

**THE SEVENTY FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
SEDLSCOMBE & DISTRICT GARDEN SOCIETY**

Sedlescombe Village Hall

Friday 8th November 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2018 (Annexe A)
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Review of 2018/19 (Annexe B) RE
6. Financial Report and Statement of Accounts for 2018/19 (Annexe C) JP
7. Feedback on 2019 Programme and 2020 Programme (Annexe D) BP
8. Election of Chairman and Committee Members (Nominations Form Annex E) RE
9. Presentation of Annual Awards for 2019 by Chris Hone RE
 - Guy Perpetual Challenge Cup
 - Wilson Perpetual Challenge Cup
 - Banksian Medal
 - Platinum Anniversary Cup
10. Any Other Business

**There will then be a talk by our President Chris Hone
entitled
"Adventures in my Garden"**

Followed by refreshments and Raffle

Sedlescombe and District Garden Society

Minutes of the Seventy Fourth Annual General Meeting

held on 9th November 2018 in the Village Hall, at 7pm

Present:

See Annexe A.

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Rod Eldridge, welcomed and thanked the good number of members who attended. He pointed out that daffodil bulbs were available for members to grow for the next Spring Show.

2. Apologies

Received from John Tunstall, Dorothy Downey, Sally Brown, Chris and Ann Hone, Fay and Bill Rose and Jacinta and Hugh Davidson.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the 73rd meeting were approved.

4. Matters Arising and New President

There were no matters arising. However, following the sad passing of Peggy Cain, it was necessary to elect a new President. The Committee had considered several names and contacted those who would be suitable. The person willing to stand was Chris Hone. He was therefore proposed by Dave Brabants and seconded by John Page. Chris Hone was then elected by common consent as our new President.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had already circulated a copy of his report for 2018. He added that despite the sad loss of two active members, this had been a good year. Membership numbers are buoyant and we should be looking forward to an excellent 2019.

6. Financial Report and Statement of Account 2017/18

The Chairman referred to Trevor Thomas's Financial Report, which showed we were in a good position to start the new financial year and asked for proposers to approve the accounts. Dave Brabants proposed acceptance and was seconded by John Page. Eve Bradbury has signed off the accounts for the last time this year and the Committee's thanks go to her for her help over many years. Jenny Mitchell will take over this task next year.

7. 2019 Programme

The Chairman called attention to the calendar of events for next year. The format follows the normal pattern but this year there will be a Summer Show, to be held in the Village Hall. The Chairman added that he hopes to arrange some self drive trips to local gardening venues and these will be advertised in the Newsletters as they are organised.

8. Presentation of Annual Awards

Guy Perpetual Challenge Cup – most points in the Young Gardeners classes was won jointly by Lucia and Maddalena Assorgi.

Wilson Perpetual Challenge Cup – most points in all classes was also won jointly by Rosemary Farley and Barry Bradbury

The RHA Banksian Medal – was won by Barry Bradbury. This award once won cannot be won again in the next two years.

The Platinum Anniversary Cup – most points in the signature classes was won by Jane Hempson -Jones.

The Maureen Baker Cup was not awarded this year.

9. Election of Committee Members

The Secretary sought proposers and seconders for existing members who were willing to stand for re-election

Rod Eldridge,	proposed by Jane Hempson -Jones and seconded by Peter Jackson
Rosemary Farley,	proposed by Barry Bradbury and seconded by Dave Brabants
Brenda Page	proposed by John Parsons and seconded by Marie Jackson
Dave Brabants	proposed by Jane Hempson-Jones and seconded by John Page
Shirley Coleman	proposed by Eve Bradbury and seconded by Marie Jackson
Susan Fritzsche	proposed by Marie Jackson and seconded by Rod Eldridge
Andrea Hogwood	proposed by Peter Jackson and seconded by John Page
Marie Jackson	proposed by Brenda Page and seconded by Shirley Coleman
Peter Jackson	proposed by Shirley Coleman and seconded by Brenda Page
Simon Lawrence	proposed by Karen Thomas and seconded by Barry Bradbury
Andy Waters	proposed by Dave Brabants and seconded by John Parsons

Two new members had been nominated to join the committee:

John Page was proposed as the new Treasurer by Trevor Thomas and seconded by Rod Eldridge.

Jacqueline Honour was proposed by Shirley Coleman and seconded by Rosemary Farley.

There were no objections to any nominations, therefore all named persons will form the new committee.

10. Any Other Business

a) The Chairman, on behalf of members, thanked Trevor Thomas for his considerable contribution and hard work over the years as Treasurer and also thanked Jacinta Davidson, who has looked after the trophies so well for so long.

b) Dave Brabants pointed out that although he will be Membership Secretary again this year, he will not be able to continue next year.

