

# BRITISH HOSTA AND HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

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Registered Charity 1003489

## Minutes of the thirty fifth Annual General Meeting held in the Bramall Learning Centre, RHS Harlow Carr on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### PRESENT

John Carr (Chairman); committee officers and members - John Baker, Stephen Baker, Jonathan Hogarth, Andrew Whittle and Marjorie Sturman; and 16 BHHS members and 1 guest.

### 1) WELCOME

The Chairman, John Carr, opened the meeting of the thirty fifth Annual General Meeting of the BHHS and welcomed and thanked members for attending.

### 2) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from: Diana Grenfell and Roger Grounds, Melissa Scrivin, John and Bee Newbold, George Feltrup, Tim Saville, Jim Allnutt, Sue Beck, June Colley, Paul Harris, Robert and Margaret Barlow, Pam Painter and Angeline Thomas.

The Chairman wished Diana Grenfell and Sue Beck well.

### 3) MINUTES OF THE 34<sup>th</sup> AGM

No matters relating to the Minutes of the last meeting were raised, so acceptance of the Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> AGM was proposed by Dave Loynds and seconded by Denise Cotterill; and by a show of hands, with none against, the Minutes were accepted as a true and correct record by all those present.

### 4) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman, John Carr, read out his Report to the meeting and a summary of his main points is given below. A full copy of the Report is attached at the end of these Minutes.

- He thanked all the officers of the Society for their support and work over the last year;
- He felt that the lack of *Newsletter* material, which partly caused the resignation of the Newsletter Editor, had also done great damage to the Society's membership and some thought needed to be given on how to fill *Newsletters* and their distribution in a timely fashion;
- With the resignation of John Baker and June Colley after 9 years as Editors of the *Bulletin*, suggested changes in its format, to include the *Newsletter*, would necessitate a change in the Constitution rules to take this into account. For the next publication, it would be best if an EGM was held to deal with this (and some other minor membership amendments at the same time). Otherwise we would have to wait so that they could be dealt with at next year's AGM;
- He had spent some time on developing the new website and thanked those who helped sort out faults as they arose. It was now under the care of our new Web Editor, Andrew Whittle, and he would have something to say about it later in the meeting;
- His hopes for creating some interest in members trying their hand at raising seed and at attracting new members by offering members an online gift membership to family and friends had been disappointing;
- He reported that the RHS Hemerocallis trial has been delayed, due to Gall Midge. And as part of the 5-year rolling review of AGM awards, the RHS had announced this week that they were

going to be looking at the Hosta AGM list with suggestions wanted for new names to be added as well as the removal of some names;

- This year was his third year, and he would not be standing again.

Whilst delivering his report John Carr paused to present John Baker with framed Certificates of Appreciation both to himself and to June Colley from the American Hosta Society. Also during this report, when reference was made to a possible change in the Society's publications, the meeting was shown an example of what the suggested new Society *Journal*, which would be a combination of the *Bulletin* and *Newsletter*, could look like. It would have articles and reading material, but emphasis was made by John Carr on the necessity for a change in the rules before it was introduced.

## **5/6) TREASURER'S REPORT AND 2016 ACCOUNTS**

Before the meeting the Treasurer, Bob Prigmore, had circulated a copy the Society's Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. A copy is attached at the end of these Minutes. He reported that due to reduced subscriptions and a more than £2,000 investment in the website, a loss was incurred. However the net assets of the Society were still slightly less than £20K and measures would be taken by the committee to hopefully break even in the future.

Acceptance of the Report and Accounts was proposed by Jonathan Hogarth and seconded by Denise Cotterill, and by a show of hands, with no one against, were accepted by all those present.

The Treasurer then went on to tell the meeting that since he became Hosta Librarian his intention was to bring the Hosta Library including Hemerocallis, and the Society's archives, to the members - at the AGM Weekend and at RHS Wisley in June, and elsewhere - to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> year in the History of the Society. He emphasised that members can borrow any of the Library's books.

## **7) VOTE OF THANKS TO THE HON. AUDITOR**

The Chairman then gave a vote of thanks to the Hon. Auditor, Richard Bedells of BAC Accountants, and confirmed they will audit out accounts again next year.

[At this stage a question was raised by John Baker on an EGM and the revised version of the *Bulletin*. He wanted to know if it could be published in the proposed new format. John Carr said it could if it was called *Newsletter* for its first edition (to allow time for the change to the Constitution to be put to the vote if the new format hadn't already been approved at an EGM at the time of going to press)].

