



CORNWALL GROUP NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Dear all

You will be aware that in last months Newsletter I stated the following:

“As you know February is the month we hold our AGM meeting but clearly we are unable to do so this year so it looks like you are stuck with me and your current committee members for the foreseeable future.”

Now as much as that statement remains true, we have decided that this Newsletter will be an AGM version as we know how much you look forward to the annual event!

So, without any further to-do...

**HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
CORNWALL BRANCH**

2021 AGM Newsletter

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of AGM held on 5th February 2020.
3. Matters arising.
4. Chair’s Report.
5. Secretaries Report.
6. Financial Report.
7. Election of Chair.
8. Election of Officers and Committee.

9. Any other business

10. Date of next AGM meeting: 2nd February 2022.

Apologies:

Each and every one of us.

Minutes of AGM held on 5th February 2020:

Cornwall Hardy Plant Society AGM
Wednesday 6th February 2020
at Ladock Village Hall, 7.30pm

MINUTES

Attendees:

Phil Gadd – Chair, Peter Howard – Treasurer, Janet Margetts – Membership Secretary, Sarah Wilks – Secretary, Committee Members: Tricia Howard, Pam Dormand and John Sirkett, and 47 Members

Chair Phil Gadd welcomed all members to the meeting

Apologies received from:

Brian & Heather Hiley, Sylvia Henderson, Sue Lake and Della Stovell

Minutes of 30th AGM held on 5th February 2019

The minutes previously circulated, there was a date error which was amended, otherwise they were agreed as a correct record and no matters were arising.

Chairman's Report, Phil Gadd

This has been my first year in the role of Chair and I have to say that overall it has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Much of the reason I have found it so is because of your committee who work for you, and alongside me, in their various roles and who diligently and quietly fulfil those roles which makes this society function as well as it does. They make a great team. I would also like to thank my wife for her support and understanding for when I do have to dedicate time to being, the Chair! And finally, I would like to thank all of you, our members, without whom we would not exist, and I would be stood here talking to myself!

Our Secretary, Sarah Wilks, as you would have read in the last Newsletter, is standing down from the role. Sadly, I have been unable to charm, flatter or bribe her into continuing so I must thank her sincerely for doing an excellent job this past year. I did offer to arm-wrestle her to stay in the post but, I'm sorry to say, she proved to be stronger than I thought!

Our Treasurer, Peter Howard, has done a first-class job, making sure we spend his, sorry, your money wisely and keeping us buoyant. It was his initiative to make available direct membership payments to the groups bank account as well as setting up online access to be able to get more UpToDate account information instead of having to wait for monthly bank statements.

Brian Hilly has, once again, provided us with some excellent speakers over the past year and, as you will see, this upcoming year looks just as promising.

Tricia Howard arranges our garden visits over the summer months, and these have been both varied, interesting and enjoyable, and again, this upcoming year has much to look forward to.

John Sirkett has continued to do an amazing job with the Newsletter which is incredibly informative with articles and events both local and far afield. Sadly, John has indicated that this might be his last year in the post.

Janet Margetts in her first year as Membership Secretary has kept an impeccable eye on our numbers and payment of subscriptions, and if you have yet to pay, we will be going into lockdown until you cough up! We have actively been trying to promote ourselves, with a modicum of success, this past year and we intend to continue to do so, notably with a promotional stand at the Cornwall Garden Society Spring Flower Show this year.

I must also mention, Pam Dormand for handling our raffles, Sue Lake for managing the Three Flower competition, Charley and Liz Pridham for organising our Plant Fair plus those who help run our stall on the day, and Nina Paternoster for the Refreshment services, who sadly will vacating the role after May this year.

If I haven't mentioned you by name or thanked you specifically then please forgive me as the list seems endless from the printing of the program cards, the Christmas meeting display table, parking for the New Year walk, to supporting the three flowers, showing on the display table and emails I get reminding me to invite Janet with her snowdrops and others correcting her surname for me, and so on. You are all very dear to me, thank you one and all, and keep up the good work.

The issue of membership of the National HPS is still with us so it would be remiss of me not to comment on it. Whilst I understand that some members don't see the subscription element to the National as good value for money, I would like to suggest that, conversely, we at the Cornwall branch offer exceptional value for money, and, if you combined the two subscriptions together you still get very good value for money, and I think this really is the correct way to view your membership!

In researching this subject, I looked at the Cornwall Garden society membership fees which are, £22.50 for an individual and £30.00 for a couple, which at first I thought, this is not a good example as they offer all we do, talks, garden visits, newsletter, journal, etc. at a lower cost! But with further digging I found that whilst their talks/lectures are free to members, their garden visits are not and the cost of those vary, but were not insignificant, pushing the potential cost way up.

