

BRITISH HOSTA AND HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1003489

Minutes of the Meeting held at The Barn, RHS Wisley, Wisley Lane, Wisley, Woking, GU23 6QB 12th February 2019 (2:00 p.m.- 4:15 p.m.)

By John Baker: Narra, Frensham Lane, Lindford, Hampshire, GU35 0QJ
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PRESENT: Jonathan Hogarth (Chairman), John Baker (Secretary), Ollie Walker, Chris Potts, Vickie Meads, Andrew Whittle (Web Editor) via video link, Ian Scroggy (Membership Secretary and Facebook Editor) via video link.

1) WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

Jonathan Hogarth opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing Chris Potts who is joining the Committee. His appointment was proposed by Ollie Walker and seconded by Andrew Whittle.

2) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from, Diana Grenfell and Roger Grounds, Bob Prigmore, Mike Shadrack, Stephen Baker, Tim Saville, Jan Wyers, and June Colley.

3) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 27th October, 2018.

Minutes of the meeting held at Narra, Frensham Lane, Lindford were reviewed and approved. Proposer: Jonathan Hogarth, Seconder: Ollie Walker.

A number of MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, including the Action List were discussed.

Action List Reference Number

3.3 *Society Leaflets: Membership, Hosta, Daylily, Slugs & Snails leaflets*

With regard to the revision and printing of new leaflets, Jonathan stated that he has found a reliable printer for leaflets and fliers. Prices are reasonable so we need to decide if we are going to update the leaflet and how many to order. In the BHHS Membership leaflet we should include important email addresses such as Ian's for membership and for the website.

Vickie Meads asked if the suppliers could have a supply of leaflets so they could give one to enthusiastic buyers who might join the Society. John Baker suggested that the Membership leaflet should be the first to be updated, printed and made available to those who are exhibiting at the many Flower Shows. Andrew commented that in the past, suppliers have said that they were very busy selling at the Shows. Vicky replied that she could tell if customers were passionate about the plants and so it would be easy just to drop a membership leaflet into their bag of plants.

ACTION: John Baker and Jonathan to redesign the Membership Leaflet as a priority and progress this to printing of 5000 copies.

- 3.3 Old Bulletins are kept at Jonathans. No suggested action was proposed.
(Ongoing)
- 4.1 Gift Aid entitlement was held over as Bob was not at the meeting.
(Ongoing)
- 9.1 Members' open garden dates are now on the Website.
- 9.2 Plant Profiles are needed for the Website and photos of members' gardens for the Facebook page. These are being provided by Jan Wyers and June Colley.

14.2 & 3.5 *Storage of Society's Website and Documents*

The proposal for storage of Society reports and documentation on an external disk was investigated by Andrew. The Web Developers back up our Website to a separate server which is stored off site. They take a daily back up of the Website but they would not be able to store our Publications, Minutes or Reports. These will need to be kept on an external computer disk if we wish to keep these items ourselves.

ACTION: Andrew Whittle and Bob Prigmore to store important items such as accounts, reports etc on an external disk as a security measure.

5.4 *Bank Accounts and Possible Savings.*

Jonathan explained that we have £15,000 in the COIF (Charity Investment Fund) account and two other bank accounts. (As a Charity we are required to have two accounts). We are paying for both the COIF account and the HSBC account.

Jonathan said that he had found that Lloyds bank will hold a charity account for free providing that our transactions do not exceed £55,000 per year, and give some interest on the account. So instead of paying out we should consider changing our bank accounts to Lloyds.

At the moment Ian Scroggy has no way of knowing who has paid for their membership so Jonathan will ask Bob to put Ian onto the bank account so that he can see who has paid.

ACTION: Jonathan will discuss with Bob if it would be better to change accounts to Lloyds.

ACTION: Jonathan will ask Bob, as a matter of urgency, to put Ian onto the bank account so he has access to those who have paid their subscription.

- 6.6a Discount for new members. Jonathan to contact suppliers for their view.
(Ongoing)

6.6b *Membership Handbook*

John Baker reported that he and June Colley had written a new Hosta Handbook and a Daylily Handbook and showed samples of the pages. These were being proof read at the moment and would be transferred to the Website as soon as possible.

Vickie Meads asked if these would be available in hard copy. Andrew said that members would be able to download the Handbook from the Website. Ian reminded the meeting that there were 25 members who do not have online access.

6.6c *Photographic Competition*

Judges have been selected: Tim Saville, Mike Shadrack and June Colley. The format would be as before: single, clump, landscape photograph. Entries to be sent to June and John who will forward these to the judges.

11a&b *The Bridgewater Project*

John Carr will be our contact for giving plants to the new RHS Garden being built at Bridgewater, near Manchester. The project is about 60 acres and it will be another two years in preparation. At present we do not know how big a space is available or what plants they would require. Therefore, nothing is required at the moment. John Carr has notified the organisers that we are willing to give plants. We are not sure if all our donated plants will be clumped together. But we should have a badge identifying the British Hostas and Hemerocallis Society donations.

4) **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Bob Prigmore was not able to attend so Jonathan spoke for him.

- 4.1 Jonathan reported that Bob has proposed that we do not need to have an audit of the accounts. When submitting accounts to the Charities Commission, if the amount is under £25,000, there is no need for an audit.

Andrew seconded the proposal that there was no need for an auditor but asked if this was required in our Constitution. If so, we need to amend the Constitution at the next AGM and notify members of the change prior to the meeting.

ACTION: Jonathan will discuss with Bob the audit and the Constitution.

ACTION: John Baker to notify members of a change to the Constitution in the Secretary's Report page of the spring issue of the Journal.

Andrew was impressed to see that the account was in a small positive position at the end of the year, in spite of paying £1500 each year for the Website and producing a Journal. The increase in funds was helped by more new members joining the Society.

- 4.2 Chris Potts asked about the Website expenditure shown on the accounts for 2017 and 2018. Jonathan explained that this not for hosting the Website but was for upgrading and improving the Website and that we had agreed to take £5,000 from the CAF account to improve the Website. When we launched the new Website, we found that there were a number of improvements needed and so this expenditure was for those upgrades.

- 4.3 Final Accounts for 2018

Balance Sheet:	£19,666
Income:	£5,985
Profit:	£77

Acceptance of the Accounts were proposed by John Baker and seconded by Jonathan Hogarth.

ACTION: Jonathan will ask Bob, as a matter of urgency, to put Ian onto the bank account so he has access to those who have paid their subscription.

5) MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT BY IAN SCROGGY

- 5.1 Ian reported that he could not tell total membership yet until he receives the bank statements from Bob. Then he will see who has paid by bank transfer or standing order. In 2017 there were 159 paid members. Last year there were 184 paid members. So, this was an increase of 25 members to end of 2018.

Vickie Meads asked Ian if there was any analysis of the membership. Vicky asked who are suppliers, who are general public gardeners or enthusiasts. John explained that when members join, we do ask if their interest is in Hostas, Hemerocallis, or both. Andrew said that he could make an analysis of this for interest.

ACTION: Andrew will make an analysis of members interests.

- 5.2 Since the new year, members who paid by cheque or online to date are 16 members plus 3 life members. We should be encouraging most people to pay by standing order. Ian will write to members and ask for renewals, once he knows who has paid by standing order.
- 5.3 Going forward Ian suggested adding renewal date onto the address labels of the Autumn Journal mailing list with a note inside the Journal explaining the new format of renewal. We need payment on 1st January each year and we need to add Ian's name and address as the Membership Secretary so people can send their cheque payments to him. A note on gift aid on the same page will help boost income. Regarding membership income this can be worked out as soon as the number of total members paid this year is available.

ACTION: John Baker will produce a label with the renewal date and a piece in the Secretary's Report page highlighting the renewal date label and the gift aid benefits.

- 5.4 Vickie Meads asked about automatic renewals (direct debit). Ian replied that we have no direct debit members. Chris Potts explained that you have difficulty setting up direct debit because there would be insufficient people. You have to have a minimum number of members and that a fee is charged for direct debit facilities. Chris said that when you increase your membership fee, the standing orders need to be changed and this could be a problem.

Vickie asked if direct debit could be set up for new members. Andrew said that a previous look at direct debit showed that it was expensive, costing £30 - £50 per quarter. We should try again to move people onto standing orders by highlighting it in the Journal. Andrew also recommended sending out email reminders to members who have not renewed and who pay by cheque. If members re-join after the Autumn Journal date then they receive the following year as membership.

ACTION: In the Secretary's Report page in the spring Journal, John will encourage members to renew by standing order.

6) WEBSITE UPDATE BY ANDREW WHITTLE

- 6.1 Overall the site seems is functioning reasonably well from a technical perspective. The vast majority of membership renewals and PayPal payments seem to have gone through. A handful of members have had some problems with their renewals. But these issues were addressed quickly. The Journal was easy to upload onto the site for members to view and for them to download.

- 6.2 There are still a few Technical Issues remaining after the upgrade. The Web Developers are still unresponsive. They have made some but not all of the outstanding fixes identified at the last Committee Meeting. These minor glitches are still to be fixed:
- a) In the Gallery some text is missing and images duplicated with navigation arrows (the work is scheduled but progress is slow).
 - b) We are unable to access site stats (so we can not give a report on site traffic).
 - c) Spam e-mails to the main e-mail address (membership@hostahem.org.uk) were 7-8 per day, sent to everyone on the forwarding list (Ian, John, myself). The Web Developers offered us a free security enhancement which seems to have helped. We could ask the Developers to replace all email addresses with a contact form using CAPTCHA testing if the Committee thinks this is necessary.
- 6.3 Some new content has been added such as the report of the AGM and other past events, the minutes and plant profiles. But the 'Members Only' section still needs more content so suggestions are welcome.

ACTION: Committee members to submit profiles of new plants. Vickie offered to submit new profiles. John offered daylily profiles.

- 6.4 Possible development work for 2019.

Membership Database

This would eliminate the need for two databases (Ian's spreadsheet and online) by adding fields from the spreadsheet database into the online database. This would provide members' names and addresses in label format. At the moment John does this himself through 'mail merge' in Microsoft Word. This was agreed to be put on hold at the last two Committee Meetings as membership numbers didn't justify the spend (£1.5k). No change to this proposal is recommended.

7) PUBLICITY REPORTS

1. *HOSTA PUBLICITY REPORT BY OLLIE WALKER*

(Details of these reports will appear in the spring Journal)

This year has plenty to look forward to for hosta fanatics including many conventions, open gardens and flower shows. The American Hosta Convention this year will be held 12-16th in June and Daylily Convention 10-13th July, both venues are in Wisconsin.

June and John from the Society will be in attendance. June and John will also be opening their garden up on the first weekend of July with the NGS. If you wish to visit June and John's Hanging Hostas of Hampshire then please get in contact with them to book an appointment.

With 1600 varieties there is plenty to see! Contact June and John by email or phone 01420489186, hanginghostas@btinternet.com.

Also open through the National Garden Scheme is the Sue Proctor Plants Garden which is open on the 6th and 7th of July. Please note this is also by appointment. Contact Sue by phone or email 01484866189, hostas@sueproctorplants.co.uk.

Andrew Whittle will open his garden through the NGS on the 26th of May. Contact Andrew by phone or email 01473 780700 andrew@festonhouse.co.uk

The British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society has a very strong presence at the major shows of the year with member nurseries at every big show. As this is the hosta report the following nurseries will be displaying and selling hostas at the shows.

RHS Cardiff 12th-14th April - Brookfield Plants, Moore and Moore Plants

Harrogate Spring Flower Show 25th-28th April - Brookfield Plants, Harperley Hall, Mickfield Hostas, New Forest Hostas and Hemerocallis

RHS Malvern Spring Festival 9th-12th May - Brookfield Plants, Moore and Moore Plants, Mickfield Hostas, Sienna Hosta

RHS Chelsea 21st-25th May - Brookfield Plants, Bowdens Nursery, Hogarth Hostas, New Forest Hostas and Hemerocallis

RHS Chatsworth 5th-9th May - Brookfield Plants, Harperley Hall, Hogarth Hostas, New Forest Hostas and Hemerocallis