## **8) MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

A report had been prepared by the Membership Secretary, Melissa Scrivin, and was distributed before the start of the meeting. It was read out by the Chairman, and a copy is attached at the end of these Minutes. The main points were as follows:

- 88 members (46%) paid by Standing Order, though 40 of these payments were at the wrong rate, and 29 members paid by PayPal ;
- Membership was down by over 50 memberships (nearly 20%), and in the absence of a Membership Secretary from 2015 missing 2016 payments were not chased up;
- Nearly 50% of members are now paying by Standing Order, which means the Society receives payment automatically early in the year, though nearly half of those paying by Standing Order have not updated their amount when the subscriptions were last changed;
- She had now created a new Membership List which retains pertinent information for new members but also contains details of each subscription payment and date. It can also automatically create address labels;

- With appropriate time, underpaying and non-renewing members will be contacted to encourage renewal or correction of subscriptions.

John Carr reported that it did not make good reading and one member, Yvonne Clark, wanted to know why our subscriptions were down by so much. Andrew Whittle suggested that as the renewal process was left to members, he could make the Members' site more prominent on the website – with reminders. Yvonne Clark suggested we were not moving with the times – she didn't use cheques, uses PayPal instead, and John Carr agreed this was possibly a reason for the drop.

## 8) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

John Carr told the meeting that he was postponing this item because a few amendments were required to be made to the Constitution, some of which needed further thinking through. They would be discussed later at an EGM or they would be included in the Agenda for the 2018 AGM.

## 9) PUBLICITY OFFICERS' REPORTS

### Hemerocallis Report

A report by Sue Beck, the Hemerocallis Publicity Officer, was distributed before the start of the meeting and her report is attached at the end of these minutes. The main points in her report were:

- Interest in Hemerocallis has continued to thrive in the Society and the wider gardening world;
- The 2016 Top 20 Daylilies produced a list of 218 different varieties with the top joint favourites being 'All American Chief' and 'Isabelle Rose';
- The Garden of Liz Nicklin and Kate Phillips was featured in Charlotte Chamitoff's International Garden of the Week;
- A meeting in July will decide whether or not Hemerocallis Europa will be able to continue;
- Paula Dyason of Strictly Daylilies will be exhibiting for the first time in the Floral Marquee at RHS Hampton Court;
- The garden of Nicholas Inigo Peirce will be featured in the July edition of *The Garden*, and he will also be featured on *Gardeners' World* talking about his introductions and hybridising when he will also be visited by Carol Klein on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### Hosta Report

The Hosta Publicity Officer, Stephen Baker, reported the following to the meeting, and his report is attached at the end of these Minutes. His main points were:

- He wanted to inform members of the death of American Plantsman, Van Wade, and a copy of his obituary was on tables in the room;
- Robert Barlow has reported that he is expanding his North Midlands area to include plant fairs and talks to cover North Wales, South Lancashire, South West Yorkshire and the East Midlands areas – over 50 this year;
- He is progressing his application to the Plant Heritage Society for his collection of 'Hostas introduced by British Hybridisers' to be included;
- He has now expanded his overall collection to 400+ varieties;
- He hopes to be included in the *Plant Finder's* 2018 handbook;
- He has been growing *H. 'Andy Murray'* for three seasons now. Although most leaves are staying true, some leaves have been streaked or half green/yellow. The Solbergs report that it doesn't do well by tissue culture, so original stock will be the way forward.

### Facebook Report

Jim Allnutt provided a brief report on our Facebook page. This was distributed before the meeting, and a copy is attached at the end of these Minutes. The main points in the report were:

- To date, our Facebook page has 632 likes with a total number of posts now up to 197;
- The number of viewers is steadily increasing and is continuing to attract interest;

- He doesn't think our Facebook page contributes to boosting active membership in the Society – it primarily functions to maintain an active presence online to a broad audience;
- He wants to encourage more input from fellow committee members on future post topics such as their gardens, with photos;
- Feedback is encouraged and very welcome.

### **Website**

Andrew Whittle, as co-opted committee member and Web Editor, had written a report on the website which was distributed before the meeting. A copy is attached at the end of these Minutes. He told the meeting that the website was a forefront of what the Society does and emphasized the following points:

- The background of the new website – redesigned and updated about 9 months ago, and now a good framework with most of the features and capabilities the Society needs. The cost had been very reasonable but he needed to do some fine tuning to improve it further and this would take the cost to around £8-9K. Other quotes for a similar site would be £23-£26K;
- The website needs to be relevant to our members and in order to make it relevant, content needs to be updated regularly - some by the Web Editor but members' contributions also vital;
- What are we looking for from members – news, awards, regular 'Plant Profiles' updates and any other ideas;
- To bear in mind that he is not a coding guru and some requests are easier to action than others;
- Members shouldn't be shy and send their suggestions, content etc.

