

Newsletter

Spring 2017

It doesn't seem long since I was writing this a year ago – a sign of getting older I am told! The winter so far has been relatively mild, and signs of the Spring are appearing rapidly. Snowdrops and daffodils are appearing in gardens and hedgerows, and new-born lambs jumping around in the fields. As far as this year's growing season goes, we can only wait and see – the predictions of the weather forecasters change rapidly. No doubt someone will have given a correct forecast.

Annual General Meeting:

The AGM took place in the billiard room at the Unity Club on Tuesday 7th February. