

**Minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting
of the Radlett Horticultural Society
held on Wednesday, 17 March 2021 online**

**This AGM was postponed from 25 November 2020 due to
the Covid-19 Pandemic**



Present

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman Peter Hordern on Zoom and 36 member households attended. He opened the meeting by welcoming members and thanking them for joining the meeting.

Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Minutes of the 80th AGM – held 13 November 2019

The minutes of the 80th Annual General Meeting were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the 80th AGM.

The Chairman's Report (Peter Hordern)

“Good evening one and all and thank you for joining our first online AGM.

As you all know the dreaded Covid has rather limited our activities in 2020 but we did manage a few events which were well received.

I guess one good thing that came out of the pandemic was that we could all spend more time in our gardens and allotments. I know my plot is tidier than it has ever been.

Just before the lockdown last March we did manage a ‘behind the scenes’ tour of Burstons garden centre and 30 of us thoroughly enjoyed the visit as well as the delicious cream tea that followed. When Covid is but a bad memory we hope to run a few more of these. They grow a lot of their own bedding plants and even supply other outlets in the UK.

As lockdown was easing in June we managed to open the store and, not unsurprisingly it was very popular. We took an unprecedented amount of money on the first day and even managed to hold an informal plant sale a few weeks later.

David will, I’m sure, tell you more about the store but we are reopening soon. We have taken this opportunity to go cashless so get your credit cards ready.

The highlight of the year however was undoubtedly our Covid version of a flower show which was enjoyed by many of our members.

We decided to scrap the usual format and gave every person a piece of table to exhibit what they had made or grown. This was done to ensure social distancing and we had far fewer tables for the same reason. And no teas either - I thought that was the main reason for coming to the show!

The result was an astonishing display of latent talent that we didn’t know we had so we have decided to incorporate part of this into this years show as an experiment.

So this year you can either exhibit in the regular competitive show or take a section of table and design your own exhibit or indeed you can do both. To do this we have reduced the number of classes in the competitive section.

So let’s look forward to a better year this year. The signs are good so fingers crossed. We have several talks, a few day trips, the Show and maybe even a holiday to look forward to – and the store will open on Saturday 3rd April and thereafter on the first and third Sunday of every month.

And last but by no means least, I have to announce that our long serving and suffering Treasurer, Peter Breward, has decided that he is retiring at the next AGM. I would like to very publicly thank him for his enormous contributions to the Society over a total of 23 years as Treasurer in three separate stints and two stints as Show Secretary with the invaluable assistance of his wife, Judith, for a total of 13 years and always a major contributor at the flower shows. Thank you Peter. But he is not escaping entirely because he is going to take on the role of auditor and I feel sure he and Judith will continue to produce wonderful exhibits for the Flower Show.”

Treasurer’s Report (Peter Breward) (read by the Secretary)

“The accounts this year have been impacted by the virus and show some odd figures compared to the previous year. These are notably the Plant Sale, Show and Weeders Digest where they were either cancelled or modified. Despite the difficulties we managed to maintain the Store’s turnover.

The value of the investments fell reflecting the general fall in the Stock Market.

My thanks to Dave Bishop who certified the accounts and who is prepared to act again next year.

Should you have any questions I will attempt to answer them.”

There were no questions to the Treasurer from the audience. Acceptance of the Audited Accounts was proposed by Karen Kendrick and seconded by Anna Cross and agreed unanimously.

Trading Secretary’s report (David Bagon)

“Having helped in the Store on Sunday mornings, I took on the Treasurer’s job when Peggy Sjoberg complained about taking the cash float round to those on the rota on a Friday evening. I suggested to her that she might take the money to the Store on the Sunday mornings. She said “Why don’t you?”.

When I took over the role as Store’s Treasurer, I was still working full time. I therefore had to take the money to work. In those days we sometimes took over £500. I had to walk right through the Arndale Shopping Centre in Luton to get to the Nat West bank.

Did I ever miss opening the Store in nearly 20 years? The answer is only once. My son and his daughter were staying with us. One Sunday morning my son suggested we go to the Beckinscot Model Village after breakfast. Whilst having a coffee break there, I suddenly remembered that I had forgotten to open the Store that morning and leave the cash float. I immediately phoned Peter Hordern who was to be on duty. When Barbara, his wife, answered the phone, she said that Peter was out and he had forgotten that he was on duty. Joan Mason was also down to help him. When nobody showed up, she went home. She could not have run the Store on her own anyway.

At a Committee meeting, Bob Clark, the then Chairman, suggested that I should take over organising the Store rota in future. Fortunately, Gary Harding has taken over this role very efficiently.

A few years later, when Derrick Smith became unwell, it was suggested that maybe I could be the temporary Store Manager. Well 15 years later I am still in the post.

With the Coronavirus now prohibiting the Store opening we have still managed to sell, by prior arrangement, mainly peat free compost and bird food. The birds in Radlett seem to be very content now that members have been able to come to the Store to pick up many large and small bags of bird food.

I have also been delivering members’ orders to their homes if they cannot collect them. Luckily, they can pay by debit/credit card now we have the facility to accept payment this way. We have taken over £800 since we have started this service.

I still enjoy my work for the Radlett Horticultural Society. It helps to keep me busy.”

Election of Officers and Committee Members

Officers

The Chairman said that the following nominations for officers of the Society had been received and those nominated were willing to stand:-

Chairman	Peter Hordern
Vice Chairman	Elizabeth Wackrow
Treasurer	Peter Breward
Secretary	Jane Phipps
Trading Secretary	David Bagon
Show Secretary	Amanda Harvell

Committee

And the following committee members had agreed to stand:

Gesine Latimer, Dave Oswald, Rachel Pearce, Andrew Harvell, Jane Poyser, Karen Kendrick, Anna Cross, Chris Parkin

The officers and committee were proposed by Gary Harding, seconded by Dennis Sandor and then duly elected.

Any other business

The Chairman thanked David Bagon for all his hard work. He said that we are pushing peat free compost but cannot get anymore now. We have plenty of bags at present so members were not to worry about not being able to get any.

Mike Paterson asked what was happening about the Plant Sale. The Chairman said it might be on a different day but most probably will be in the open. It may be in the grounds of the Scout Hut. We shall be having a Plant Sale of some sort.

Gary Harding asked for anyone interested in being added to the Store rota to contact him.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.