[A brief discussion followed on access to the Members' section of the website and the complexity of the passwords].

## **10) REGIONAL REPORTS**

### **(a) Hampshire and Isle of Wight Group**

John Baker, on behalf the Co-ordinator of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Group, gave the meeting an account of the group's activities for the year. A copy of his report is attached at the end of these Minutes. His main points were:

- The 2016 year began, as usual with a group meeting at Pollie Maasz's nursery with a follow-up meeting there again in July, when her daylilies would be in peak bloom;
- In 2016 they had 8 outings to gardens, including Hillier's Garden and Hardy' Nursery;
- John Baker attended the 2016 American Daylily Convention and June Colley represented the Society at the American Hosta Convention;
- TV and radio recordings of June and John's garden were done in July;
- June and John assisted Jonathan Hogarth at the Hampton Court Flower Show and Mark Roberts at the Autumn Flower Show at Wisley Gardens;
- He and June had hosted the BHHS Summer AGM Weekend;
- At the beginning of 2016, June had visited Africa, and on her tour had seen daylilies in various locations. She also visited Japan later in the year and was taken to Mount Nokogiri-Yama to see the habitat of *Hosta longipes*;
- Last year 33 illustrated talks were given to gardening clubs and societies, and so far this year 16 talks have been given;
- June has done some more travelling in 2017 and visited Central America and Japan;
- In 2016 their garden was opened to the public under the National Gardens' Scheme.

### **(b) Eastern Counties Group**

The Co-ordinator of Eastern Counties Group, Denise Cotterill, gave the meeting an account of the group's sixth year. A copy of her report is attached at the end of these Minutes. Her main points were:

- Activities with the Group have been very disappointing this year;
- Offers for both the Christmas and Spring meals had to be cancelled as they failed to appeal to group members;
- Home visits also failed to appeal, resulting in a whole year of inactivity and frustration for Denise;
- Their 'Open Garden' scheme raised nearly £100, shared between the Notts. and Lincs. Air Ambulance and First Responders. This year's 'Open Garden' will be on the weekend of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July when the changes made to their Hosta garden can be seen;
- Two home visits have been arranged for this July: the first to John Carr's garden on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Paula Dyason's on the 30<sup>th</sup>;
- She hopes people will come along to show their support for Eastern Counties Group.

## 11) SOCIETY AWARDS

The Chairman announced the winners of this year's BHHS Awards, as chosen at the February committee meeting. The Newbold Hemerocallis Vase, for the third successive year, was not awarded. This year's awards are as follows:

The Peter Fernyhough Award:	<b>Paul Harris</b> , Brookfield Plants, for winning display at Flower Shows, and especially the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show.
The Dick Kitchingman Salver:	<b>Jan and Andy Wyers</b> for their continued work as Hemerocallis Librarians, to Jan Wyers for taking charge and maintaining the DelightfulDaylilies robin after Barbara's death; and for the difficult task of checking and naming daylily photos on our new website library which had lost their idents during transfer over from the old website.
Eric Smith Rosebowl:	<b>Jim Allnutt</b> for overseeing and maintaining the Society's Facebook page.
The Newbold Hosta Vase:	<b>Mark Roberts</b> of Stafford Lake Nursery for <i>Hosta</i> 'Niki Mouse'.
The Newbold Hemerocallis Vase:	Not awarded
The Grenfell-Grounds Cup:	<b>June Colley and John Baker</b> for their work in producing the BHHS <i>Bulletin</i> over the last 9 years, and representing the BHHS at U.S. Hosta and Hemerocallis conventions, and also their continued work with the Hants and IoW Regional Group.

The Grenfell-Grounds Trophy was presented by John Carr after the announcements. John Baker accepted it on behalf of June Colley and himself.

## 12) ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

With the retirement of John Carr, Jonathan Hogarth had agreed to stand as Chairman. He was proposed by June Colley and seconded by Diana Grenfell. Andrew Whittle was proposed by John Carr as Web Editor and seconded by Denise Cotterill. All those present, with a show of hands, were in favour of these two appointments.

