

## HURST HORTICULTURAL AND COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

### MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 at The Castle Inn, Hurst.

Kathy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

**Present:** Kathy Tuggey (chair) Frank and Sheila Whittaker, Ken and Penny Curry, Keith and Julie Attfield, Edwin and Margaret Jarvis, Gavin and Sue Verdin, Howard and Janet Larkin, Suzy Watt, Paul Martin, Ted and Betty Smith, David and Naomi Bassett, Marion Maybank, Eric Rockall, David Howarth. **Apologies:** Mac and Barbara Stephenson, John and Jo Penney, Elaine Timmins, Louise Robinson, Christine Cymbaluk, Sue Rockall, Heather Howarth, John and Ann-Marie Vimpany.

#### Matters Arising from the Meeting of September 9<sup>th</sup> 2015:

**The points system** for rose entries, judging standards in some Home Industries classes, particularly preserves and judging guidance for soft fruits were to be clarified (taken forward to committee meeting of December 7<sup>th</sup> 2015)

**Publicity:** Mac Stephenson has agreed to take over the society's publicity from Sue Corcoran and has already held a hand-over meeting with Sue and created a publicity schedule for the year. Kathy thanked Sue once again for her past work in obtaining media coverage for the society.

#### Feedback from the Committee Meeting of December 7<sup>th</sup> 2015:

**Donations to Charity and Good Causes:** The meeting was reminded that a one off sum of £500 had recently been donated to the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice at White Waltham. The decision making process for this donation was queried by a few members and an open discussion then took place. Kathy stated that this donation to a charity does not set a precedent and would be reviewed each year. It was agreed that any final decisions on future donations, after discussion by the Committee would be made at general meetings ie all members invited to attend.

**Points Scoring System for Trophies:** Janet explained that the way points are awarded for cups has been changed since last year to make them fairer, easier to understand and follow RHS guidelines. No longer are there certain classes that have more points than others and the number of points given for 1<sup>st</sup> place have increased from 4 to 5. Points awarded for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place remain the same.

**Judging Standards in some Home Industries Classes:** Julie explained that all classes had been reviewed. With regard to preserves the following notes will appear in the schedule: All preserves should be in 450gm/1lb sparkling clear glass jars and clearly labelled with the contents and the month and year made. Jars should be filled to within 3mm of the top. Jams, jellies and marmalade should be covered with either a wax circle and a cellophane top; or a new twist or a new pliable press top. Curds should only be covered with a wax disc and cellophane top. Chutneys should have a new lid resistant to corrosion by vinegar, e.g. plastic lined metal or plastic.

**Judging Guidance for Soft Fruits:** Janet clarified this item by saying that RHS wording and guidelines have now been adopted as follows: `All fruits (except apricots, nectarines and peaches and nuts) should be shown with stalks intact, apricots, nectarines and peaches are shown without stalks. All nuts are shown without stalks and husks`. Additionally Janet clarified the display of herbs.

**George Gale Cup (Potatoes):** Historically this cup has been awarded for class 40 only (best large potatoes). In future it will be changed to incorporate all potatoes classes.

All of these changes and further judging guidelines will be clearly displayed both in the show schedule and on the website.

**Finance:**

Frank explained that John Penney was unable to attend the meeting but had sent him an update of finances by e-mail. As at February 18<sup>th</sup> the Society's bank balance was £8,611 in credit, this was after the charitable donation of £500 previously mentioned.

A question was asked about engraving of cups and trophies and who should pay for this. After a discussion it was clarified that most cups and trophies had attached to them a small booklet which showed the names of the past and present winners. If anyone wanted to have a trophy engraved it should be organised by them at their own expense and should be done tastefully. Keith will add a short note in this year's schedule to this effect.

**Mini Show:**

This was to be on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June. In the recent past Naomi and Geoff have organised this show. Views were sought about members' appetite to continue with the mini show which received a mixed response. It was concluded that we should try to continue with it and as Naomi and Geoff will no longer be organising the show volunteers were sought to take this on. No clear volunteers came forward and it was agreed that the committee would ask for a few volunteers. Naomi stated that she would willingly pass on to any volunteer her knowledge of staging the show.

