

# BRITISH HOSTA AND HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1003489

## Minutes of the Meeting held at Narra, Frensham Lane, Lindford, Hampshire, GU35 0QJ 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (10:30 a.m.- 13:30 p.m.)

By John Baker: Narra, Frensham Lane, Lindford, Hampshire, GU35 0QJ  
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**PRESENT:** Jonathan Hogarth (Chairman), John Baker (Secretary), Andrew Whittle (Web Editor)

Due to the rail strike and the uncertainty of the train service only three members met for this meeting. Jonathan Hogarth suggested we meet locally rather than attempt the journey into London.

### 1) WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 Jonathan Hogarth opened the meeting by thanking John for hosting the meeting at his house rather than risking the train service into London and the return journey. He welcomed Andrew Whittle who was present at the meeting, from Ipswich, via a video link called 'Hangouts'. Ian Scroggy has suggested earlier that we use a video link using 'Whatsapp' for those unable to attend.

**ACTION:** Jonathan Hogarth to inform other members of the committee who are unable to attend to use this facility in future meetings. Either Apps is available to download for free.

- 1.2 The Chairman reported that he had received many apologies for absence with some members ill (Bob Prigmore) and some unable to travel due to the rail strike.
- 1.3 He commented on the clarity of the video link to Andrew Whittle and said that we must make use of this again in future meetings.

### 2) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Diana and Roger Grounds, John Newbold, Mike Shadrack, Stephen Baker, Tim Saville, Vicky Meads, Ollie Walker, Jan Wyers, Jim Allnutt, Ian Scroggy, and June Colley.

### 3) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (AGM 2018)

Minutes of the AGM meeting held at Saville Garden in July were reviewed and approved. Proposer: Andrew Whittle, Seconder: John Baker.  
A number of matters arising from the Minutes, including the Action List were discussed.

- 3.1 The proposed changes to the Constitution have been implemented following the AGM.

- 3.2 The date for membership renewal proposed by Ian Scroggy to be January of each year was accepted. Details are shown in the Membership Secretary's Report.
- 3.3 Handover of documents by Andrew and Marjorie to the new officers has been completed.
- 3.4 The location of the next Summer Weekend and AGM were discussed.
- 3.5 Ideas for recruiting new members was discussed.
- 3.6 The proposal for storage of Society reports and documentation on an external disk was discussed and will be investigated by Andrew Whittle.

**ACTION: Andrew Whittle to discuss with the web developers if they have external storage facilities.**

#### **4) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT BY JONATHAN HOGARTH**

- 4.1 We received the very sad news, in August, that Richard Ford had passed away. He will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences are sent to his family.
- 4.2 We give our congratulations to our new exhibitors: Vicky Meads of New Forrest Hostas and Hemerocallis and Ollie Walker and Chris Potts of Sienna Hostas, for their high standards of display that did not go unrewarded at several shows. Mark Roberts of Stafford Lake Nursery, also a new exhibitor, had a successful autumn show at RHS Wisley.
- 4.3 We thank Marjorie Sturman for her outstanding service to the Society as Honourable Secretary. She retired at the AGM and has handed over her role to John Baker. We wish her every happiness as she spends more time with her family.
- 4.4 Our Facebook page continues to increase in popularity with more people taking interest in our plants. We thank Jim Allnutt for his work on this important site. Also, our Website continues to improve with the work of Andrew Whittle.
- 4.5 This year our Society was represented at both American Daylily and Hosta Conventions. June Colley and Jonathan were asked to speak at The American Hosta 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Convention in Philadelphia, which was very well attended. June gave an account of her many hosta travels in Japan to see hosta habitats in the wild and Jonathan demonstrated, with the assistance of Roger Smith, the techniques and use of aeroponics crown propagation equipment.
- 4.6 We thank all members for promoting our plants this year and for inviting new members to join the Society. As you plan your gardening for 2019, we wish you a pleasant autumn season and look forward to the new year and to spring.

## 5) TREASURER'S REPORT BY BOB PRIGMORE

5.1 The Treasurer, Bob Prigmore, recently received cheques and banked the following:

Robert Barlow £105, (Two Adverts)  
Sue proctor £105, (Two Adverts)  
Mickfield Hosta £160, (Two Adverts + membership)  
Jan Wyers £105. (Two Adverts)  
Plus, a bank credit of £75 from Harrell's Hardy Plants  
June will add two advertisers in the next edition of the Journal.