My good lady wife is a member of our local Women's Institute (WI), which is similar in its set up with a National body and Local branches and the cost for her is £43.00 a year, which they take as a single payment, and whilst I'm not decrying what they offer it is not the same level of value for money we offer.

We have had a document from the Groups Coordinator for the HPS which touches on the subject of membership and that there is a Strategic review currently being run, hence the questionnaire circulated to you all before Christmas, and thank you to those of you who replied. There is a summary of the Strategic Review included in the document. So, let us hope that proves fruitful over the coming months! The document also includes an overview of the Public Liability insurance we run under and we have already made representation on a few points for clarification.

I will see that the document is published with our next newsletter as will be this Chair Report.

Looking back at 2019...

March was a talk by Chris Birchell of Tale Valley Plants on *Shade tolerant plants*.

April was a talk by Terry Baker of Botanic Nurseries on *Digitalis*.

May was a garden visit to Caroline Latham at Trebartha, Near Launceston.

May was also our Spring Plant Fair where once again we just exceeded £1000 in income.

June was a garden visit to Judith Carrigan at Trewether, St Winnow.

July was a garden visit to Liz & Charley Pridham at Roseland House, Chacewater.
August was a garden visit to Sue Newton of Gardens Cottage, Prideaux, St Blazey.
September was a talk by Marina Christopher of Phoenix Perennials on *Pollinating Plants*.
October was a talk by Dr Julian Sutton of Desirable Plants on *I believe in the Western Cape*.
November was a talk by John Amand of Jaquesamand on *Unusual bulbs & how they get to you garden*.
December was our Christmas Social and a talk by Brian Hiley on *My favourite gardens*.
December was also our Christmas Festive Lunch held at the Hawkins Arms, Zelah.
January, we held our New Year Walk around Reatronget and Mylor Creeks with a pub lunch in the Pandora Inn.

Secretary's Report, Sarah Wilks

Other than the usual minute taking at our two committee meetings and the AGM, answering the occasional email from head office and other inquiries there have been two areas of activity. The first was the purchase of the flutter flag which I hope most of you have seen by now. The second was the negotiation for a stand to promote us, the Cornwall Hardy Plant Society, at the Cornwall Garden Society Spring Show in April this year. We have been successful in our application and over the next two months will be arranging the manning of the stand together with making a small display. The central HPS are paying for both the flag and the stand.

Treasurer's Report, Peter Howard

In 2019 the CHPS made a 'surplus' (where income exceeds expenditure) of £200.76 compared with a 2018 deficit (where expenditure exceeds income) of £105.37. The surplus of £200.76 is added to 'Reserves' increasing the amount to £7,626.75.

Although the Society's financial position remains strong, it must again be noted that the Society's finances are very dependent on achieving a good 'profit' at the Annual Plant Sale. In the last two years the profit exceeded £1,000. It is therefore important that Members prepare plants for sale beforehand and continue to give strong support on the day to this event (and say a little pray for good weather).

Election of Officers:

Chair: Phil Gadd, proposed by Pam Dormand, seconded by Peter Howard, carried unanimously
Officers and Committee members, with the exception of Secretary, proposed en bloc by Dave Mayhew, seconded by Simon Waterhouse and carried unanimously
Secretary: Dave Mayhew, proposed by Phil Gadd, seconded by Tricia Howard and carried unanimously

Any Other Business:

Tea and Coffee from Autumn 2020 will be organised by Phil Gadd on a rota system.
Membership of the CHPS is just over 100, there have been 20 new applications in the last year.
John Sirkett requested more items for the newsletter.

Date of next AGM meeting: Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Matters arising:

If you have any matters arising from the 2020 Minutes, please email them to cornwallhps@gmail.com.

Chairs report:

This is my second year in the role of Chair. Reflecting on my report to you in 2020 after my first year where I stated it had been an enjoyable and rewarding experience, I have to say that this year has been one of disappointment and frustration. Who would have thought that a minor news item, at that time, about a virus in a remote part of China would have such a rapid and devastating impact on world events!

We did manage to have two Talks, firstly, following last years AGM, by Johnathon Hutchison on 'The Falkland Islands' and at our March meeting by Penelope Townsend of White Fan Talks on 'Gardening with Jane Austen'.

By then of course that minor news item had become, and remains, the major news headline throughout the world and we were plunged into our first lockdown followed by a year of roller coaster of restrictions and further lockdowns centered around the Covid-19 pandemic.

