

**BRIMPSFIELD & MID-COTSWOLD GARDEN SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018**

The Annual General Meeting of the Brimpsfield & Mid-Cotswold Garden Society was held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in Brimpsfield Village Hall, at 7.30pm. 24 members attended; apologies were received from 3 members.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the 2017 AGM had been circulated in advance and copies were also made available to members at the meeting. A proposal by Mike Fisher to approve those minutes as a true record of that meeting was accepted unanimously.

**Chairman's Report**

A summary of the Chairman's Report:

With the Village Hall now being used on Fridays for the running of a community bar, the Committee had decided to change the advertised Friday date of the AGM to a Thursday, and to make use of the bar facility for members at the AGM.

After a gap of a couple of years the annual self-drive outing had been reinstated, and based on the success of this another would be run in summer 2018, to Daglingworth House. The Garden Party was also a successful event; for the 2018 Garden Party, at Yew Tree Barn, a slightly earlier start time was planned to allow for sometimes chilly June evenings. The Annual Show went well, although we might have wished for more competition in some of the classes; the 2018 Show would be organised by a small Show Committee to spread the workload more evenly.

The autumn programme of talks was also successful, but in February our speaker was unable to reach us because of traffic problems and the March meeting was cancelled because of snow; both speakers were being rescheduled for the coming winter season.

For the coming year, we would return to having a single plant sale, in April, and a local commercial grower had been invited to come and sell plants in addition to our 'bring-and-buy' sale. Our coffee morning events would continue to offer home-made cake, which had been a big success with members, and thanks were given to Liz Oakey and Jane Parsons for running this.

The Society had welcomed several new members; a leaflet drop was being organised in the local villages to encourage greater participation. The Chairman concluded by offering thanks to members for their support, and to the Committee for their contribution to the running of the Society.

Further to the above report, the Chairman commented that it was noticeable that attendance at the AGM had been dropping in recent years, and suggested that holding it on a Saturday morning, as with our other events, might prove more popular. Mike Fisher pointed out that the Society had sufficient funds to make the AGM free to members to encourage attendance; David Ellery suggested that, as new members were more likely to come first to a monthly meeting rather than to the AGM, perhaps coffee and cake could be offered to them for free. The Chairman promised that the Committee would consider these suggestions.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented his report, noting particularly that raffle income had increased, and that speaker costs were lower because of the two cancelled speakers. Income (£1,688) had outstripped expenditure (£1,067). Peter Merriman and Iris Phillips asked about plans to spend the Society's legacy money; Sir Michael McWilliam said that some had been spent on planting the tree on the village green, and more would be used to subsidise the outing, and perhaps on more expensive

speakers. Several members commented that, in the latter event, ticketing would be required, and offered their experience of other Societies' practice in this regard. Sir Michael asked for any suggestions for good speakers whom we might invite. Roger Lock observed that, currently, membership of the Society offers limited benefits, and Sir Michael responded that these suggestions would be taken on board.

The Committee proposed to keep subscriptions at their current level (£3 per person or £5 for a couple); acceptance of this was proposed by David Ellery, seconded by Charles Tippet, and the meeting approved the proposal.

### **Election of Committee and Officers**

Two Committee members, Barbara Snell and Simon Laurens, were retiring from the Committee; Jean Tippet had been co-opted to the Committee during the year and was standing for election. All other Committee members were standing for re-election, and all were elected on a proposal by Mike Fisher, seconded by Peter Merriman. Mr Prentice was also re-elected as Auditor.

Sir Michael McWilliam, Martin Phillips and Frances Ellery were standing for re-election to the posts, respectively, of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, and were re-elected to those posts on a proposal by Mike Fisher and seconded by Jane Parsons.

The full Committee therefore consists of Sir Michael McWilliam (Chairman), Martin Phillips (Treasurer), Frances Ellery (Secretary) and members Judith Cheyney, Janet Evans, Jane Parsons, Jean Tippet.

### **Any Other Business**

No other business was raised, and the meeting closed at 8.10pm when the members proceeded to supper.