5.2 The bank position is CR £4165,87,  
Deposit account £232.34,  
Charities Deposit Fund £15564,  
Bob does not know our Paypal balance and is unsure about access now.

5.3 For the year ended 31/12/18 there is likely to be a loss of £3,000 (estimate).

5.4 Jonathan Hogarth commented that the £3,000 is not a loss but a spend.  
John Baker commented that the £75 paid by Harrell's should be £80 (new pricing). Andrew Whittle commented that the £3,000 could be website costs.  
Andrew Whittle suggested that the balance of £15,000 might be invested to give more interest. June will add two new advertisers in the next issue of the Journal.

**ACTION: Bob to sort out the Paypal balance.**

**ACTION: Jonathan Hogarth to ask Bob Prigmore to see if better investments are available to the Society. (Gold!?)**

**ACTION: John Baker to contact Harrell's regarding the underpayment.**

## 6) MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT BY IAN SCROGGY

Although Ian Scroggy would not be able to attend many of our meetings, he has suggested that we include him via a video link using 'Whatsapp'. This would require wifi connection at our meeting location and mobiles or iPads.

**ACTION: John Baker to investigate wifi facility for the next venue.**

6.1 So far there are 33 New members this year  
167 members paid up to date  
31 members not renewed

6.2 Ian Scroggy gave his thanks to John for sending the details of new members and for the work Andrew has done on the website which makes things much easier when new members sign up on the BHHS website.

- 6.3 The Membership Secretary changed the standing order form to include his details and to align all members to pay on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. Any new member who Joins from 1<sup>st</sup> June will have their membership renewed the following year. For example, for anyone who joined 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018, their membership will run to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.
- 6.4 The Members Handbook on the website is unnecessary and out of date and all the information should be in members area of website and for members with no internet access copies of the online information could be printed off and sent to them with the journal.
- 6.5 Ian Scroggy has other ideas/suggestions to help keep members:
- a) Offer a member only discount to BHHS member by trade suppliers of Hosta and Hemerocallis provided all member vendors are in agreement.
  - b) Run a photograph contest for members with results published in the journal.
  - c) Sponsor a New Hosta or Hemerocallis to give members the chance to select a new name.
  - c) Let members run trials of certain plants i.e. like *Hosta* 'Bedford Blue' and for them to send in details of size of plant, age, growing aspect, photograph. This would help to keep members interested in the Society and to feel more part of it.
- 6.6 John Baker commented that we need the membership number so as to order sufficient copies of the Journal. He suggested that the membership (including the ones who have not paid yet but will probably pay later in the year) is about 187. Then there are others who receive voucher copies and multiples. We also need spare copies for new member who may join in 2019. So, 250 is probably the print quantity and the quote is similar to previous in spite the extra copies. Andrew Whittle suggested that he could create pages on the website that could be called 'Handbook' and include all the relevant sections from the old handbook.

John Baker commented that discounts for BHHS members would have to be discussed with suppliers. A photograph competition could be run in the Journal. Naming of new plants could also be published in the Journal. The Journal Editor is looking to publish the top 10 favourites (UK and rest of Europe) in the Journal.

**ACTION:** To email suppliers regarding the possible discounts to be offered to new members

**ACTION:** Andrew Whittle to liaise with Ian Scroggy and John Baker to determine what to include in the new Handbook section. John and June already have several of these simplified leaflets which are in use during garden visits to 'Hanging Hostas'.

**ACTION:** John Baker to discuss the photograph competition with June Colley, Journal Editor to determine the format etc.

**ACTION:** Jonathan Hogarth is to ask Mike Shadrack if he would be one of the photographic competition judges along with Tim Saville and June Colley. Tim Saville already confirmed acceptance.

## **7) WEBSITE UPDATE BY ANDREW WHITTLE**

### **7.1 Reminder of Upgrade work**

The work was split into 4 areas: Easier to use and more complete editorial functionality. Reconfigure pages to optimise for viewing on mobile devices. Reconfigure 'Members Only' section of the site. Redesign the 'Gallery' - This was started in January, and completed in early June this year (still a few snags). Cost was £2,450 +VAT

### **7.2 Issues remaining post upgrade**

Web developers have been busy and somewhat unresponsive recently. Advised of 2-month backlog of work so work is taking a long time to complete. There were minor glitches. Gallery - Some text missing and images duplicated with navigation arrows (work scheduled but slow). Link on Homepage 'Are you interested in becoming a member' goes to wrong page. Unable to access site stats (so can't give a report on site traffic) – again developers aware of this. Spam e-mails sent to main e-mail address ([membership@hostahem.org.uk](mailto:membership@hostahem.org.uk)) 7-8 per day, sent to everyone on the forwarding list (Ian, John, myself). Andrew discussed this with developers. They were initially dismissive (many sites have hundreds of spam mails every day). It is thought the best solutions are either enhanced security (expensive) or emails sent via contact forms with CAPTCHA testing. Simply removing the link is ineffective without CAPTCHA testing – even with it, is not perfect. Developers came back and offered free security enhancement – trialling currently.