As always, I would like to thank the other committee members on both my and your behalf for continuing to support and promote our Society. A special thanks to both Brian Hiley and Tricia Howard who every month have had to both cancel and where possible rearrange their respective events for the 2021 program. The proposed program for 2021 is published below under AOB (Any Other Business).

You will note on the 2021 program that we are planning for our Spring Plant Sale on the 1st May. If this can go ahead, we are very dependent on your plant donations so please when potting up or plant dividing consider us in your efforts. Tricia Howard has written a short article on plant propagation which is published below under AOB. We need your support.

Also, a special mention for John Sirkett who after five years has stood down from producing an excellent monthly Newsletter which has been the major lifeline during the past year. I am pleased to announce that John has agreed to remain as a committee member at this time, so his knowledge, enthusiasm and sage advice is not lost to us.

On the Newsletter front, I am pleased to announce that sisters Adrienne Lloyd and Trish Wilson have agreed to undertake the role, initially for the year. Please show your support with articles for them to publish. Many thanks to them.

It is worth mentioning that our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/cornwallhps) is also proving to be an excellent medium for members to interact and show off their latest flora.

I would point out that, as you should be aware, there is no subscription charge for the 2021 membership to our Society, but this is not the case for your membership to the National HPS. Their costs change little due to the current restrictions as they still produce their magazine and provide their other services. It is beholden to us all as members of the Cornwall HPS to be members of the National HPS.

Phil Gadd (Chair)

Secretaries report:

Since taking over from Sarah at the February 2020 AGM I seem to have had quite an easy year as our programme of meetings and visits were all cancelled due to Covid 19 Regulations after the March meeting.

I have been receiving various updates from HPS HQ with regard to policies and changes of personnel and keeping your Committee informed.

Several County Groups have been in contact to give me details of their lectures via Zoom for any members of other groups to participate in, for a small fee, £3 or £5. Details of which I have attempted to circulate to as many of our members as possible.

I know that some of our members including me have joined in with some of these Zoom talks and found it quite enjoyable seeing other like-minded members from around the country. These talks have generated quite a lot of interest and as a result, the HPS will probably be making it possible for Groups to access these talks via the National Website. Something to look forward to during lockdown!!

I am looking forward to the day when we can all meet up again, so until then, stay safe, well and warm!

Best wishes
Dave Mayhew

Financial report:

CORNWALL HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2020

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>				
Subscriptions		320.00		1,088.00
Meetings - Raffles		109.00		353.00
Guests		6.00		29.00
Teas		96.55		50.00
Plant Sale		12.75		3.50
Interest		19.95		32.66
Events - HPS Grant		72.00		
Net Profit from - Annual plant sales				1,075.00

		636.25		2,631.16
<u>Less Payments</u>				
Rent	114.00			292.00
Speakers fees and expenses	250.00			1,311.00
Administration	0.00			13.92
Summer garden visits	0.00			600.00
Events Booking	72.00			0.00
Plant Fair printing	90.00			0.00
Websites	124.57			0.00
Sundries (inc websites in 2019)	45.00			183.98
Loss on 2019 Christmas lunch	0.00	695.57		29.50
				<u>2,430.40</u>
<u>Surplus (Loss) for the year</u>				
			-59.32	200.76
<u>Opening Balances at 1st January</u>				
Cash				0.04
Current account	2,166.00			1,997.86
Deposit account	5,460.75	7,626.75		5,428.09
				<u>7,425.99</u>
<u>Closing Balances at 31st December</u>				
Current account	2,086.73			2,166.00
Deposit account	5,480.70	7,567.43		5,460.75
				<u>7,626.75</u>

TREASURER'S NOTES:

1. All activities stopped (apart from Online) because of the pandemic with the last meeting on 4th March, resulting in both reduced income and expenditure.
2. It was decided the subscriptions rate for the year 2021 is £0 - Nil. You are therefore still a CHPS Member in 2021.
3. Also notable on the Income side, there was no Plant Fair in May 2020 although expenditure on printing was incurred.
4. Significantly reduced expenditure occurred resulting from no Garden Visits or lectures in April & Sept. to Dec. 2020
5. A Grant from HPS was received for a CHPS Stall at the CGS Spring Flower Show. The booking was made (see expenditure) and this has been carried forward by CGS to their 2021 Show later this year.
6. The 2020 Accounts show a resulting 2020 loss of £59.32
7. Although the finances of CHPS are sound, it is very important that members now start their planting in preparation for the Plant Fair, which is on 1st May this year. Your support on the day is very important to deliver a good profit.

