

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Minutes of the HH&CGS AGM held on April 25th 2017 at the Castle Inn, Hurst

Present: Kathy Tuggey (Chair), Frank and Sheila Whittaker, Keith and Julie Attfield, John and Jo Penney, Ken and Penny Curry, Howard and Janet Larkin, Ted and Betty Smith, Eric and Sue Rockall, Martin and Ann Newman, Annette Drake, Pippa Boyd, Lou Robinson, Mac Stephenson, John Vimpany, Gavin and Sue Verdin, Paul Martin.

Apologies: Suzy Watt, Ann-Marie Vimpany, David and Heather Howarth, David and Naomi Bassett, Edwin and Margaret Jarvis.

Chairman's Report: Kathy welcomed all members both old and new and was pleased to say that membership and interest in the HH&CGS was ever growing with over 250 people now on the mailing list and we have also had good attendance at all our meetings which hopefully will continue for many more years to come. She thanked everyone for their support throughout the year for the various activities including the main event which is the August Show.

Kathy reflected on the past year which started with our usual June Mini Show which included a number of growing classes, the Potato in a Bucket weigh-in (won by Eric Rockall), a bit of a social and then a short planning meeting.

This year we will be changing the format of the Mini Show to make it more of a social event with just two entry classes, Sweet Peas and the ever popular 'Potato in a Bucket'.

The 2016 Main Show was a success despite the cloudy weather with entries at a healthy level with over 150 competitors taking part.

We did find that overall adult entries were down but children's entries are continuing to grow in both the Horticultural & Home Industries Sections.

There were a healthy 675 total entries with good support for the new scarecrow class with 13 entries which also gave us the opportunity to receive plenty of local newspaper publicity for the show.

There has historically been a fairly even split between interest in the Horticultural and Home Industry classes and we continued to see strong interest in flowers with 100+ entries, vegetables, baking and preserves.

Children's classes were up with 77 entries, partly due to the free seeds we offered and the promotion before the show at Hare Hatch Sheepland's and the local schools.

The Show made a surplus of just under £1,000 which after deductions for the new gazebos and banners, gave us a net surplus of just over £500.

After consultation with the members on suggested charities, we agreed at the last meeting to make a repeat donation to Alexander Devine, the local children's hospice. A cheque for £500 had been sent and we received a delighted letter of appreciation from their fund raising team.

We are well ahead with our plans for the 2017 Show and we are not standing still with classic growing classes and interesting new classes or ones with different themes in flowers, cooking and photography and to challenge creative skills in the Young at Heart.

Due to interest in the Scarecrow class, we will also split this so that younger exhibitors have their own section in 2017.

Kathy said that one of our challenges has been ensuring awareness of the show not only to exhibitors but also to visitors who just come to view the entries and enjoy the village event such as the Brass Band, cream teas and side stalls.

In the main we achieve this by the preparation by Keith Attfield of a highly impactful schedule which is delivered to all households in the village.

We have continued to develop the web making it mobile friendly, as well as introducing links to our various meeting minutes so anyone not at meetings can keep up to date. Thank you to Keith Attfield who has taken a lead role in this.

We also work hard to promote the show both before and after the event making use of local publications such as the Hurst Village Society newsletter and other media outlets and thanks go to Mac Stephenson for this.

Kathy went on to say the success of the various events was entirely down to the dedicated teams of people who generously gave their time to plan/ set up and then take down equipment after these events.

We were also fortunate to have the benefit of the many sponsors who support the show and help to cover the cost of the schedule.

She closed her report by saying we were all fortunate that both the Hurst Horticultural Society and our annual show have such a long heritage. She thanked the current members for their energy and enthusiasm which should see this continue long into the future.

Treasurer's Report: John distributed the Society's Statement of Accounts for year ending March 31st 2017.

He explained that the 2016 main show had made a profit of £946.66p compared with the 2015 sum of £1,138.41p. After deduction of capital expenditure for new gazebos, display panels and banners the net profit was £529.10p.

John stated the Society was in good financial health with £7,859 in the bank.

Election of Officers: Kathy stated that all committee posts were up for re-election as per our constitution and anyone wishing to put their name forward was encouraged to do so, as was stated in the general notice of this meeting sent on April 9th 2017.

The election took place and the following were the results of this election:
All current committee members, with the exception of John Penney were willing to stand for re-election. All were duly re-elected with no other candidates being put forward:

Kathy Tuggey – Chair,
Keith Attfield – Vice-Chair,
Frank Whittaker – Secretary,
Janet Larkin – Horticultural Secretary,
Julie Attfield – Home Industries Secretary,
Paul Martin - Entries and Results Co-ordinator,
Ken Curry - Field Manager.

John Penney who had served as Treasurer for four years had previously indicated he wished to resign at this meeting. Ann Newman had been nominated to replace John and after a unanimous show of hands was duly elected. Frank informed the meeting he and Sheila had known Ann and Martin Newman for over 40 years and Ann previously worked in the banking world. Both Ann and Martin have been active supporters of the society.

Kathy thanked John for his sterling service as Treasurer and welcomed Ann to the team. John will be providing Ann with a thorough induction into the role.

Questions: There were no questions and the meeting was brought to a close and immediately followed by a Planning and General Meeting.