### **7.3 The Site Going Forward**

The website is being updated fairly regularly and it is easier to do now. Past events (e.g. AGM including photos) and Minutes, Plant profiles, Journals etc are on Members Only site. New joiners and renewals seem to be working better now including PayPal payments. It is appreciated it would be good to combine these 2 pages, but in Andrew's view there are other priorities.

### **7.4 Possible development work for 2019**

Membership Database. Put on hold last year as membership numbers didn't justify the spend (£1.5k). Alter & increase fields in online database to combine with Spreadsheet into single database.

Would eliminate need for and Maintenance of 2 databases. Provide members' names and addresses in label format (although currently this can be done easily through 'Mail Merge' in Microsoft Word so is not great benefit). As the Web Editor, Andrew can make the updates and supply some of the content, especially factual information. But this will rely on committee members and general members to supply some content. e.g. News, Plant Profiles, updates for National Collections or Suppliers pages, future and past events.

### **7.5 Andrew commented that the Web Developers have a massive backlog of work and so it has been difficult to contact them. We are receiving 6 or 7 spam**

emails a day. The Web Developers are looking at various solutions to the problem, including as security announcement which was introduced 2 weeks ago. If that doesn't work, they may use capture technology.

Andrew commented that there was not a lot of contributions from the membership but he is updating the website regularly, to make it more relevant, as needed.

The template of the website is ecommerce, so there is not much more that we can do to change the commercial style of the content.

## **8) HEMEROCALLIS PUBLICITY REPORT BY VICKY MEADS (Details will appear in the Autumn Journal)**

- 8.1 Paula and Chris Dyason exhibited for the first time at the Hampton Court Flower show with a themed display called "The Spirit of Mimi" and was awarded a Silver-Gilt.
- 8.2 Vicky and her husband are planning to have open days at the weekends and will be adding new ones to her extensive collection of over 400 daylily varieties.
- 8.3 Pollie Maasz has had to cope with the severe drought last summer but still managed to have a spectacular show that included some of her new seedlings.
- 8.4 The American Hemerocallis Society has decided to rename themselves as 'The American Daylily Society' as they felt the word 'Hemerocallis' was too confusing for prospective new members and Vicky exclaimed that it is a whole lot easier to spell! Our Society was represented at the American Convention at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, by John Baker, Paula Dyason and her husband, Chris.

## **9) HOSTA PUBLICITY REPORT BY OLLIE WALKER (Details will appear in the Autumn Journal)**

- 9.1. Ollie reported on the successful exhibits prepared by some members in various shows where many top medals were won.
- 9.2 Sue Proctor Plants garden, in Huddersfield, was open for the National Garden Scheme where in July they raised £1700 for the charities. Sue and Richard have over 300 varieties of hostas in their garden amongst an array of other plants. Their next open days are the 6th and 7th of July 2019, 11am-4pm. If you wish to visit another time please call 01484 866189 or 0791 7006636 to make sure Sue and Richard are available.
- 9.3 Chelsea gold medallist Gary McDermott of Harperley Hall Farm has now joined the Society. We also have Lynne Moore of Moore and Moore Plants joining the Society. Lynne was interviewed by Carole Klein at Gardeners' World Live this year. Moore and Moore Plants grow many shade plants as well as hostas.

*Note: The Chairman's Report/Publicity Reports/Secretary's Report 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.*

#### **10) FACEBOOK REPORT BY JIM ALNUTT**

10.1 As of October, 2018, our Facebook page has 785 likes (up by 84 likes, over a 10% increase from the last report) and we have 801 followers. The number of followers continues to rise as well, which is very encouraging. The total number of posts is now up to 276 from the inception of our page over four years ago. This FB page is a very positive tool in promoting our society and will continue to be if maintained at a high standard.