**Peter Howard, CHPS Treasurer,
January 2021**

Election of Chair:

Not happening!

Election of Officers and Committee:

Also not happening, but we do have a vacancy for a Vice Chair should anyone wish to volunteer.

Any other business:

If anybody wishes to raise any points under this heading, then please email cornwallhps@gmail.com.

As promised below is our proposed programme for 2021:

PROGRAMME for 2021

Wednesday	3 March 2021		No meeting
Wednesday	7 April 2021		Probably no meeting
SATURDAY	1 May 2021	Sale	SPRING PLANT SALE: Truro Cattle Market – 10.00am to 2.00pm.
Wednesday	5 May 2021	Visit to	Dick Butter, CHPS member, Brackenwood, Zelah.
Wednesday	2 June 2021	Visit to	Keith & Heather Beales, Treglyn, Gover Valley, St Austell.
Wednesday	7 July 2021	Visit to	Adrienne Lloyd & sister Trish Wilson, South Bosent, Dobwalls.
Wednesday	4 August 2021	Visit to	Irene & Jeremy Newton, New Mills Farm, Ladock.
Wednesday	1 September 2021	Talk by	Ben Pope, Head Gardener, Trotton Place: <i>"Making the Most of What You Have."</i>
Wednesday	6 October 2021	Talk by	Fergus Garret, VMH Curator of the world-famous gardens, Great Dixter.
Wednesday	3 November 2021 (To be confirmed)	Talk by	Christina Shand, Dyffryn Fernant Gardens: <i>"Between a Bog and a Hard Rock – Creating a Garden."</i>
Wednesday	1 December 2021 (To be confirmed)	Social & Talk	Christmas Social + John Sirkett: <i>"Not so Recent tour of Scottish Gardens."</i>
Saturday	11 December 2021	Lunch	Christmas Festive Lunch – date and location to be confirmed, 12.00 for 12.30 pm. Details will be in the Newsletter.
2022			
Saturday	8 January 2022	Walk	New Year Walk, followed by lunch, location to be confirmed.
Wednesday	2 February 2022	AGM & Talk	AGM plus Christopher Bailes, ex Curator RHS Rosemoor: <i>"Forged in Fire & Ice, remarkable Flora of Chile & Patagonia."</i>

REMEMBER: All indoor meetings are 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start, and all outdoor meetings are 6.00 pm for a 6.30 pm start unless stated otherwise.

**Cornwall Hardy Plant Society Spring Plant Sale,
Saturday, 1st May 2021 10am-2pm**

We are planning that our annual Plant Sale at Truro Cattle Market will go ahead this year. It is a vital part of our CHPS income. So, as usual, we all need to prepare as many good quality plants as possible for the tombola and CHPS sales stall.

Here are a few tips to propagate some plants from your garden:

Herbaceous perennials are ideal candidates for division if they have a fibrous root. Dig up your chosen plant soon just before new growth commences. One way to break them up into smaller chunks is to put two forks back-to-back and lever them apart. With some plants you can

immerse in a wheelbarrow of water, which enables you to wash the soil off and then tease them apart with your hands. Discard the older central portion and put some of the vigorous new growth back in your garden but saving some to pot up for the Plant Sale. If you do this soon they will be well rooted by 1st May. Please label these plants, but, if you do not know the name, just put the genus, height and colour on the label. Water these new divisions and look after them so you can bring some really good plants to our sale in May. Suitable plants are Asters, Helenium, Rudbeckia, Aстранtia, Astilbe, Phlox, and Geranium.

Another method to propagate herbaceous perennials is to take cuttings soon just as the new shoots emerge. Take the cutting at the base of a shoot and plant in a pot with gritty compost, and place in a cold frame, they should be well rooted by 1st May. Suitable plants are Nepeta (catmint), Chrysanthemums, and Leucanthemums (Shasta daisy.) Sometimes you can get Irishman's cuttings by tracing the stem down into the soil with a bit of root already attached, pot on as above.

Any other good rooted plants will be very acceptable, bedding, houseplants, alpines, succulents, shrubs and vegetables such as courgettes, squashes, cucumbers and tomatoes. Let us hope we are able to get together at last and enjoy all the wonderful plants on offer and make a good fund-raising effort.

Tricia Howard

Just to reinforce the fact that the meeting scheduled for the 3rd March is cancelled as we are all in lockdown until the 8th March.

Footnote: We now have the government's Roadmap Out of Lockdown, which will have an impact on some of the content of this Newsletter which was constructed prior to this event. We will update you of that impact in the March Newsletter.

That's all folks

Phil Gadd