An *en bloc* vote for the current committee members willing to stand for another year was also approved by all those present. The proposer was John Baker and it was seconded by Jonathan Hogarth. The Officers and committee members for 2017-18 are as follows:

Chairman		Jonathan Hogarth
Secretary		Marjorie Sturman
Treasurer		Bob Prigmore
Membership Secretary		Melissa Scrivin
Publicity Officers:	<i>Hemerocallis</i>	Sue Beck
	<i>Hosta</i>	Stephen Baker
Newsletter/Bulletin Editors (to be renamed 'Journal')		(June Colley (John Baker
Web Editor		Andrew Whittle
Librarians:	<i>Hemerocallis</i>	Andy and Jan Wyers
	<i>Hosta</i>	Bob Prigmore
Exhibition and Show Secretary		Vacancy
Members		Jim Allnutt (Facebook Co-ordinator) Paul Harris Mike Shadrack Tim Saville 2 Vacancies

### 13) 2018 AGM WEEKEND

Jonathan Hogarth suggested Pershore Horticultural College as a possible venue for the 2018 AGM, and Myerscough College was also suggested.

*[ACTION: Marjorie to look into these]*

### 14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Dave Loynds, on behalf of the committee and Society, thanked John Carr for serving as our Chairman and wished him well for the future;
2. Judy Muir, a member from Scotland, said that last year one of her hostas had 3 flower scapes, but no leaves at all and wondered if this was a common occurrence. (She was told it did sometimes happen);
3. Andrew Whittle said that with the proposal for monitoring HVX, made in an article in the Spring Newsletter, he wanted to suggest a scheme where the BHHS could give an accreditation to nurseries/growers whose hostas proved virus-free after being tested with HVX test strips. It would be something member nurseries could participate in by supplying plants for testing, including those with a susceptibility to HVX. One member said the AHS already had testing strips in its packs.
4. Stephen Baker asked if he could borrow some display material to use when he was helping out at the Brookfield Plants stand. This was agreed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.05 p.m.

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The auction followed the AGM, and the Society would like to thank all those who supplied the plants for it and for the sales table. In the afternoon the members were able to see the Society's Cut Leaf display, as well as a display of BHHS Library material including Hosta and Hemerocallis books, and some documents from the BHHS archive. They were also able to enjoy a tour of Harlow Carr gardens.

ms/22/5/17

**CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT FOR 2016**

Welcome everyone. It is always difficult for me to remember in detail what happened a year ago, but here goes.

Firstly I would like to thank the officers of the Society for their support and work over the last year. I include you all but will mention some by name. Firstly, Marjorie as the most important and hardest working member of the team. Marjorie's official role is that of Secretary but in the last year she has carried out a lot of the duties of Membership Secretary and, more recently, carried out the role of Newsletter Editor. Without Marjorie's support I would not have carried out my role of Chairman and would have resigned a long time ago. The Society owes her a great deal but should not expect this level of commitment to continue as it is unsustainable. You have my personal thanks Marjorie and I hope that you will get the support from the Society that you need.

George Feltrup has been Newsletter Editor for 12 years, probably the longest stint anyone has undertaken in a single post in the Society. He improved the *Newsletter* over the years and contributed a lot of the content. The Society owes him a debt of gratitude for his service. Last year he found it increasingly difficult to put together the *Newsletter*, mainly because of lack of contributions by others. He felt under increasing pressure and resigned at the end of the year. The lack of newsletter material has, I feel, done great damage to the Society's membership and as you will see later, numbers have fallen again this year. Some thought needs to be given on how to fill the *Newsletters* and how to ensure they are distributed in a timely fashion. Many items that were time-related did not appear at all, leading to lack of attendance at events.

The 2016 *Bulletin* was the largest and best-ever, and probably will be the last in that format. Membership still continues to fall and the cost will be too great for the smaller numbers. John and June have produced the *Bulletin* for nine years and it will be the end of an era if this is the case. They have both made an outstanding contribution to the Society and I thank them both. This work has been recognised by others and I have a surprise for John later in the meeting. If we do change the format of the *Bulletin* and the *Newsletter* it may be necessary to change the rules of the Society as the number of publications is quoted in the Constitution. I had also planned other minor rule changes but feel if an EGM is needed it would be best if they were all done at the same time. If an EGM is not needed then they will wait until next year. Next year's committee may, of course, decide not to implement them.

Jim Allnutt continues his work on Facebook and it is developing a loyal following. I thank him for his efforts and hope that he makes a full recovery from his illness. From his personal Facebook page, he does seem to be enjoying every minutes.

Sue Beck has been helpful in many ways to both Marjorie and I. In addition to her role as Publicity Officer for Hemerocallis she produced the Society's leaflets and the Gardens Directory.