10.2 Jim sadly sent his resignation prior to the meeting. He has been very busy with his personal commitments and has had to step down after some years of successfully running our Facebook account. We thank Jim for his time and efforts and wish him much fun at home and his daylily garden.

**ACTION: Jonathan Hogarth will notify Jim that Ian is taking over the Facebook account. We are fortunate that Ian Scroggy will now cover for Jim until such time when another volunteer can be found.**

#### **11) PLANT DONATIONS TO RHS BRIDGEWATER GARDEN**

11.1 John Carr has written about the new RHS garden at Bridgewater. While it is a long way from completion, they are working on a planting list. John suggested that the Society might be interested in supplying hostas and hemerocallis for the garden. This would be good publicity for the Society.

11.2 They are most likely to want plants with AGMs. John suggested that he might help by propagating some of the hostas. Plants could be donated by members or suppliers. They will not be needed until at least 2020, maybe even later.

11.3 John Carr wishes to know if the Society is interested in this proposal so he can inform the organisers.

11.4 All members of the committee agreed that this was a worthwhile project. Jonathan Hogarth commented that propagation might take some 2 years to produce a good-sized plant.

**ACTION: Jonathan Hogarth will contact John Carr to say we are interested and will ask him to coordinate the project.**

**ACTION: Jonathan Hogarth will contact RHS Bridgewater to determine if they are interested in receiving our plants and will liaise with John Carr regarding the propagation.**

## 12) NEW LOCATION FOR FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12.1 Lawrence Hall is now no longer available for London

12.2 Previously, the exhibition hall and the rooms at Lawrence Hall were paid for by the exhibition organisers and although we were not an exhibitor, they let us use the room at no cost. Andrew Whittle commented that Lawrence Hall is not owned by the RHS but by a private school who may be prepared to rent out the rooms for meetings. The cost might be higher as it is in central London.

*John Baker has contacted Wisley Gardens and they have now offered a room at the 'The Barn' free of charge for our future meetings. This is a more convenient venue for most of the Committee members and potential Committee members who live in the south west. The Barn is new and part of the new development taking place at Wisley.*

## 13) DATE AND LOCATION FOR THE SUMMER WEEKEND AND AGM 2019

13.1 Andrew Whittle commented that there were two suggestions at the AGM. John Baker said that Oxford and Cambridge were the two discussed. Both locations have attractive facilities, hotels, restaurants and botanical gardens.

13.2 Jonathan Hogarth said that he had investigated Waterperry Gardens near Oxford, which was the place where women gardeners were trained for the first time. The Plant Heritage have meetings there and the facilities are good.

13.3 June Colley reported at the AGM that she had found a place within walking distance of the town of Oxford that had free parking and cooking facilities. There was no charge but a donation was welcomed.

13.4 It was expressed by John Carr previously that we would like to have the public involved with displays of plants and literature etc. at these meetings if possible. Andrew Whittle suggested that if possible, we should have a member's garden nearby for the delegates and the public to visit.

13.5 The date for the Summer Weekend was not discussed. This will depend on room availability.

**ACTION:** Jonathan Hogarth will investigate the availability, parking and cost of rooms at Waterperry Gardens.

**ACTION:** John Baker and June Colley will investigate rooms and cost in and near Oxford.

**ACTION:** Andrew Whittle will investigate availability in Cambridge.

#### **14) THE JOURNAL**

- 14.1 John Baker reported that the Autumn issue of the Journal was completed with many interesting articles and Society news. An article from the professor at the Centre for Technology in Shanghai, describes daylilies and their use in China. Clarence Falstad, who works at one of the largest tissue culture laboratories in the USA, explains the process of tissue culture and June Colley reports her travels in the plant habitats of Japan. We have an AHS executive writing about daylily hybridising and pollen storage. Jan Wyers continues her story of daylilies of the 1970s and both American conventions this year are reported.
- 14.2 Marjorie Sturman had written a memorial of Richard Ford who died this year.
- 14.3 All the advertisers have renewed their adverts and many have also booked an advert for the spring issue. So, we have the money ahead for two adverts. The price of the adverts has been increased by £5 so we have a little more revenue this time and two new advertisers to add in the Spring edition.
- 14.4 Andrew Whittle asked, on behalf of Bob Prigmore, if the cost of the Journal had increased. John Baker said that the Journal was exactly the same number of pages as the spring issue (88 pages) and the price is the same as previous with extra 35 copies included. This is £1000 cheaper against five other printers in the Southeast, and £100 cheaper against the other printer in Wales who were recommended by the Plantsman editor. John Baker reminded the meeting that we are not now posting out the old Newsletter, so this would give us a considerable saving. Please note that we also save on postage cost to USA for the Spring Issue as June and John took the copies to the two Conventions and personally distributed them. Although this was extra 7 kg on their baggage, they will be happy to do it again.
- 14.5 Referring to the Membership Report (above) we are asking to print 250 copies of the autumn issue of the Journal which has been approved by the Chairman.

