



**Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held in the Margaret Harker Hall, Yarmouth Road, Blofield,
on Wednesday, 14th March, 2018, from 7.30 p.m.**

- 1) **Welcome:** Mrs Sylvia Nelthorpe, Chair of the Committee, warmly welcomed members to the AGM, acknowledging the long cold winter but feeling that spring was on the way and thoughts would soon be turning to the pleasures of gardening. She invited all to stay on after the meeting for light refreshments and a quiz, kindly organised by Marion Fell.
- 2) **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (8th March, 2017)** were available for members to review. These were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by Peter Mackness and seconded by Jacky Heath, and will be signed as such by the Chair.
- 3) **Matters arising therefrom:** there were no outstanding matters arising from the last meeting.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report:** the accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2017, were available for members to review. Mrs June Drake, the Treasurer, confirmed a surplus for the year of £82.73. The accounts had been reviewed and signed by the Independent Financial Examiner, Mr D Clark, and are available for any member to examine. The club confirmed its gratitude to Mr Clark for again acting in this capacity.

Mrs Drake established that affiliation fees and insurance had been paid to the Royal Horticultural Society, and the affiliation fee to the Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society will be paid later this month.

Mrs Drake confirmed that there had been 65 paid up members last year, which is fewer than in previous years, and urged members to encourage others to join the Club. She proposed that members' subscriptions remain at £7 for the coming year, with guests being asked to pay £2 per meeting. Subscriptions are usually paid at the April meeting and members were encouraged to use a new form, made available at the meeting, to confirm name, address, 'phone number and e-mail address if used, also declaring whether or not each wished to receive e-mails from the club. Mrs Drake confirmed that all personal details would be kept in the strictest confidence and would not be transferred to any other members, third parties or agencies.

As no queries were raised by members, the adoption of the accounts was proposed by Sue Brown, seconded by Marion Fell and agreed by the meeting.

- 5) **Chair's Report:** Mrs Nelthorpe thanked the committee and all members who had helped to run the club for another successful year. Tasks such as organising the raffle, offering refreshments after each meeting, and getting out/putting away the chairs helped to make the club run smoothly for which she was most grateful. Mrs Nelthorpe hoped that members had enjoyed the programme of speakers last year, and although the number of entries to the annual show was reduced, she felt it had been a good and successful event and was pleased to see that several new members had exhibited for the first time.

The benefits of affiliation with the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society (NNHS) were briefly outlined, as was the purpose of asking for members' e-mail addresses, so that information about NNHS shows, outings or other events could be sent to members between meetings.

- 6) **Election of officers and committee:** Mrs Nelthorpe confirmed that she wished to stand down as chairman in 2018, a post which she had held for two years, though was happy to continue to act as Show Secretary, organise the Seed Order Scheme, and generally help and support the club as she could.

The following officers were therefore proposed and agreed by the meeting:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name proposed</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>	
Chair	Mrs June Drake	Mrs P Thomas	Mrs I Negus	
Treasurer	Mrs June Drake	Mrs J Wicks	Ms J Todman	
Assistant Treasurer	Mr Alan Drake, who would take over as Treasurer in 2019.	Mrs J Wicks	Ms J Todman	
Secretary and Programme Secretary	Mrs Susan Rowe	Mrs J Drake	Mrs P Thomas	
Show Secretary and Seed Order Scheme organiser	Mrs Sylvia Nelthorpe	Mrs S Rowe	Mrs J Drake	
Assistant Show Secretary	Mrs Sue Brown	Mrs S Rowe	Mrs J Drake	
Committee members:				
Mrs Margaret Bailey	Mrs Marion Fell	Mrs Jacky Heath	Mrs Joanna Wicks	Mrs Maureen Willsher

Mrs Nelthorpe also wished to thank Mrs Chloe Veale who had been a committee member for the last two years and who had raised the profile of the club by organising attractive and eye catching publicity posters. Mrs Veale had reluctantly withdrawn from the committee, but has offered to continue to assist the club as she can. Publicising club events had been taken over by Marion Fell and Jacky Heath, and all were thanked for their support in this important task. The new and unique club logo, which appeared on the agenda for the first time, will be used on all club programmes etc. The team was thanked for compiling a folded leaflet outlining details about the club and encouraging new people to come along to meetings. These will be distributed at local garden centres, etc.