BBC Gardeners World Live 13th-16th June - Brookfield Plants, Moore and Moore Plants, Mickfield Hostas, New Forest Hostas and Hemerocallis, Sienna Hosta

RHS Hampton Court 1st-7th July - Brookfield Plants, Moore and Moore Plants, Mickfield Hostas, New Forest Hostas and Hemerocallis

RHS Tatton Park 17th-21st July - Brookfield Plants, Harperley Hall, Mickfield Hostas, Sienna Hosta

2. *HEMEROCALLIS PUBLICITY REPORT BY VICKY MEADS*

For container planting there is a new daylily called “The EveryDaylily”. It’s a new, hardy, dwarf, repeat-blooming daylily. There are about seven EveryDaylily varieties. They are an offspring of the popular Stella d’ Oro. It flowers early and is prolific from summer until autumn. An established clump will give about 400 small blooms per year and it is perfect for borders or patio containers. It’s a breakthrough in Hemerocallis as it will continually flower all year.

ACTION: Vickie will obtain pictures from the Netherlands and write a short article for the Journal.

3. *FACEBOOK REPORT BY IAN SCROGGY*

Facebook now has 1164 Likes and 1183 followers. This is an increase of 397 since I started working on the page. Ian is currently uploading an Hosta image one day and an Hemerocallis image the following day which are proving to be well received by the people who are liking the Facebook page. Thanks to June Colley and Jan Wyers for these images.

If the committee agree to an open page so members and everyone can post pictures and comments on this page, this should improve interactions for each genus and encourage more images from members. More moderators will be required, so I advise total of 12. Currently we have 3 administrators. Ideally, we should have some moderators from different time zones (USA?) so as they can keep an eye on the page when it is night in the UK.

Vickie, Ollie and Chris all thought this was a good idea and would make the Facebook more interactive. The Committee said that we should try the open page. It was proposed by Jonathan and seconded by John Baker.

Andrew suggested that the Facebook should have a link to the Journal article sample on the Website.

ACTION: Ian will open a page on the Facebook for people to post pictures and comments. Ian will also appoint moderators to check the pages. Ian will link the Facebook to the Journal sample article on the Website.

Note: The Publicity Reports need not be copied individually to our website or as attachments to the minutes as these are detailed in the Autumn Journal and copies will be made available to all members.

8) QUESTIONS RAISED BY IAN SCROGGY

Is Thomas Joliffe a life member?

John Carr proposed a free membership for Thomas Jolliffe because he was donating plants each year to John for the Society, during his tenure as Chairman. During the last two years he has written articles for the Journal and therefore has received a voucher copy. He has paid for his mother to become a member last year. He is not a life member.

Andrew said that Thomas did give plants to the Society in 2018. However, Thomas did receive a copy of the autumn Journal as he wrote an article.

Is George Feltrup a one-year membership?

Paul Harris paid for George Feltrup to be a member for this year for his assistance on Paul's exhibition stands. He or Paul will need to pay for next year.

Can the on-line Journal be seen at the same time as hard copies?

We usually send a PDF Journal to Andrew when the hard copies have been posted. So, this is added to the Website about the same time as postal members receive their copies. But delivery to members in the USA, and other countries, takes about two to three weeks.

9) WORKSHOP AT WISLEY FEBRUARY 25TH 2019

John and Ollie will attend this Workshop which will be discussing Advertising Your Society.

10) FAMILY FESTIVAL AT WISLEY MAY 25TH – JUNE 2ND 2019

As this date is between the Shows, no one is available to attend this Festival aimed largely at children. Therefore, the Committee declined the offer from the RHS.

11) NEW MEMBERS HANDBOOK FOR HOSTAS AND DAYLILIES

John Baker showed pages from the new Handbooks which are written and are now being proof read by Marjorie Sturman and Diana Grenfell.

ACTION: John to complete the handbooks and supply a PDF to Andrew for loading onto the Website.

12) DATE AND LOCATION FOR THE SUMMER WEEKEND AND AGM 2019

12.1 Jonathan Hogarth said that we have been offered Sunday at Waterperry Gardens near Oxford. It is near to the M40 and is signposted off the motorways. It is a great location for many to reach and has interesting places nearby.