#### **15) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 15.1 Jonathan Hogarth reported that he had been offered to exhibit at RHS flower shows at Chelsea, Chatsworth and Hampton Court. He is also on a reserve list for the Cardiff Flower Show. Paul Harris is at all the shows. Ollie Walker and Chris Potts will exhibit at Rosemoor Garden RHS Flower Show, Tatton Park RHS and Gardeners' World Live at the NEC. Vickie Meads will exhibit at RHS Chelsea next year.
- 15.2 Jonathan Hogarth said that on 7<sup>th</sup> November this year there is a meeting with Other Societies at the Hill Top Centre at Wisley Garden. An invitation was sent by Wisley.

#### **16) DATE FOR 2019 MEETINGS**

John Baker already booked 'The Barn' at RHS Gardens Wisley, Woking, GU23 6QB for our Spring Meeting and Autumn Meeting to be held on the following dates:

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2-5pm  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 THE FEBRUARY 2018 MEETING**

<b>Section ref.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person (s) Responsible</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing</b>
3.3	Review of available BHHS leaflets	Jonathan, Bob	Oct meeting	Ongoing, passed on to John Baker, June & John have already some.
3.4	Some old Bulletins to be given away	Jonathan, Marjorie	Oct meeting	Ongoing, June and June used some for new & potential members
4.1	Review Gift Aid entitlement	Bob	Oct meeting	Status change from old to new. To be reported. Ongoing due to absence
6.6	Free Membership/Publicity for winner in Show at Shrewsbury	Bob, June and John	September	New to Old status  Ongoing
9.1	Dates of members' gardens opening required for website	Committee/members	ASAP	Ongoing, Andrew added several on the web
9.2	Plant profiles and photos for web	Committee/members	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
10.3	Complete promised article for Autumn Journal	Bob	May	Old status changed to new  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	Oct	Ongoing, Jan now able to access Delightful Daylilies, so we need to clarify top 20 and publish it with photos

### SUMMARY OF ACTIONS REQUIRED AT THE JULY 2018 AGM MEETING

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing
7.8 a & b	A new initiative to recruit family members and volunteers required at events	Committee members	October	Ongoing
14.2	All reports from officers to be supplied and copied to a backup desk and storage of this to be specified	Committee members	October	Ongoing

### SUMMARY OF ACTIONS REQUIRED AT THE OCTOBER 2018 MEETING

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing
1.1	To inform committee to use video link if unable to attend meetings	Jonathan/John	January	New
3.5	To discuss with the web developers if they have external storage facilities	Andrew	January	New
5.4 a	To sort out the Paypal balance.	Bob	January	New
5.4 b	Chairman to ask Treasurer if better investments are available for Society	Jonathan/Bob	ASAP	New
5.4 c	Secretary to contact Harrell's regarding underpayment	John	ASAP	New
6.0	Enquire wifi facility of meeting venue 'The Barn' at Wisley	John	ASAP	New
6.6 a	Email suppliers regarding possible discounts to new	Jonathan/John	ASAP	New

<b>Section ref.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person (s) Responsible</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing</b>
	members			
6.6 b	To determine contents of Handbook	Jonathan/John/Andrew	January	New
6.6 c	John to discuss with June photo competition format	June/John	ASAP	Completed
6.6 d	Chairman and Secretary to arrange selection of judges for photo competition. Jonathan to contact Mike Shadrack	Jonathan/John	ASAP	June and Tim Saville agreed. Ongoing
10	Chairman to notify Jim Allnut about Ian Scroggy taking over Facebook Account	Jonathan	ASAP	New
11 a	Chairman to contact John Carr to discuss RHS Bridgwater Project	Jonathan	January	New
11 b	Chairman to contact Bridgwater if interested in our plant donations	Jonathan	January	New
12 a	Chairman to investigate Waterperry Garden for AGM venue	Jonathan	January	New
12 b	To investigate Oxford venue which asks for donation only	June and John	January	New
12 c	To investigate Cambridge venue	Andrew	January	New