The meeting closed and was followed by a talk on The Effect of Climate Change on Gardening by Dr Mick Lynn.

Attendees at the 74th AGM 2018

Susan Fritzsche	Shirley Coleman
Rod Eldridge	Andrea Hogwood
Marie Jackson	Peter Jackson
Andy Waters	Denise Waters
Brenda Page	John Page
Sue Parsons	John Parsons
E Ellis	Ken Sandell
Glenys Sandell	Margaret Hudson
Nikki Port	Graham Port
Karen Thomas	Trevor Thomas
Sylvia Beaney	Jacqueline Honour
Eve Bradbury	Barry Bradbury
Dave Brabants	Stella Brabants
Helen Assorgi	Lucia Assorgi
Mildred Dowling	Maddelena Assorgi
Judy Stewart	Rosemary Farley
Jane Hempson Jones	C J Gardiner

Chairman's Report for 2018/19

Looking back over the past year, since our last AGM, much has happened. We have lost 2 valued members of the committee including our Treasurer, Trevor Thomas and Trophy Organiser, Jacinta Davidson, who are much missed. Consequently, the composition of the Committee itself has changed, which, on the positive side, creates different thoughts and ideas. Committee members have tried very hard to increase membership and encourage more involvement in events but more effort is needed by all of us to raise membership and attendance. Members have already come forward with suggestions for venues to visit and subjects for speakers next year which is, of course, extremely helpful. This is your society and the more opinions and ideas you have contribute to the wellbeing of all members.

We have had an array of events starting with a very successful Quiz Night, with hot food, in December 2018. At the beginning of 2019 we had two speakers. The first on 5th February was Christine Bartlett, Chairman of the South East Orchid Society who was eminently qualified to speak about the care and cultivation of orchids. Members asked many questions, especially in the tea break. I hope you will agree she was a very interesting speaker.

5th March brought us Jaqueline Aviolet and her subject was Herbs- cultivation and folk lore. Jacqueline can be found at Rosie's Garden Plants. Again an interesting speaker providing background into folk lore as well as demonstrating how to obtain the best results for herb growing.

Spring Show 23rd March

The Spring Show was once again a success owing to the large number of entries put in by members and others. The standard was high and the judges had a difficult task in choosing between the quality entries. President Chris Hone presented the trophies and congratulated prize winners for their efforts and care.

The Plant Sale 11th May

Friary Gardeners once again put on a great display of bedding, shrub and fruit plants for purchase at competitive prices and quite a great deal of plants were observed being taken to the same vehicle several times! A testament to quality. Thanks go to those members who brought along their spare plants to sell for the Society and I appeal to more members to please grow items to sell each year. If Friary Gardeners are not able to stage this event in future we would have to omit it from the calendar unless we had a large number of our own plants to sell.

Hastings Old Town Walk 13th June

President Chris Hone was our guide for this event attended by only seven members. Chris is a member of and qualified guide for the Old Hastings Preservation Society. Although the weather was rather mixed it did not rain. For those members who have walked around the Old Town without knowing the background to many of the buildings or residents this was an insight into the past. Chris pointed out properties of interest and those which housed notable residents such as Catherine Cookson's large house, now flats in Exmouth Place. We visited two churches with much of their interesting past displayed on walls and floor. There was so much to observe and hear about that time flew by without us realising it. If you get the chance to take one of these guided tours it shouldn't be missed.

Summer Show 20th July

Members excelled themselves with the amount of entries for this show. However, it was a great disappointment that only 40 people came through the door to see them. Those that did had a treat; the games were fun, exhibits gorgeous and much information learned from a local horticulturist, Lesley Blay, who answered loads of gardening questions. The best thing was the number of people who liked the friendly and relaxed atmosphere of the day.

Garden Party and Lunch 10th August

High winds forced a change of venue for this event. 34 members sat down to a cramped but friendly couple of hours eating and chatting. My thanks go to John and Brenda Page for stepping into the breach.

Trip to West Dean Gardens 21st August

A select group of 34 people enjoyed a pleasant, sunny, 2 hour drive to West Dean Gardens on 21st August. West Dean had been recommended by several members and did not disappoint. The gardens were exceptional, tended by 5 full time gardeners and a team of volunteers, to a very high standard of care. There are stunning views, architectural delights, fantastic fruits and vegetables as well as a beautiful array of plants and flowers. The restored kitchen gardens and Victorian greenhouses are full of familiar and exotic plants from all over the world.

An opulent 300 foot long Edwardian pergola, draped in roses, clematis and honeysuckle opens up to a wonderful view of the countryside and a 19th century flint house. The Spring Garden features a rustic summerhouse and there was a 2.5 mile Parkland walk through 49 acres of the St Roche's arboretum (for the more energetic).

West Dean is one of the country's top gardens and is extremely beautiful so I hope all of the group who travelled the distance enjoyed a relaxing day as much as I did. The only downside was the low numbers of people going. We are looking into combining trips with another local garden society, sharing costs and filling coaches.

Autumn Show 28th September

The Autumn Show was once again held in the Village Hall, on a day when the weather was kind to us. Competitors wishing to put together floral exhibits were able to set up outside, without having to deal with high winds or heavy rain.

This would not have been the case the following day. I would like to thank all the participants who took the trouble to enter their exhibits, without you there would be no show. Even if you did not win a prize, please do not be discouraged from entering one of the shows next year. Commence your planning now for the Spring Show, and you may be successful next time.

I would like to thank all of those members who helped set up the hall the evening before, and on the day. The members and your committee worked hard to stage an event which once again proved very successful and to a high standard. Please get involved with your Garden Society and support events whenever possible, and make us the envy of other societies and clubs. We hope to have an exciting year ahead of us, so check your schedules early in the year and make space in your diaries.

Final Thoughts

This past twelve months has seen some interesting gardening highs and lows. The weather has caused a few problems with a limited amount of rain giving long dry periods. Some members have found certain plants have not performed as normal. However, this has not detracted from the high standard of exhibits on display at our shows.

Next year there will not be a summer show but we hope to provide more self-drive venues. This can be made more successful if members are willing to share their transport with those who are unable to drive. Our speakers have been interesting and I am sure some of you will have picked up a few tips.

In conclusion, please support your garden society if you can by attending events or going on trips. Remember, it is your society so use it or lose it. The best way is to encourage membership amongst your friends and relatives or to invite them to our events which are always open to outsiders for a small extra charge. To all those members who have come along in support I thank you and hope you have enjoyed what our committee have provided. They work hard for you and I would like to thank all the Committee members on your behalf for the time and effort they have expended so we can all enjoy our garden society.

Good Gardening

Rod Eldridge Chairman

SDGS FINANCIAL REPORT 2018-19

Dated 31st September 2019

From the balance sheet overleaf you will see that your Society has a healthy cash balance of £4,209; this represents a small loss on the year but this is some £1,000 down on available funds in 2015. The accounts have been examined and signed off by an independent examiner.

The main horticultural events, the three shows, talks, the AGM and trips, all made a loss as indeed they did last year. This was countered by the Quiz, Garden Party, the Plant Sale, all the raffles and of course the membership fees which limited our deficit. You may remember that Trevor Thomas predicted 'this strain on maintaining our balance' in last year's report. The same warning is repeated here. Note that most autumn show expenses in both 2018 and 2019 fall to the following year's account.

Membership is down from 105 to 99 (individuals and couples with single payment) of which 14 are honorary or complementary in each year. This has reduced our primary source of income. We welcomed some new members but this did not counter our losses.

Administration of the society has been kept to a minimum at £290 but printing and postage are expensive and largely unavoidable. Hall hire costs (part of the individual events costs in the balance sheet overleaf) are a significant £525. Speakers generally cost up to £100 including travel expenses. Our two off site trips this year to West Dean Gardens and Hastings Old Town made a combined net loss of £172.

On the other hand, raffles have made us a net £390, thanks to Susan Fritzsche and Andrea Hogwood for organising and generous members who donated prizes and bought tickets. (The raffle profits are incorporated into the event figure in the balance sheet.) Occasions where food and beverage is provided by hard working members of your committee invariably attract members and are the only events to more than cover their costs. Thanks go to Rosemary, Alison, Brenda and many others for their dedication and generosity of time to providing cakes, teas, meals, and drinks at all our events. We could not exist as a society without them.

Your committee is pledged to attempt to maintain the same balance of funds each year so that we can look after equipment, purchase replacement consumables and be ready for a rainy day. There is no intention to increase our funds by more than inflation, as it is reasonable for funds that flow into the society from that year's members to benefit members that have contributed in that year. However your committee recommend that this year's deficit, small as it is, be arrested. This can be achieved in several ways, outlined below and which members will be asked to vote on at the AGM.

1. Having only two shows a year, Spring and Autumn. The elimination of the Summer show will not only save money but allow the Autumn show to be brought forward to early September which will better suit the growing season. It also avoids the holiday season that currently limits the show organisers and exhibitors leading to poor attendances compared to the other two.

2. Raise the membership fees from an individual £7 and £10 per couple to £9 and £12 respectively. This will take account of our reduced membership and raise about £174. The fees have not been raised for 11 years so this represents a rise of only 18 pence per year.

