



Hayling Island Horticultural Society

www.hihs.org.uk

AGM

Held on 22nd November 2023

at the URC Hall, Hollow Lane, Hayling Island

Apologies:

Trish Cardy, Marion Hall, Sadie Evans, James Chester, Dave Price, Deryn Dickie, Mary Peall
Peter Poulton, Anne Bird, Jane Evans, Christine Roberts, Viv Reynolds, Jemma Stratford,
Ian Miles, Dudley Clarke, Sue Allen, Alison Couch, Vanessa James, Wendy Benson.

Chair's opening remarks:

Angharad welcomed everyone and advised that the reports were available on the tables. The officers would not be reading out their reports but members would have the opportunity for questions during the meeting.

She also welcomed Ray Jones, our President, who as well as being a very active figurehead for the society continues to coordinate the Growing Together Project.

Minutes of the 2022 AGM:

The minutes have been available on our website and at the Trading Centre.

Proposed: Paul Cockcroft-Oliver, Seconded: Kim Gardner,

All agreed

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Chairmans Address:

The society has had a very busy and successful year. Our year started with the delivery of our Year Book and Winter Newsletter to our members. This was undertaken by 3rd Hayling Scout group. Using the scouts enables us to ensure every one of our members hears from us at Christmas and receives their year book which for many members who are not online, or don't use email, is how they find out about all we are offering, and how they can take part in the show. The cost of sending this with the scouts is currently 30p a letter which remains the cheapest option for us.

The club meetings have been well attended and Angharad thanked Gill, Liese and Kim for putting together a great schedule of talks, events and socials. They have also introduced workshops, and they plan to run more of these next year. The upcoming wreath workshop is fully booked.

Kim, as outings organiser, planned not just 3 outings for this year but a holiday as well. It sounded as though everyone had a very enjoyable trip and from the pictures on Facebook it looked like it was a lot

of fun, and they couldn't have asked for better weather for the visits to the Eden Project, Heligan and RHS Rosemoor.

Tim and his show team pulled off a fantastic achievement with this year's show. Recent years had seen a decline in people entering and attending our horticultural show, so a new format of a horticultural show and community fair was proposed and Angharad was pleased to say it worked really well. We saw around 750 visitors to the show, twice the normal number and it was well received by everyone. She emphasised what an achievement this was. The show committee headed up by Tim currently has just 6 permanent members, all volunteers, many with other roles within the committee and the society. To put on an event for that many people, with refreshments, entertainment, and a variety of things to see and do is a significant undertaking so thank you to the show sub-committee, all the volunteers and also the families of the committee members, some of who were the last people to leave the site on the Saturday evening.

More volunteers are needed in order to keep all these talks, workshops and events running. Whether it be a couple of hours, or by joining one of our sub-committees every little bit helps. She requested that if you are interested in getting involved please you can chat to any one of us after this meeting or send an email to admin@hihs.org.uk and we will get be in touch.

Financial Statements:

The treasurers report can be found on page 3 of the annual report. The society remains in good financial health thanks to ongoing subscriptions from the members, non-members attending talks and outings and those attending and entering the show. Our overall membership numbers are slightly down on last year, however with the increase in subscriptions this year we took the opportunity to write to a number of members who have not engaged with us for the last few years and inevitably there are members who are no longer with us, or who have moved off the island. This has enabled Lesley to tidy up the database and we are now confident that our membership database is accurate and up to date.

The increase in the membership fee has enabled us to ensure we are covering all the costs of our member activities without having to use our reserves. We have invested in some new items and equipment for the show and helped purchase the new till for the trading centre.

The Accounts can be found on pages 4 and 5 of the Annual Report.

Proposed: Ray Jones, Seconded: Maureen Byrne

All agreed

Trading Centre:

The Trading Centre has had a reasonably good year, making a small surplus. Unfortunately Vanessa James did not feel able to continue as Trading Centre Manager and stepped down in July. When Vanessa took over there was a fairly urgent need to replace the ageing till. Vanessa helped to oversee the introduction of a new point of sale terminal, provided training to all the staff and wrote a user manual. In addition Vanessa put together a catalogue of items on sale at the Trading Centre which has been made available on our website and has been well received by members who have found it useful to be able to see what we stock. Vanessa is unable to join us this evening, the committee wish to thank

her for her time as trading Centre manager and Angharad said she has a small gift which she will be delivering.