/contd...

I have appreciated her advice and contribution and am sorry she could not be here today, but she says she is feeling better and I'm sure we all wish her well.

Our new Treasurer is keeping control of our finances and monitoring our spending and income, and is proving to be an asset to the Society by also playing a prominent role in the Society's events.  
Thanks Bob.

Our Membership Secretary is unable to carry out the role as Barbara did as she is unable to devote the time to it that she would like. The database seemed to lose some of its functionality when transferred via three computers in two years and this has involved a major reconstruction by Melissa. Work pressures have also contributed to her difficulties as she is unable to attend meetings and this makes it difficult to transfer leaflets, books, etc. I would, however, like to thank her for her efforts over the year and hope that she and Bob can establish a system to improve the situation. As stated earlier, Marjorie has been spending a great deal of her time on these problems, producing lists and labels etc.

I would also like to thank the Officers and committee members not mentioned above for their contributions both in their roles and for their help in constructing the new website. It was appreciated. I spent some time on the new website, which had become dormant as I could not find anyone to take on this role. It was not a task I enjoyed and I thank all those who helped sort out the faults as they arose. A newer member, Andrew Whittle, has now taken on the role of Web Editor, and I welcome him to the committee. I know he has something to say about the site, so I will leave that to him later in the meeting.

I received a lot of seeds over the winter but they were nearly all Hostas. I was hoping that the list might create some interest in members trying their hand at seed raising – if only for fun. A little money was raised last year but regretfully there have been absolutely no orders for seed this year, so I fear that this will be the last list but thanks to those that contributed.

We tried to attract members by offering a gift membership as online members only for 2017 in the hope that this would encourage existing members to encourage friends and family to help build up the Society for the future. Other leaflets were sent to advertisers in the *Bulletin* so that they could be forwarded to customers. Out of 500 printed, less than 10 have been returned.

The RHS Hems Trials have been delayed and RHS AGM awards for Hostas are to undergo a review.

I have completed my 3-year term as your Chairman and feel I have little left to offer, so will not be standing this year. I wish the new Chairman, the committee and members all the best and will continue to help where I can.

John Carr

**British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society****REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER – 1003489**

<b><u>BALANCE SHEET AT 31/12/16</u></b>		<b>2015</b>	
<b><u>COIF INVESTMENTS</u></b>		15564	20564
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>			
Unpaid Advertisers invoices	230		0
HSBC Bank Accounts	3751		836
Paypal	151		549
		4132	1385
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>			
Unpaid Newsletter Printing	170		0
Unpaid expenses	20		
		190	
<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>		<b><u>19506</u></b>	<b><u>21949</u></b>
Represented by:			
<b>SURPLUS B/fwd</b>		21949	23807
Loss sustained for year		(2,443)	(1,858)
		<b><u>19506</u></b>	<b><u>21949</u></b>

We hereby certify that these accounts are a true record of the accounts  
Of the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015  
and have been prepared in accordance with accepted accounting standards.

(Signed) R. Prigmore  
Treasurer

.....  
J. Carr – Chairman

.....  
DATE

**British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society****INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2016**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		<b>2015</b>
Membership Subscriptions	3033	3672
Plant sales	160	0
Seed sales	37	0
Donations	21	200
Bank interest	1	1
Investment Income	89	93
AGM Auction	434	366
<i>Bulletin</i> Advertisers	670	460
Other income	3	3
Tax reclaim	0	0
	4448	4795
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		
Paypal charges	22	23
Website costs	2304	96
RHS Subscriptions/insurance	105	105
Bulletin 2016	3386	0
Bulletin 2014	0	799
Bulletin 2015	0	3504
Newsletter/leaflets	795	1952
Postage	159	0
Books	0	138
AGM room hire	20	36
Show expenses	100	0
	6891	6653
<b><u>LOSS SUSTAINED FOR YEAR</u></b>	<b>(2,443)</b>	<b>(1,858)</b>

**BHHS AGM 2017 - MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

(Covering 2016 subscriptions)

**Membership Subscriptions**

	<b>At end 2016</b>	<b>At end 2015</b>	<b>At end 2014</b>
Single	139	187	207
Joint	51	54	68
Web	1		
Total Membership	191	241	275
New Subscriptions	13	14	36

88 Members (46%) paid by Standing Order (40 of these at the wrong rate however)  
29 Members paid by PayPal (2 of these at wrong rate)

Membership is down by over 50 members (nearly 20%) It is interesting to see that the number of new members was similar to 2015, but it should be remembered that this means a further 13 existing members were lost. Some 40 members that appeared on the existing (2015) Membership list had not paid for 2016. The majority of these paid by cheque or PayPal, however in the absence of a Membership Secretary these were not chased for 2016 payments.

