

**31 October 2016 at 7.30 pm (doors open at 7.15 pm)**

**CHICHESTER ORGANIC GARDENING SOCIETY AGM  
AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Adoption of minutes of last AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Adoption of Accounts
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Committee
7. AOB

**The AGM will be followed by:**  
The Harvest Supper

**Election of Officers  
The Society has the following posts**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Committee Mbr in 2015-2016</b>	<b>Held by in 2015 – 2016</b>	<b>Standing for re-election in 2016 – 2017</b>
Chair		<b>Vacant</b>	
Secretary	Yes	Penelope Johnstone	
Treasurer	Yes	David Scott	Yes
Membership Secretary	Yes	Stephanie Carn	Yes
Future Events		vacancy	
Publicity	Yes	vacancy	
Newsletter	(jointly)		
Bulk Purchase	No	Susan Maguire Pat Adams	N/A
Committee Member	Yes	Pat Alderton	Yes
Committee Member	Yes	John Bennett	Yes
Committee Member	Yes	Anne Bennett	Yes
Committee Member	Yes	Nina Guilfoyle	No

**We would like more committee, and need a new Secretary;** please do consider standing. There are usually three committee meetings a year.

**Chichester Organic Gardening Society  
Annual General Meeting 2015**

Held at the Bassil Shippam Centre on Monday 26th October 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

**1. Present: Committee:** Pat Alderton, Nina Guilfoyle, Penelope Johnstone, David Scott; 22 members in all

**Apologies:** Stephanie and Alan Carn, Vee Cowan, Liz and Rob Campling, Charlotte Evans, Jan Marshall, Rachel and Peter Ritchie, Irene Woods, Anne and John Bennett.

**2. Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th October 2014 were accepted; proposed Greg Slay, seconded Terry Timblich, carried unanimously.

**3.** There were no matters arising.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** David reported that after last year's improved position, this year's results were not so good. Subscriptions and donations were similar to last year but, as before, the figure is inflated by the additional donations many members give when they renew their membership. This generosity is important to us because, at £6, the subscription alone would only raise £342.

Otherwise the figures on the balance sheet look similar but combined receipts from activities are down; £185 this year as opposed to £239 last year

Overall £671 income this year, £730 last year, a reduction of £59.

On the expenses side, the figures are generally similar to last year; savings have been made on printing and publicity but the big difference is in speakers' fees; £240 as opposed to £75 last year, contributing to total expenses of £880.

This and reduced receipts accounts for an overall deficit of £209.

So what are we to do? Our subscription is similar to those of other societies like ours.

Raising it might be counter productive as that might deter donations.

We do need more members, but not to cut down on speakers. We could make a difference by raising the entry fee to £2 for members and £3 for visitors (similar to the Bognor society), plus trying for new members, perhaps increase the raffle. The question was raised of our becoming a charity, but it was agreed that this would not be possible. After some discussion, David proposed raising the entry to £2 and £3; seconded Anne de Potier, and carried.

Adoption of accounts proposed Bill Woodburn, seconded Pauline Cobbold, and carried.

**5. Election of officers:** With no other nominations, the posts of Treasurer David Scott, Membership Secretary Stephanie Carn, Secretary Penelope Johnstone were proposed by Anne de Potier, seconded by Terry, carried.

**6. Election of Committee:** en bloc, Pat Alderton, Nina Guilfoyle, Anne and John Bennett, proposed Gina Scott, seconded Ingrid Woodburn, carried.

Pauline thanked the Committee for their work during the year, and the meeting closed at 8.10 p.m. and was followed by the Harvest Supper.

## Committee's Report for 2015-2016

In **October** we started the year with the AGM, where again we heard that our finances are stable but we could do with more income, and would like more members. The Harvest Supper, with plenty of home-made dishes, again gave us an enjoyable evening.

In **November** Fergus Milton came to tell us about Butser Ancient Farm, where work today brings to life the way our ancestors farmed, the crops and ancient varieties of cereal they grew, and their metal working.

In **January 2015** there was a welcome return visit from Dr Steve Millam, with new ideas for the Vegetable and Fruit garden. Topical and always useful.

The **February** meeting was planned as a talk from Andy Lewis on Uppark, where he is head gardener. Unfortunately Andy was unable to come, and the gap was filled by a discussion excellently led by Pat Adams and Susan Maguire.

**March** brought a slightly new venture, an evening on Propagation led by David Donovan, who had previously taken part in the Cogs' Question Time. This was part demonstration and part hands-on, with generous donations of plants and cuttings from David at the end.

In **April** the planned members' evening (which had unexpectedly happened in February) was replaced by a topical talk by Tom Broughton, one of our members, on Solesco and the current projects on solar energy in our area.

**May** was the traditional Plant Swop, with many more plants this year, and a good turnout of members to enjoy the Spring Fling meal with a Quiz devised by Ben Harding.

In **September** we are starting our autumn programme, with a talk by Sarah Hughes the Community Wildlife Officer at Chichester District Council.

**Visits:** three this year, kindly arranged for us by Pat Alderton. In **May** to Highdown Gardens near Worthing. A good number turned up for a guided tour of these very interesting gardens, created in what was previously a chalk quarry.

In **June** we went to Sidlesham to visit Roger Parsons, who had given us a talk the previous year on his Sweet Pea collection. He took us round the many rows of plants, explaining their types, characteristics, and pollination, and how he makes new varieties. At the end we were given drinks and the chance to buy seeds to plant for next year.

In **July**, to Sidlesham again, to the one-acre garden of Monica Lucas. She and Anne had made this garden over a period of 15 years, from what had been part of the Sidlesham settlements in the early 20th century. The tour with discussion was followed by a delicious cream tea with homemade scones. Monica had come to talk about Asters and other flowers in the previous September.

In **April** we had a small stall at the Green Fair in the Assembly Rooms. A lively and interesting mix of local 'green' enterprises.

**10-11 October**, Weald and Downland Autumn Countryside Fair. We took part again, and several members entered the competitions, with some success. As usual, we sold plants and produce, talked to visitors, and distributed leaflets.

We are still deciding whether we have enough personnel to take part again **8-9th October 2016**.