12.2 Waterperry is famous for training lady head gardeners for the first time in about 1922. At that time ladies were not considered suitable to take up gardening. Today, RHS apprentice gardeners spend a year at Waterperry Gardens as part of the circuit of training gardens.

Waterperry will give us a meeting room on Sunday to hold our AGM and a tour of the gardens for free. On our weekend, the Saturday will be free for members to explore the area. We will provide places of interest near to Waterperry Gardens and places to stay for B&B.

12.3 There is an old manor house and famous herbaceous borders. The facilities are good so we are asked to eat on site, rather than outside. The tea shop is reasonably priced (£10 for a meal) and there are three chefs.

- 12.4 Jonathan proposed that we accept the offer and hold our AGM and auction of plants at Waterperry Gardens and that we use their facilities. Jonathan proposed that we give Adrian, the proprietor, a free membership for 2019.
- 12.5 Jonathan suggested dates for the Summer Weekend and AGM. July 13th- 14th. Vickie commented that July was a fairly empty month for shows. Chris said that Hampton Court Flower Show was during the first week of July and that Tatton Park was at the end of the month, but the 14th was clear.
- 12.6 The Committee agreed that the date for the AGM should be Sunday July 14th at Waterperry Gardens.

ACTION: Jonathan Hogarth will arrange with Waterperry Gardens, the parking, the room, the plant auction area, the garden tour and all matters needed for the AGM. Jonathan will provide details to John and June for publication in the Journal.

ACTION: John Baker and June Colley will publish details of the Summer Weekend in the spring issue of the Journal. This will include places to see and accommodation for B&B near Oxford.

13) SOCIETY EXHIBITION STAND AT RHS CHATSWORTH JUNE 5TH – 9TH

- 13.1 Both Jonathan, Paul Harris and Vickie are exhibiting at Chatsworth so are unable to be at this exhibition stand. Ollie and Chris were asked if they could manage these dates, but were preparing for the BBC Gardeners' World Live Show so are unable to accept.
- 13.2 Vickie asked that leaflets be made available so we could promote the Society at the Show. Jonathan agreed to have 5000 membership leaflets printed and distributed to suppliers.

ACTION: Jonathan to print. See above Matters Arising item 3.3.

14) THE JOURNAL

- 14.1 John Baker reported that the spring issue of the Journal was in preparation and that a number of articles were offered from overseas but that we would like to see more British articles.
- 14.2 Vickie will write about the EveryDaylily.
- 14.3 Andrew said that he had written about his garden for a local newspaper and would look this up for the Journal.
- 14.4 Ian Scroggy will consider an article for the Journal.
- 14.5 Vickie suggested a problem-solving page for hostas and daylilies where people can write in to have their questions answered. The most common question asked is how to keep slugs and snails off hostas.

Andrew commented that the husks of sweet chestnuts have spikes that slugs and snails will not cross. He has put these husks round his hostas and they have kept slugs and snails away. Jonathan warned that squirrels might dig into your pots. Chris commented that pine needles also deter slugs and snails.

ACTION: Committee members to supply articles as soon as possible for the spring issue of the Journal.

15) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Jonathan Hogarth reported that the Society has been offered a position to exhibit at the Three Counties Show at Malvern on June 14th -16th. We will be able to sell plants so we need to have some donated for the Show. Jonathan will be there to manage the exhibit. If others are interested, they are welcome to join him.

15.2 The Show organisers will publicise categories for entry to the Flower Show. The public and exhibitors can bring their entries and prizes are awarded for the best in each category. Last year John Carr has suggested that the Society might donate a prize. We can choose a theme (5 hostas in pots for example) or a listed category and give a prize from the Society. We can ask if there is a category that matches our Society or we could sponsor a prize for a particular category that is on their list.

The committee agreed that this was a good idea and that Jonathan should progress this with the organisers of the Show.

15.3 Vickie suggested that we give a trophy or a rosette which carries the name of the Society. Chris also said that the rosette was a good idea. Jonathan suggested that the prize could be a membership to the Society for 2019 and copies of the spring and autumn Journals.