**Main Show Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2016:**

Frank read through a list of main tasks needed to stage the show and sought volunteers for each of them as follows:

TASK	NAME	TASK	NAME
CAR PARKING	ERIC, DAVE	COLLECT TROPHIES	EDWIN
TEAS	TBA	MOVEMENT OF EQUIPMENT	FRANK, KEN, KEITH
BOOK SCOUT HUT	FRANK	BOOK VILLAGE HALL	FRANK
BAR	GAVIN, SUE	BAR LICENCE	FRANK
PUBLICITY	MAC	GATE MANAGEMENT	TED, DENISE
BOOK JUDGES – HORTICULTURE	JANET	BOOK ICE CREAMS	SHEILA
BOOK JUDGES – HOME IND.	JULIE	BOOK HOT FOOD (Castle)	FRANK
BOOK BAND	FRANK	VENDORS	KEN
BOOK PHOTOGRAPHER	FRANK	FIELD MANAGEMENT	KEN
BOOK AUCTIONEER	JULIE	RAFFLE*	HEATHER

PLANT AND FLOWER STALL	BETTY	SHOW ENTRIES, STATS.	PAUL, SUE
---------------------------	-------	-------------------------	-----------

\*Unfortunately Christine is unable to organise the raffle this year and both she and Marion were thanked by Kathy for their dedication to both the show and the raffle and the meeting wished Christine well. David Howarth agreed to ask Heather if she would be willing to consider taking this on.

**Main Show Schedule:**

Keith informed the meeting that the schedule is well advanced and the drafting should be finished by the end of February. Sponsors confirmed by the end of April with printing and distribution in June. Print costs have reduced and will be £230 (£250 last year). If we need an extra 4 pages, this would cost an additional £50. The cover design is yet to be decided but it was the view of the meeting that the dahlia concept should be changed this year.

As the printed schedule needs to include all details about the show, early decisions on certain topics were necessary. At this point it was agreed that fees for both class entries and gate entry to the show will remain as last year. Timings on show day need to be confirmed and concern was expressed that most visitors had left by the time of the auction. Thought would be given to ways of avoiding this. One suggestion was to have a celebrity/performer in order to maintain visitors' interest.

Arranging the schedule and sponsors is a major task and Kathy thanked Keith for his excellent work on this.

**New Classes:**

Keith described an exciting new class this year for a `YouTube Video` class. This would be on the theme of "Perspectives of Hurst" and would be a maximum duration 2.5 mins. He would need to obtain a mobile Wi-fi for this and Jeff Hopkins has agreed to judge it. It was noted that due to YouTube regulations there could be no charge for entries into this class.

Kathy suggested a scarecrow class for this year. She could arrange a new trophy and thought it would be ideal for obtaining publicity as well as additional entertainment for visitors. This received the unanimous approval of the meeting and it was suggested the entries should be displayed in a prominent position outside the halls and near to the boundary with the main road. Judging could be either by a prominent local person or voted for by our visitors using voting slips and a voting box provided. Marion said she is willing to dress up as a scarecrow on the day, something she has done elsewhere, to give the initiative more prominence.

Janet suggested the introduction of a new `mini tomato` class, these being smaller than cherry tomatoes. The suggestion was approved and a name is yet to be finalised but "Tomberry" may be suitable. This will be class number 49 on the schedule.

**Encouragement of Children`s Entries:**

Keith said it was possible to repeat the `free seeds to children` initiative which took place at Hare Hatch nurseries last year. It was agreed that this year it should be reduced to one weekend from two in 2015.

The new head teacher at St Nicholas School is keen to involve children in horticulture and our show. She has met with Suzy and subsequently with Kathy. She wants to introduce raised beds into the school grounds and encourage children to grow produce in them. Suzy said she could arrange to provide some manual input into the building of the beds. Naomi and Howard agreed to meet her and some pupils to provide advice and know-how. Kathy said she would arrange to go into an assembly and talk to the children about the show and the various categories they could enter.

Paul said he would concentrate on Dolphin School and ensure suitable literature concerning the show was taken to the school.

#### **Management of Incidents:**

This item dealt with potential incidents and first aid needs for the show. It was first brought up at the meeting of September 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 and subsequently at the committee meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that Keith and Ken should conduct a risk assessment of the show with a written report. Depending on the outcome it may be necessary to purchase a first aid kit and have a registered first aid trained person present at the show. This report will be ready for the next meeting and will be on the agenda.

Ted said he had a contact with a private ambulance company and he would make tentative enquiries about the feasibility of a trained person being present at the show.

#### **Annual General Meeting:**

It was agreed that the date of the Annual General Meeting should be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April at The Castle Inn, Hurst starting at 7:30pm to be immediately followed by a general meeting. Frank will confirm room availability and ensure no conflict with other village events and confirm to members in due course.

#### **A.O.B:**

Keith has updated the website to make it `mobile phone friendly` and additional redesign has made it easier to navigate around the site. It was agreed that the constitution and minutes of meetings should be posted on to the website, Keith will do this.

Paul handed out the seed potatoes and buckets for the `Potato in a Bucket` competition to be judged at the mini show. Paul informed the meeting he is involved in the Woodley Festival of Arts (March 5/6<sup>th</sup>) and would welcome two volunteers to help with car parking. Paul`s number: 01189 320595.

The Alexander Devine Children`s Hospice has extended an invitation for members to visit the site on one of the following dates: Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Kathy who will be co-ordinating any requests.

Kathy thanked everyone for attending and for their enthusiastic input.

The meeting ended at 9:35pm.