There are a number of team members who are retiring from the Trading Centre at the end of the year, our thanks to them. Martin and his team wish you all the best for your future.

The Trading Centre accounts can be found on page 7 and 8 of the Annual Report.

Proposed: Barbara Beck, seconded: Ann Newman

All agreed

Growing Together

The Growing Together Project has had great success this year with Gardening Clubs now running at all of the islands infant and junior schools and an entry from all of them at the Summer Show. Well done to Ray and all of his team, and those who have joined as volunteers this year running Mill Rythe Junior and Mengham Infants.

Finally, a couple of weeks ago Angharad said she attended the funeral of Greg Taylor. Greg was an active member of the society, manning the compost shed at the Trading Centre, and working with Ray at Hayling College as part of the Growing Together team. It reminded her what an amazing kind, supportive group of people make up this society and what a privilege it is to be the chair. Greg's family asked for donations to go to the Growing Together Project, and the society would like to make a donation to the project in Greg's memory.

Angharad asked everyone to take a moment to remember all those members that we have sadly lost this year.

President's award.

Ray thanked the committee for all their hard work and for giving us a varied programme of events throughout the year. He thought the highlight of the year was the Horticultural Show, combining it with the Community fair which was a great success. Well done! Our chair mentioned those we have lost this year but Ray wished to personally mention . Greg Taylor who worked tirelessly at the Trading Centre and as a member of the Growing Together project, who passed away 3 weeks ago. He also worked at the Hayling College and the Head teacher has said there will be a tree planted in the Jubilee Garden at the college next year, when the weather improves, in memory of Greg.

Ray said the hardest part of being the President was the presentation of the President's award trophy because there is always more than one person who he thought deserved the award. This year, however, he felt that the trophy should be awarded to Liese Holden.

Election of Officers

This year the Secretary, Show Manager and Trading Treasurer are due for re-election. Hazel Phillips and Tim Speller have both indicated that they are willing to continue in officer for a further 3 years. There are no other nominations for these positions and so Angharad asked for a proposer and
| seconder for Hazel Phillips

Proposed: Paul Cockcroft-Oliver Seconded: Nicky Rowe
All agreed.

Show Manager
Proposer and seconder for Tim Speller
Proposed: Gill Swift Seconded: Liese Holden
All agreed.

Martin Clark has chosen to step down from his position as Trading Treasurer this year, Victoria Welling has been nominated for this position and the committee have accepted the nomination.

Proposed: Geoff Holland Seconded: Nicky Rowe
All agreed

Martin Clark has kindly agreed to continue as Acting Trading Manager but is keen to find a replacement for this role, and it would be great if they could shadow Martin and work with Victoria and spend some time learning the ropes over the next year. If anyone is interested please speak to Martin this evening, or get in touch with Martin or Hazel. There is a great sub-committee, and team of cashiers, shed staff, and team leaders who will be there to support anyone looking to take on this role.

Angharad took the opportunity to thank Martin for his time as Trading Treasurer, and she said she was pleased that we are not losing him completely. He was presented with a gift from the society.

Chair's Closing Remarks

Angharad said she would like to reiterate her thanks to everyone for all their help throughout the year and for attending this evening.

She invited everyone to stay and enjoy the refreshments provided and to have a go at the table quiz, there was a prize to the table scoring the most points.

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PS There was a lot of feedback from members stating how much they had enjoyed the evening. So thanks should go to Angharad for organising such a good event.

Taggart Cooper: May I just say, thank you for an excellent AGM last night.

As a new member, I was made to feel most welcome. The quiz was hilarious, the food and drink delicious and best of all I made new friends so thank you again.

I am looking forward to the next event 🌹

Maggie Martin: It was the best Horti AGM I've been to, and there's been quite a lot! 25 minutes was the perfect time, all thanks to our lovely Chair, Angharad. The food was great too 😊👍