ACTION: Jonathan will discuss with his contact at the Show to see what are the existing categories. Then we can agree what prize is appropriate.

15.4 Andrew asked who is going to the Wisley Show. Vickie said she would be at the autumn Wisley Show in September. We have not yet any dates for the Society Show in August. Andrew offered to attend this show if we were to be there. Ollie also offered to help at this show. Jonathan said that the RHS may not be holding the Society Show this year as they have the Family Festival.

16) DATE FOR AUTUMN 2019 MEETING

John Baker already booked 'The Barn' at RHS Gardens Wisley, Woking, GU23 6QB for our Autumn Meeting to be held on Tuesday 22nd October 2-5pm.

You will find below summary of actions required which must not be ignored. These will be taken up at the beginning of each meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS REQUIRED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing
3.4	Some old Bulletins to be given away	Jonathan, Marjorie	AGM	Ongoing, June and June used some for new & potential members
4.1	Review Gift Aid entitlement	Bob	AGM meeting	Status change from old to new. To be reported. Ongoing due to absence
9.2	Plant profiles and photos for website	Committee/members Vickie offered new plant profiles. John offered Daylily profiles.	ASAP	Ongoing, Andrew added several photos/features which improved the web. Contributions from others required
9.3	Single leaf photos for web	Committee/members	ASAP	Ongoing

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing
11.1.1	Photos of members' gardens for Facebook	members	ASAP	New to old status, Ongoing
11.1.2	Submit top 20 favourite daylily list	Jan/Editor	ASAP	Ongoing , Jan now able to access Delightful Daylilies , so we need to clarify top 20 and publish it with photos
14.2	All reports from officers to be supplied and copied to a backup disk and storage of this to be specified	Andrew Whittle		Ongoing
6.6 a	Email suppliers regarding possible discounts to new members	Jonathan/John	ASAP	Ongoing
6.6 b	To determine contents of Handbook	John & June	March	Completed: in proof reading stage. Marjorie & Diana. Ongoing

SUMMARY OF NEW ACTIONS FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING 2019

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing
3.3	Redesign the membership Leaflet and print 5000 copies to be distributed to exhibitors at shows.	John / Jonathan	ASAP	New
14.2	Storage of important items: accounts, Journals, reports on an external disk for security.	Andrew / Bob	ASAP	New
5.4	Discuss possible change to Lloyds Charity Account	Jonathan	ASAP	New
5.4	Give Ian Scroggy access to the Bank Account so he can see who has paid their fees.	Jonathan / Bob	URGENT	New
4.1	Requirements for an audit of accounts.	Jonathan / Bob	ASAP	New
4.1	Notify membership via spring Journal of proposal to change the Constitution so as to allow no audit.	John	May issue of Journal	New
5.1	Analysis of members interests.	Andrew	AGM	New
5.3	Journal address label to carry the renewal date for membership.	John	May issue of Journal	New
5.3	Journal to highlight benefits of gift aid.	John	May issue of Journal	New

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing
5.4	Encourage members to renew by standing order.	John	May issue of Journal	New
Report 2	Pictures and article on the EveryDaylily for the Journal.	Vickie	March	New
Report 3	Open page on Face Book for members to post. Appoint moderators to check the new page.	Ian	ASAP	New
Report 3	Link Face Book to the sample Journal articles in the Website.	Ian	ASAP	New
11	Supply Andrew with PDF of new Handbooks	John	March/April	New
12.6	Book summer Weekend AGM at Waterperry Gardens. Arrange parking, the room, the plant auction area, the garden tour and provide details for publication in the spring issue of the Journal	Jonathan	ASAP	New
12.6	Publish details of places of interest near Waterperry Gardens and suitable B&B accommodation.	John & June	May issue of Journal	New
14.5	Articles for the spring issue of the Journal.	Vickie: EveryDaylily. Andrew: Article on Freston Garden. Ian: Irish Article.	March	New
15.3	Three Counties Show prize categories and an appropriate prize from the Society.	Jonathan	AGM	New