It is excellent to see that nearly 50% of members are now paying by Standing Order as this means that (unless the member elects to cancel) the Society receives payment automatically early in the year and there is no need to chase. Sadly though nearly half of those paying by Standing Order have not updated their amount when subscriptions have been changed.

**Officer's Issues**

I formally took over this role in the middle of 2016 as our Chairman had been holding the fort since Barbara's passing. Unfortunately the Membership list we had inherited was incredibly confusing, inconsistent and ambiguous and each year was simply overwritten, so it was very hard to tell if a subscription had actually been paid in the current year or not. I spent many months trying to decipher the document, and along with the Secretary's distribution list (updated separately), tried to establish who had and had not paid for 2016. I must thank Marjorie Sturman for her patience and faultless record keeping, and for trying to keep me sane during my marathon effort!

I have now created a new Membership List which retains all the pertinent information for each member, but which has explicit details of each year's subscription payment, method and, importantly, date. My new Membership List can now create labels automatically from the list itself, meaning that the Secretary does not need to hold a separate list for this distribution of communications – this also removes the duplication of work involved in updating two separate lists when someone joins or fails to pay a subscription.

Due to the duplication of Membership Lists held, it is apparent that several members continued to receive publications long after failing to renew their subscriptions. There are several proposals under discussion by the Committee to try to reduce the costs to the society of late joining or late paying members.

With appropriate time available, underpaying and non-renewing members will be contacted to encourage renewal or correction of subscription amounts.

Sadly I do not have sufficient time to dedicate to the society to do as I would have hoped in the role. I have only just managed to finalise the 2016 membership list in time for the AGM. I hope now that I have removed the ambiguities in the Membership List that the job will prove easier in future! I am also unable to attend committee meetings due to working full time, so if anyone else with more time would be willing to take over the role I will not be offended!

**British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society**

**HEMEROCALLIS PUBLICITY REPORT - AGM - 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

Interest in Hemerocallis has continued to thrive both in the Society and the wider gardening world thanks to the efforts of members, especially Jan Wyers with the daylily robin, DelightfulDaylilies, and also Jim Allnutt and others who contribute to the BHHS Facebook page, together of course with the updated information on our website where a great deal of painstaking work has taken place.

The 2016 Top 20 Daylilies Poll was carried out in the Autumn and produced an amazing number of 218 different varieties! The top joint favourites were 'All American Chief' [Sellers] and 'Isabelle Rose' [Laprise].

The beautiful garden of Liz Nicklin and Kate Phillips [Harrells Hardy Plants, Evesham] was featured in Charlotte Chamitoff's International Garden of the Week in January, and we were also able to see the wonderful plants of Zana Zubrikova of Slovakia, who wrote for the 2015 BHHS *Bulletin*, in February.

Thanks to the kind help of Maureen Strong, International Membership Secretary of the American Hemerocallis Society, we were again able to obtain seed generously donated by their members.

On a less happy note, we have been recently advised that Hemerocallis Europa will decide at a meeting to be held in July whether the society will be able to continue or have to be wound up. If it is the latter, this will be very sad for several of us who have long contacts with good friends in Europe, though thankfully some are also members of the BHHS.

However, it is good to continue positively by reporting that one of the new exhibitors in the Floral Marquee at Hampton Court this year will be Paula Dyason [Strictly Daylilies, Cambridgeshire] with more than 50 *Hemerocallis* cultivars, some shown in the UK for the first time.

The concluding exciting news is that the garden and plants of Nicholas Inigo Peirce [White Cottage Daylilies, Isle of Wight] are to feature in the July edition of *The Garden*. In addition, he is to be visited by Carol Klein/*Gardeners' World* on 12<sup>th</sup> July when he will be able to talk about his introductions and hybridising.

Sue Beck

29.04.2017

BHHS AGM 7th May 2017

**HOSTA PUBLICITY REPORT**

I'd like to report the sad loss of a huge star in the hosta world, American plantsman Van Wade, a copy of his obituary is on the table for anyone who wishes to read it.

Robert Barlow reported: I am continuing to promote hostas in the North Midlands area. I am expanding the area I am travelling too to present my talks and attend plant fairs. I am starting to cover North Wales, South Lancashire, South West Yorkshire & the East Midlands.

I will be attending over 50 events this year.