Lastly Mrs Nelthorpe confirmed that she felt the club was in good hands and would continue to thrive with the support of all members.

Mrs Drake raised a vote of thanks to Mrs Nelthorpe for her chair-ship over the last two years, and proposed that she be nominated as President of the Club, which was greeted with great approbation by all in attendance.

- 7) **Summer Show Schedule for Saturday, 14th July, 2018:** Mrs Nelthorpe outlined the proposed amendments to the 2017 show schedule, including the decorative class 37 as "Over the Rainbow", class 39 "Decorate a child's hat", and some changes to the Home Produce division. The revised schedule will be available to members at the April meeting.
- 8) **Proposed Club Programme 2018:** the proposed programme of speakers and competition titles was outlined by Mrs Susan Rowe. This was agreed by the membership, and will be printed and made available to all members at the April meeting.
- 9) **Seed Order Scheme:** Mrs Nelthorpe confirmed that the seed order scheme offered by Mr Fothergill Seeds is again being well supported by members, and the 50% discount on seeds has been achieved.

10) Any other business

- a) **Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society:** Committee member Mrs Sue Brown outlined how she and Mrs Nelthorpe had attended a meeting of the Society where affiliation of local clubs was discussed. They both felt discussions reflected well on the Club, which has a higher number of members, an annual show, the seed order scheme etc. However it is evident that the Club could benefit from being more closely associated with the Society, and might be successful in the shows organised and enjoy the outings and holidays that larger groups are able to offer, e.g. to Hyde Hall and a visit to gardens in Sussex in August. The Society is also updating its speakers list, and is seeking to train local people to act as show judges. It was felt there were Club members with good knowledge and experience who might wish to consider applying for training to become judges. The speakers at the June meeting would be able to offer more information about this.

Bearing in mind the standard of exhibits at the Club's annual show, members were encouraged to enter the NNHS shows. The next one is to be held on 25th March – see *schedule below*. Anyone interested in exhibiting should speak to Mrs Brown and/or Mrs Nelthorpe.

Mrs Brown also confirmed that she had spoken to various members of the Club and compiled an article outlining the history of the Club, which appears in the current quarterly magazine of the Society. <http://www.nnhs.org.uk/journal.html>

- b) **Festival to celebrate Humphry Repton in Norfolk** – various walks, talks and exhibitions are being planned to celebrate this famous landscape gardener. <http://norfolk.humphryrepton.org.uk/>

11) Date of next Annual General Meeting – Wednesday, 13th March, 2019

The formal meeting closed at 8.05 p.m. and was followed by a short social gathering and a very enjoyable quiz.

Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society: Spring Show

Venue: [Easton & Otley College](#), The Green Room, Jubilee Building, Easton Campus, Easton, NR9 5DX

Staging: Saturday 24th March (10 am -3.30 pm) **Open to Public: Sunday 25 March** (10 am-4 pm)

Entries: by 6 pm on Wednesday 21st March

to Lesley Webdale, Mirtna Cottage, Whinburgh Road, Westfield, Dereham, NR19 1QL
or Telephone: 01362 821549 / Email to: showentry@nnhs.org.uk

AFFILIATED SOCIETY CLASSES SCHEDULE

- AF1 Two cultivars of Daffodils, three stems of each, one cultivar to a vase.
AF2 Vase of three Daffodils, vase of three Tulips and one Alpine pot or pan in a table space 45 cm.
AF3 Two Pot Plants, flowering.
AF4 Two Pot Plants, foliage.
AF5 Bowl of flowers, with foliage, grown by members. Space allowed 90 cm.