

Leek Wootton Horticultural Society **Chairman's Report for the 2018 AGM**

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen

Our programme of events again proved popular with yet another successful year and the splendid support from the local community continues.

The Annual Outing, on 4th June took us to Ashwood Nurseries near Kidderminster, organized as usual by Tom and Margaret Powell. As reported at the last AGM this was the last occasion that Tom and Margaret would be organizing the annual trip with responsibility passing to Steph and Rob Jones. I am sure you will agree that Tom and Margaret have produced some memorable outings and they deserve our heartfelt thanks.

The Annual Show, held on 19th August was another successful event. Committee, families and friends all helped to make it a wonderful afternoon for visitors from the village and beyond. The Mini-beasts roadshow with exhibits from all over the world proved to be a great draw. In terms of awards, The Banksian medal was won by Ron Guest and the Jim Perkins Salver went to Rob Cheetham. A new award for 2017 the Gillitt Salver, presented in memory of past President Audrey Gillitt by her family, was won by Marie Jane Roberts. Income was slightly down on previous years, but we maintain a healthy financial position. Strong support continues from local businesses in the form of prizes for the raffle and we are grateful for that support.

A tree was planted on 18th November in the Memorial Garden area in memory of Audrey Gillitt and the event was supported by members of Audrey's family and Friends. For those of you who wish to see the tree, it is marked with a plaque and is protected by a wooden surround

In financial terms our healthy position provides opportunities to celebrate the 150 years anniversary of the Annual Show in August.

We must express our sadness and sympathy for the passing of John Mitchell who served on the Committee for many years and was also a keen exhibiter at the show as well as running the skittles competition.

So, looking forward with notes for your diary in 2018

The Outing this year will be at Coton Manor Gardens in Northamptonshire on Sunday 9th June with a coffee stop at Kilworth Hotel and Theatre. The outing is now being organized by Steph and Rob Jones with full details being on the website. Secretary Mary Murdoch is managing the bookings.

The Annual Show will be held on Saturday 18th August. There will as usual be stalls and teas along with entertainment for the children and young at heart. Photographic categories will be 'Celebrations' and 'Animals'. Angela Guest will be orchestrating the event, as she has successfully achieved over many years. You will hopefully be aware that 2018 marks the 150th Anniversary of the show and you can view the originating article from the Leamington Spa Courier dated August 1st 1868 on the table supported by a transcript of the article. We are currently examining ways of celebrating the occasion. Invitations have been sent to all groups and societies in the village to enter an exhibit of flowers for which there will be a special award for the winning entry. The planting of trees and shrubs will also be undertaken. Details of all the intended arrangements will be published in the LINK magazine.

The Society website continues to attract support from far and wide. The web site can be accessed at www.leekwoottonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk. You can also contact the Society via lwhsociety@gmail.com. It is worth having a look at all the information, including photographs that make up the content.

My thanks to all who have supported the Society over the past 12 months especially the members of the Committee who have given unstinting support. Special thanks are due to our Secretary Mary Murdoch for her boundless energy, Christine Hurcomb as Treasurer, Angela Guest as reported above, Tom and Margaret as our very able tour guides and to Steph Jones who has assisted with meeting minute taking and production.

It is sad, but inevitable, that committee members reach the point where they feel it necessary to retire from their roles. Margaret Powell has decided to step down after 50 years work on the Committee. Her presence and contribution will be missed

Our constitution provides for a committee of 16 members, including the Officers, and we are currently at 14 members.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Mary Murdoch or me and we will be pleased to talk them.