet Martin; Richard and Clover Holland; Jane Rees; Audrey Gerber; Rob Greig; Bea Dowty.

1. Apologies:

Shirley Betts

2. Minutes of AGM held 21.11.19

Approved as a correct record.

3. Matters arising from AGM 21.11.19

There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Report for 2020:

Bridget began by observing the strange year which has been experienced by all. Despite this, she was able to extend thanks to Hugh Prentice for our first "Seedy Sunday" on 16th February, a month or so before the first lockdown. The only other event it has been possible to run was the Plant Sale, in May, which was organised and run remotely and in line with the Covid restrictions in place at the time. This raised a total of £789.25, which was donated to the Bath Carers' Centre. Thanks were extended to Rob Greig, who organised and ran this almost single-handedly (with behind the scenes assistance from Avril).

Bridget reported that although the Flower Show had had to be cancelled, the marquee people had very kindly offered to roll over our deposit to 2021, so no losses were incurred.

Given the necessary cancellation of so many of our usual events this year, Bridget said it had been agreed by the Committee that those members who have paid a subscription for this year will be offered free membership for the coming year.

Over the course of the previous months, a tree has been planted in memory of our much-missed past President, Colin Tremellen. Sadly, since then, we have also lost another highly regarded past President, Michael Carpenter. It is planned to plant a tree in his memory too. Both trees will be in the North Field, behind the Church.

Members Jill Tremellen and Andrew Chivers have stepped forward and volunteered to look after the pots outside the Parlour Shop, for which they were thanked. The Horticultural Society has provided funds for the contents of the pots, and they have already been planted up, in readiness for Spring.

Looking forward to 2021, Bridget said we would run a Flower Show, ideally in its usual form if possible. If we still face regulations and if necessary, we will run it in the Village Hall in a much-reduced format and with the appropriate restrictions in place.

Finally, Bridget closed by thanking Avril Greig (Secretary), Ian Harris (Treasurer), Janet Plater and Sue Wilford (Membership) and the Events team for their contributions, plus Alex Martin (President) for advice given over the past year.

5. Report from the Treasurer:

Copies of the Treasurer's report and the accounts were available prior to the meeting on the website. The accounts for 2019 have been informally audited by Hugh Prentice, who is a qualified management accountant.

Ian reported that the financial year for The Society now ends on 30th September, so that the full year's accounts are available for the AGM in November. The accounts remain positive this year, with our main income being from the subscriptions collected, amounting to £761. Unfortunately, collection of subscriptions was brought to a halt by the first lockdown, so this compares poorly with last year's subscriptions total of £1021. Ian noted that rolling over subscriptions to next year would be voluntary, so paid-up members would need to let us know if they wish to take advantage of this offer. It was noted that for those paying by Standing Order, this may prove impractical. The Committee would be happy to accept subscriptions as a donations, should people wish to pay anyway! On a positive note, it was good that the Flower Show was cancelled early, which meant no losses were incurred. Seedy Sunday brought in a profit of £94 and the account has £6438 at present. Ian said we are working towards rebuilding our funds after an expensive year last year, from needing to buy a new container and also the purchase of the shredder.

Finally, with no queries on the accounts, these were duly accepted by members.

6. Election of New Committee:

Alex Martin reported that all current committee members had said they were willing to re-stand this year. Alex asked for any other nominations but none were forthcoming. All were therefore re-elected unopposed and thanked for their willingness to continue the work of the Society.

7. Presentation of Awards:

Sadly, with the cancellation of the Flower Show, the usual array of silverware awards is not happening this year. However, Bridget exercised her prerogative as Chair and made two "Chair's Awards". The first is to Rob Greig for all his hard work in the complex arrangements and management of the Plant Sale this year. The second is to Shirley Betts. This was the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) Banksian Medal, more usually awarded to

the overall winners of Flower Shows. This year, the RHS had given special dispensation for the medal to be awarded to anyone with outstanding contributions made to horticulture. Shirley has over more years than can be counted, organised and run the universally popular annual Flower Show, only bowing out in 2016. She was also an active member of our Committee over many years, including being a past Chair. Bridget will be delivering these awards in person in the coming few days.

8. Events for 2020

Gill Fee confirmed that at the moment, the only event likely to take place in the early part of 2021 is the rescheduled talk on “Rewilding” by Chris Sperring. The new date for your diaries is **17th March 2021**. Ideally, this will be in the Village Hall, but more likely to be delivered via Zoom, for those with access to computers.

Further details/dates to follow as, if and when they become available.

9. Any Other Business

Member Jane Rees generously offered to do her talk on her visit to The Galapagos, via Zoom. Although this is largely about wildlife, the plant life is mentioned! We felt that, despite it not being strictly horticultural in focus, nevertheless it would be a welcome diversion from the current trials and tribulations and The Society would be happy to act as hosts. The Events Team will liaise with Jane after Christmas to set this up for mid-late January.

Bridget concluded the meeting with thanks to Liz Hunt who had co-ordinated and set-up the Zoom for this meeting.

The meeting closed after 21 minutes.