We will be supporting the Plant Heritage Society with hosta displays at both the RHS Tatton & Chatsworth Shows.

I am progressing my application to the Plant Heritage Society for my collection of 'Hostas introduced by British Hybridisers'.

We hope to have over 130 varieties in our collection during this year.

Our overall collection now has expanded to 400+ varieties.

We have also been approached by the RHS for possible inclusion in their 2018 *Plant Finder* handbook. I am keeping my fingers crossed. Keep up the good work.

Best wishes to you and all within the BHHS for 2017.

Last year Jeff Pinder of Hutton Hostas announced he was retiring from the nursery business and was offering Hosta Society member 50% off, I see he is still trading so if you want a bargain! Address: 43 Howl Ln, Hutton, Drifffield YO25 9QD

Phone: 07786 305269      Hours: Closing soon - 8:30am-6am.

I will be volunteering to have a BHHS Stand as part of Paul's Brookfield Plants stand at Hampton Court, where Jonathan will also be going for his 3rd consecutive Gold Medal.

I have been growing on H. 'Andy Murray' plant's for 3 season's now, most are staying true but some have streaked leaves and the occasional half green, half yellow leaves, after speaking to Bob & Nancy Solberg they say it doesn't do well by tissue culture so original stock will be the way forward, making it much rarer.

Stephen Baker

## THE BHHS FACEBOOK PAGE

### Update Report - May, 2017

To date (May 1, 2017), our Facebook page has 632 likes; up by approximately 8.5% since the last report in February. With the most recent post, the total number of posts are now up to 197. The number of viewers is still steadily increasing, so the page is continuing to attract interest among Facebook viewers. Looking at our decreasing membership numbers, I don't think this page contributes to boosting active membership in our society. Primarily, this page functions to maintain an active presence online that is available to a broad audience, including other plant societies and the RHS.

I still encourage input from fellow committee members on future post topics. It might be nice to feature pictures of some of our member's gardens. Anyone willing to submit some pictures can do so by sending them to me as an email attachment to the address below. I know we are all currently busy in the garden, with weeding a persistent necessity, but it only takes a few minutes at the end of the day to forward me some pics or text about relevant topics for our FB page. As always, your feedback is encouraged and very welcome.

Please submit relevant pictures (preferably jpeg picture files) and text to me at [jdaddybear@aol.com](mailto:jdaddybear@aol.com).

Wishing everyone a great time at the AGM; sorry I am unable to attend.

Jim Allnutt

## **BHHS website**

- Redesigned & updated about 9 months ago.
  - Now a good framework with most of the features & capabilities the society needs :
    - Members only pages with restricted access
    - News page
    - Gallery
    - Informative
    - Ability to take secure payments
    - Reasonably flexible to update (more on this later).
  
- However, **it is what the members make of it.**
  
- In order to make it relevant to members & the general public, content needs to be updated
  - The web editor can do some of this - updating factual information eg minutes, calendar & some content.
  - **But members' contributions are vital.**
  
- What are we looking for from members?
  - News items for the News Section – on the Homepage so very prominent
    - Awards received by members, new plant introductions
  - Regular 'Plant Profiles' – also on the Homepage. Can be e-mailed to me; preferably a word doc with photo. Particularly interested in new sports or crosses.
  - Updates for the 'fact-base' pages eg new suppliers (need to be members), new National Collections or old or inaccuracies ( eg suppliers no longer in business).
  - Any other ideas on content for the website
  
- Please bear in mind that some requests are easier to action than others
  - New pages, major redesign of a page or reformatting (eg of the Gallery).
    - Significant work which may have to be given to our external web designers (I have some HTML programming skill but not this much).
    - May even need committee approval.
  - Additions to existing formats, themes, content e.g. News page, Plant Profile
    - Much easier to add additional content.
  
- **Please don't be shy. Send suggestions, content etc.** although it may not always be actioned.

Web Editor - Andrew Whittle

## HAMPSHIRE HOSTA & HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY 2016-17 REPORT

In the year 2016, our society has been very busy with meetings, outings and giving talks to other garden clubs and societies to promote hostas and daylilies.

We are led by our Chair Person Gillian Murray who is a keen daylily collector and author of several *Bulletin* articles including 'Yellow is the Colour of Sunshine' published in the 2016 edition. We also have our daylily expert Pollie Maasz, holder of the National Collection of Spiders, who begins our year with a group meeting at her nursery. In July, at the peak of the flowering season, we all meet again to enjoy her amazing display of blooms.

