



PETERSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MINUTES

**Committee meeting on Tuesday March 12th 2013.
Held at Sudbrook Hall, Bute Lane.**

Present: Julia Bailey (President). Gill Butterfill, Alison Grey, Fleur Smithwick, Toby Powell-Blyth, Sheena Matchett, Penny Waheed, Sara Pennell, Louise Cavanagh, Jim Kimbell, Charlie Archer, Juliet Edwards, Julie Loder, Cherry Allingham

- 1. Apologies:** Lorna Mishan
- 2. Minutes of AGM 27.03.2012**

- No matters were raised.

- 3. Matters Arising from Minutes:**

- None

- 4. President's Report:**

First, thank you for joining us at this AGM.

- In 2012 we focused on two key events in addition to the AGM – the Summer Show (our key event) and the “RHS Dig Together Event” in September when we visited two allotments in Ham and the Walnut Tree Meadow Allotment at Ham and the HUG Community Greycourt Allotment.
- Attendance for the Summer Show was strong given that we were nervous as the weather was not on our side. Having said that, we prepared for a downpour with as many stalls under cover for us to be saved from serious rain showers and we did wonder half way through the afternoon why we worried. So much for predictable English weather!
- Stan Laurence opened the show. Stan has provided the tannoy support for 40 shows and gave his services free this year. We were extremely grateful to Stan and were delighted he opened the show.
- Categories such as the crafts, domestic cookery and photography were very popular. However, the number of individual contributions from children remains low and we are looking to see how we can engage the children more actively. This evening we heard about Holly Lodge and this is a new community we hope to tap into along with the local schools. But, the schools remain significant contributors.
- We launched a new website accessed directly under www.petershamhorticulturalsociety.org.uk. This means we are able to have a more

“immediate” updates and announcements. We will start to think through how we can increasingly use new forms and ways of communicating with our members and those interested in what we do. Any ideas are greatly welcomed.

- This year’s schedule will be placed onto our new website over the next fortnight and I encourage you to plan to enter!
- Our September event was kept simple with coffee and cake and a tour around our two local allotments at Ham and Walnut Tree Meadow Allotment and the HUG Community Greycourt Allotment. We were blessed with a beautiful day and those of us who joined in commented how relaxed the morning was. It was really enjoyable to wander around the allotments as well as see the chickens at the HUG Community Allotment.

I would like to thank:

- the Committee members for their continued contribution .
- the Street Helpers who collect the subscriptions.
- Petersham Nurseries and The Dysart Arms for their continued support in advertising, providing 10% discount and use of the rooms at a discounted rate for Committee Meetings.
- Show helpers who assist with stalls and setting up. Volunteers who help set up the show. The tea stall is always very popular at the show largely thanks to contributions and assistance on the day by volunteers.
- The Russell School who provide the Maypole every year
- £100 donation from the Petersham United Charity.

We welcome new helpers and contributors to assist on a variety of stalls which contribute to the success of the Summer Show.

5. Treasurer’s Report:

Ms Penny Waheed said the PHS Summer Show had done well for a Show in a very wet summer. Probably because of the weather, there were less takings on the gate, class entries had been up.

Ms Penny Waheed confirmed the bank balance at £6859 concluding the 2012 calendar year. Ms Waheed tabled 3 documents:

1. 'The Receipts and Payments account for 2012'
2. 'The Receipts and Payments comparison for the Last Ten Years'
3. 'Summary of Performance Schedule for the 2012 PHS Show'

To summarise these documents:

With regard to the 2012 Show

Because of the expected rain a lot of the stalls were smaller and put inside the hall.

The Show made a profit of £185.08 (2011 £320.57 profit). Key items included:

- Increased “Takings” : at the coconut shy, plant stall (due the kind generosity of Jackie Taylor), and teas.
 - Reduced “Takings” and losses : on most of the other stalls, probably as there was less footfall ie. people and stalls were not so visible.
 - The overall net difference in stall takings was about £100 less the 2011
- As always donations towards the stalls would be very much appreciated.
 - A number of Show costs have changed – we cut back on some of the more expensive items so there was no band and the PA man Stan gave his services for free as it was his 40th year doing it. The RHS have changed their Subscription period to 18 monthly, so that has not figured into costs. We also purchased some new tables at a cost of about £800.

With regard to 'The Receipts and Payments comparison for the Last Ten Years'

- Subscriptions have gone slightly down since last year probably due to less takings on gate.

In summary Ms Waheed concluded that the accounts remain healthy and the bank balance provides some resilience in case we have a few weather or recession hit years!

Ms Waheed thanked Alastair Morgan for his help in preparing the accounts.

6. Election of Officers:

- President: Louise Cavanagh
 - Proposer: Jim Kimbell Seconder: Toby Powell-Blyth
- Vice President: Sara Pennell
 - Proposer: Juliet Edwards Seconder: Cherry Allingham
- Hon. Secretary: Fleur Smithwick (Committee Meeting Minutes)
 - Proposer: Sara Pennell Seconder: Alison Grey
- Hon. Treasurer: Penny Waheed
 - Proposer: Catherine Rounce Seconder: Sara Pennell
- Membership Secretary: Alison Grey
 - Proposer: Louise Cavanagh Seconder: Toby Powell-Blyth
- Show Secretary: Sara Pennell
 - Proposer: Penny Waheed Seconder: Catherine Rounce

7. Handover:

Louise thanked Julia on behalf of the committee and the society as a whole, for all her hard work over the last three years. We have all learned and benefitted from her organisational abilities.

Louise emphasised that the Society needs community support and new members are welcome. Participation on any level to be encouraged in the community. We are hopeful that Holly Lodge will now become involved.

8. Forthcoming Show:

The 107th Annual Summer Show will be on Saturday 6th July 2013. We are expecting fine weather, having had a rainy day last year!

The show opener is yet to be announced but will be someone local with involvement in the Society.

There have been several changes to the Show Schedule, notably, a Royal Baby theme and a few new categories.

There have been some changes to the annual events. Instead of September, we will be having a Christmas themed event in early December. Louise has organised a Christmas Wreath morning hosted by Petersham Nurseries. This is likely to be held on the first Saturday in December.

Julia Bailey thanked Louise.

9. AOB

- Sheena mentioned that support was needed for the tea and cake stall and put in a request for more cakes, to be brought on the day.
- Sara suggested that if anyone has new neighbours, they spread the word about the show.