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Christmas Social

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(and Summer)**

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January 2020**

AGM Notes

Approximately 40 members braved the weather and the car parking difficulties (it was the night of the general election) to attend the first part of the evenings proceedings, our Annual General Meeting.

The meeting was chaired by our President ,Cynthia Filer, and we were all kept on track with regards to correct procedure by Secretary Sarah Ireland. Reports were received from the officers of the outgoing committee.

Presidents Report: Cynthia was most generous in her thanks for the work of committee members in her report. She praised the efforts which had led to the programme of talks the visits, the Flower show and the magazine.

Chairman's Report: John paid tribute to members who were no longer with us in particular Cliff Slade a long serving member who ran the Trading Hut ,which sadly we decided to close early in the year. John also reflected on our first Flower Show in the Winter Gardens which was by general consensus a success. We have decided to continue to hold the show at this venue at least for the coming year.

Treasurer's Report: Rod described what had been a difficult and challenging year for the society. The closing of the Trading Hut did incur some costs initially but the losses will be removed for the future. Membership has continued to diminish and consequently our subscription income has declined. The biggest expenditure was on speakers, in particular celebrity speakers, and this will need to be reviewed in future. Because we have moved our end of year from January to December our accounts are not fully audited yet. Therefore the Treasurer's Report was accepted subject to auditor's approval.



Secretary's Report: Sarah didn't report on her own work for the committee, producing documentation ensuring compliance with our own rules at our meetings. She should have done, it is a big and regular task. She did describe the outline of the programme for next year which she has organised. Programme cards will be available at the first meeting of the year on 9 January.



Membership Secretary: Keith stated that the membership stood currently at 163 with 13 of those being Life Members. This year membership cards were printed in advance and that seemed to have reduced the logjam at meetings in the early part of the year.

At the end of this part of the meeting the existing committee resigned and new officers were elected. In reality all officers and members except our former Treasurer were prepared to stand again and all were elected nem con.

We were very lucky to have a new volunteer for the committee, Heather Donnell, and miraculously someone who offered their services as Treasurer. Father and daughter combination, Mr and Ms Wilson, newish members, will be taking over from Rod Thomas to whom we owe an enormous debt of gratitude for his meticulous hard work over the years.



November's meeting was a talk by Nick Bailey of Gardeners World fame. His theme was how to rejuvenate your garden, which is also the title of his latest book. It was not a talk about garden design but about getting more from our existing plots. He was very keen to explain how we could get the most from our gardens by layering plants within our beds so that as the season progresses we get a succession of blooms at different heights and even using one plant to scaffold another. It seems like watercolour painting with plants. His pictures were very colourful and illustrated his thesis. He was chatty and informative and despite the time restrictions, due to the British Rail timetable, spent time talking to members after the formal part of the evening was over. He was prepared to gossip about the making of the programme and how the family home atmosphere of Long Meadow is created including those canine stars, Nigel and Nellie. He also talked about the filming for Chelsea and other National Shows and the way in which the effects desired by the producers of these programmes are created. I don't suppose any of us will be surprised to find out that Carol Klein is the mischief maker and prankster in chief. The picture above shows Nick with some members of the committee. My apologies to some members who were inadvertently squeezed from the picture.



AGM Continued

The first business of the new committee was to consider the subscriptions for next year 2020. There was overwhelming support for a single fee of £10 and a family membership of £15. This is due on 1 January and I will be at the desk on 9 January to accept subscriptions and issue membership cards.

The next meeting will, as mentioned above, be on 9 January, 7.30pm start at St Peters Church Hall, Baytree Road, BS22 8HG. In preparation for the new growing season Adrian Hutchison, a qualified horticulturalist formerly involved in weed research, will talk about Pests and Diseases.

Programme cards will also be available at the meeting as well as being emailed out.



Following all the formal business of the AGM we moved on to some more interesting and entertaining items. Firstly Lyndsay Ireland gave us the benefit of her skill and experience in making some seasonal flower arrangements. This picture shows her nearing the end of her slot with the products of her labours showing clearly on the table to her left. She managed to explain what she was doing,

the general principles and how she was going about it, whilst her fingers never stopped tweaking and snipping and inserting flowers. Maybe its true and there is a group of people who can multi task.

Members were able to bag one of these efforts for a donation at the end of her session. I am sure they added something extra special for Christmas displays in half a dozen homes. When she had finished her demonstration members were quick to ask lots of questions about her technique and general trends in flower arranging. I hadn't appreciated how for example Oasis is plastic based and so needs to be phased out.



After that we all enjoyed some cheese and biscuits and a glass or two organised by Sue Thomas and Georgina Heathcote ably assisted by a far from naughty elf. This was much appreciated by all those present and made an excellent closing event for a year which had started with the closure of the Trading Hut, moved on to a highly successful Flower Show and seen yet another high profile speaker join us to talk about our great love, Horticulture.



Contact points for your Committee

President:	Cynthia Filer	Tel 514057
Chairman	John Chapman	Tel 418904
Treasurer	Mr and Ms Wilson	please use email below
Secretary	Sarah Ireland	Tel 07771993784
Membership Secretary	Keith Jackson	Tel 412792
Flower Show	John Chapman	see above
Coach Trips	Sue Thomas, Georgina Heathcote	
Newsletter	Keith Jackson	

Communicating with the Society: all emails can be sent to westonhortsoc@gmail.com which Keith monitors