

Purley Horticultural Society



Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting held in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 7.45pm

Present

Paul Humphreys, Chair, Wendy Chapman, Treasurer 36 members attended.

1. Paul Humphreys welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies: Margaret Rolfe, Wendy Ferguson, Christine Croker, Margaret and Malcolm Cowling, Anne Scruby.
3. Minutes of the 44th AGM were agreed and signed
4. No matters arising
5. **Chairman's report for 2022.** The first talk of the year was in March by Timothy Walker on the Subtle Art and Exact Science of Pruning. In April we held the Spring Show. Well done to all who entered and congratulations to those who won cups. In June we joined in the Platinum Jubilee Events held in Purley with a display of changing garden trends during the Queen's reign and a Planted Pot competition in the Queen's racing colours. September was a busy month, we held the Late Summer show. It was well attended, and the car park was so full, with more visitors than ever. Excellent entries and congratulations to all who entered and won prizes and cups. We also had a visit to Wisley for the RHS annual flower show. In October we were meant to have a talk by Jim Buttress on Britain in Bloom but due to unforeseen circumstances he had to cancel at the last minute. After a search Andrew Babicz stepped in and gave a talk about Wisley; November's talk was by Graham Horn on the Kennet and Avon Canal. In December we held the Christmas Social with a quiz, mince pies and mulled wine. This was well attended. Thanks to Wendy for arranging the quiz.

6. **Treasurer's report:** For the third year in a row, we have a deficit, this year it is £888.30.

As there has been a fall in the number of Trading Shed volunteers it has only been open on Saturdays, from February – end October and on Wednesdays from April to June. Thanks go to Paul for the latter.

The year ends with funds of £5937.36, plus stock valued £2008.99.

In addition to the running expenses for the Shows, Trading Store rent and electricity, etc., significant items include fees for speakers, the 2022 Jubilee events, a donation to Thrive in memory of Ken Tudgay and the bank charges introduced in January 2022 for operating the account, processing cheques and transactions. WBC has again granted a discretionary rate relief of 100% on the Trading Store.

Wendy thanked the members who had supported PHS with their purchases and Mag Dray for helping with the Cash tins.

Wendy is standing down after 17 years as treasurer and thanked everyone for their support.

7. **Trading Secretary's report** Thanks to all the folk who help unload deliveries. The shed is fully stocked for the new year. The trading shed has new double glazed windows and a drain and grating

has been installed along the compost store doorway to take rain water away. Thanks to Mag for dealing with the takings each week.

Paul is standing down as Trading Secretary after many years. Andy is taking over the role and will recycle old plant pots if folks take them into the trading shed.

Thanks from both Paul and Margaret Rolfe (rota secretary) to all the volunteers who have helped in the trading store during the year.

8. **Membership report:** 2022 finished with 167 members including 27 new members, 9 joining at the jubilee event. 69 members have failed to renew their membership since the start of the pandemic in 2020, some through death or moving away. There has been a gradual decline in membership since 2017 when there were 220 members. To encourage new members the Parish Clerk has agreed to promote PHS with a flier handed out to new allotment holders.

9. **Election of Officers and executive committee**

Re-election of the Chair, Paul Humphreys, membership and rota sec, Margaret Rolfe, Margaret Dray and Suze Stevens-Wood : Proposed Graham Chapman, Seconded John Wigmore. Election of Treasurer Tom Gallagher: proposed Graham Chapman, seconded Suze Stevens Wood. Election of Trading Secretary Andy Hodgson: proposed Pat Taylor, seconded Suze Stevens Wood. Election of Pat Taylor, publicity officer: proposed Suze Stevens Wood, seconded John Thomson. Many thanks go to Tom, Pat and Andy for taking on their new roles.

Paul was thanked for all his years as Trading Secretary.

10. **Future programme 2023**

March 15: A layman's guide to the geology of the Purley District - Peter Worsley

April 15: Spring Flower Show

September 9: Late Summer Show

October 18: The Watlington Hoard - James Mather

November 15: Pest recognition and control - Andrew Halstead

December 20: Christmas Social

February 21, 2024: Annual General Meeting

11. Any other business

Membership is falling and stock prices and general overheads are rising. It is proposed to increase the membership fee to £4 per person from 2024 (and do away with family membership payment).

Guests to meetings (i.e., non-members) will be asked for a contribution of £2 towards the cost of speaker and overheads. *Suggestions from members to ask all members for a contribution to the costs at each meeting. A higher annual fee would have been acceptable to many.*

If members could contribute to future raffles it would be appreciated.

Paul thanked Wendy for her 17 years as a committee member and treasurer of PHS and she was presented with flowers and a card. Suze was thanked by Paul with flowers for her work with the refreshments.

8.15 pm the AGM ended.