3. Cooperation with our neighbouring garden societies, which could see an increased footfall at our shows and jointly operated trips so that coaches are filled.
4. If coaches for trips cannot be filled to break even point, trips should be self drive. There will be room in vehicles for those who cannot drive.
5. Having an entry charge for members of £1 (£3 for non members) at some horticultural events. This will include simple refreshments and will simplify taking payments. It is recognised that the shows are good publicity for the Society and should remain free entry but only if we have raised membership fees. Where supper is provided we will have to charge a proportionate entrance fee. The £1 charge for the autumn show this year was a one off to reduce the annual deficit.
6. Attract more members.

We will be requesting that you vote to apply all or some of these measures at the AGM but only measure 2 above will give some certainty to arresting financial decline. If we are successful in increasing our funds beyond its present level we will be able to have more free events for members.

John S Page
SDGS Treasurer

S&DGS

Year end Report 2018/19

Net income and Expenditure

2017/18

2018/19

Administration

£

£

Membership Subscriptions	827.00	759.00
Donations, insurance & subscriptions		(307.00)
Stationery/ postage/printing/ctee meetings	(251.00)	-290.61
Bank interest	7.64	10.51
Other Administration	0.00	(6.00)
total admin and membership	583.64	165.90

Events

Steve Bradley evening		(54.35)
AGM		(138.61)
Quiz Night		163.00
Autumn Show 2018		(126.00)
Orchids Event		(53.30)
Herbs Event		(60.50)

Spring Show 2019		(97.81)
Summer Show		(86.38)
Autumn Show 2019		0.00
Plant Sale 2019		213.05
village Spring fair		23.80
Garden Party		186.45
TOTAL EVENTS	(432.06)	(30.65)

Trips

West Dean trip		(142.00)
Hastings Walk		(30.00)
TOTAL TRIPS	(3.33)	(172.00)

Surplus/Deficit for year	148.25	(36.75)
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Balances

<u>Funds at 1 October</u>	<u>2017 18</u>	<u>2108 19</u>
cash	53.56	593.68
current account	2,437.08	1,806.95
uncleared cheques	0.00	0.00
savings account	1,755.24	1,765.75
stock	0.00	42.75
	4,245.88	4,209.13

Surplus/deficit on year	148.20	(36.75)
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I certify that these accounts for the year ended 30th September 2109 are correct. John S Page
Treasurer.....

I certify that these accounts for the year ended 30th September 2019 are in accordance with the Information presented to me. Jenny Mitchell
Independent Examiner.....

DRAFT**SDGS EVENTS for 2020**

Tuesday 11th February	2pm	Social Event Speaker: Kathrine Lynn – Tulips
Tuesday 10th March	2pm	Social Event Speaker to be arranged
Saturday 4th April	2pm	Spring Show staging of entries 8.15 to 10.15am,
Saturday 9th May	10.30am to 12.00	Plant Sale
Saturday 13th June	3pm to 5pm	Garden Safari and Tea or self drive trip
Saturday 18th July	12.30 for 1pm	Garden Party/BBQ
26th August	all day	Coach trip to be decided
Saturday 12th September	2pm	Autumn Show staging of entries 8.15 to 10.15am
Wednesday 6th October	7pm	Social Event
Friday 6th November	7pm	AGM
Wednesday 2nd December	7pm	Social Event

NOMINATION FORM

Nominations are invited for Chairman, Officers and Committee Members

If you wish to propose or second a nominee, please obtain the nominee's consent.

If you wish to serve as Chairman, an Officer or a Committee Member, please find a proposer and a seconder.

All Nominations must be returned by Friday 1st November 2019 to Rod Eldridge, Chairman, 15 Park Shaw, Sedlescombe, East Sussex, TN33 0PP. Alternatively, nominations may be sent by email to sdgs.chairman@gmail.com

In accordance with item 6 of the Society's Constitution, all existing Committee members and co-opted members shall retire at the AGM when they will be eligible for re-election.

The current Committee members willing to be re-elected are as indicated below.

POST	NOMINEE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
CHAIRMAN	Rod Eldridge		
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Rosemary Farley		
TREASURER	John Page		
SECRETARY/SHOW SECRETARY	Brenda Page		
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Christine George		
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Shirley Coleman		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Susan Fritzsche		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Andrea Hogwood		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Marie Jackson		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Peter Jackson		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Andy Waters		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Simon Lawrence		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	vacant		
COMMITTEE MEMBER	vacant		

Nominations for New Committee Members

POST	NOMINEE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
vacant			
vacant			

Following the election at the AGM, the Chairperson, at the earliest possible convenience, shall convene a meeting of the newly elected Committee and any remaining vacant officers shall be elected by that Committee.