In 2016 we had eight outings to gardens, including Hillier's Garden and Hardy's Nursery. John Baker attended the American Daylily Convention in Louisville, Kentucky and June Colley represented the Society at the American Hosta Society meeting in Saint Louis, Missouri.

In July the Hanging Hosta Garden was filmed by ITV for the Alan Titchmarsh programme "Love Your Garden". BBC Radio Solent interviewed June and John for a 5th July broadcast about their garden. At Hampton Court Flower Show, we assisted Jonathan Hogarth for a day, and in the Autumn Flower Show at Wisley Gardens, we also assisted Mark Roberts.

June and John hosted the Summer Weekend which was enjoyed by all who attended. The photography competition had some excellent entries by our members, and the plant auction raised a record amount for the Society funds.

At the beginning of the year, in her African adventure, June saw daylilies growing at high altitude in Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. In Zimbabwe and Namibia, she saw many big clumps of daylilies growing in parks. South Africa also had many daylilies but they were at the end of their season. In the summer of 2016, June spent two weeks in Japan where she met the Japan Hosta Society members including the hosta gurus, Mr. Kenji Watanabe and Mr. Hajime Sugita. They accompanied her to Mount Nokogiri-Yama to see the habitat of *Hosta longipes*.

Some 33 illustrated talks were given to gardening clubs and societies and 12 articles published in Parish Magazines and Gardening Society *Newsletters*. Hosta Leaf Shows have been introduced to many gardening flower shows in the region. June Colley and John Baker edited the Society's annual *Bulletin* with the most number of articles from experts, hybridisers and members. Her article, 'Exploring the Fragrance of Hostas', was well received by the American Hosta Society scientific group.

This year, to date, we have given 16 talks to garden clubs. June Colley travelled throughout Central America where at high altitude in Guatemala, she was surprised to see yellow daylilies growing in a flower bed at a petrol station. In Boquete, western Panama, daylilies were common in many highland gardens owned by coffee planters.

She is, at the moment, visiting Japan where she will explore hosta habitats in Shikoku and will visit the Philipp von Siebold museum and memorial in Nagasaki, in Kyushu Island. She will be guided by Mr. Hiroshi Abe, Satoko and Koki Kurata, members of the Japan Hosta Society. She will also visit botanical gardens in Honshu Island and a daylily garden near Tokyo.

In 2016 June and John's garden was opened to the public under the National Garden Scheme to raise money for their charities. Many hundreds of people have been inspired by their garden displays.

John Baker

BRITISH HOSTA AND HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

**EASTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL GROUP**

**Report for 2017 AGM**

Activities with the Group have been very disappointing this year. Only two people (other than ourselves) were interested in a Christmas meal, so I took the decision to cancel the booking I had made for a larger number of persons. Even the offer of a Spring Meal instead also failed to appeal to members of the Group.

I also did not have any offers from Group members for a home visit to give members something to look forward to, so the whole year was one of inactivity for the Eastern Counties Regional Group. Which is very frustrating for me.

The only bright part of the year as far as we were concerned was the response to our "Open Garden", not only from BHHS members, but the general public too. The event raised nearly £100.00, shared between the Notts. And Lincs. Air Ambulance and the First Responders (L.I.V.E.S.). We were very pleased to receive a visit from BHHS members, Tony and Marjorie Sturman, who live outside of the Groups official area, but are willing to support the Groups activities, and for this we thank them.

We are planning another "Open Garden" this year on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 and would like to encourage members to come along and see the changes we have made to our Hosta Garden, helping support two worthy causes with the proceeds of the event at the same time. (I have some 'Flyers' with me for those who need details and would like to attend.)

I have set up a home visit with one of our members, John Carr for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2017. He very kindly offered to host the Group visit to see the improvements made to the garden and demonstrate his hydroponic propagating systems. This promises to be an interesting day. His address and contact no. are as follows:- 64 Green Lane, Selby, N.Yorks., YO8 9AW. 01757 702772

Another offer for a home visit has been made by Chris and Paula Dyason, (2 Prime's Corner, Histon, Cambs., CB24 9AG ). They have a very extensive Collection of Hemerocallis, and run a mailorder business from their large garden and growing grounds. Their visit date will have to be on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017, due to their Show commitments and coinciding with the peak flowering time of Daylilies. Tentative arrangements for a picnic tea are being discussed and further details for the event will follow when finalised.

I hope this time next year I can give a more upbeat report, in the meantime we look forward to seeing many of you on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Please come along and support your Eastern Counties Regional Group.

Denise Cotterrill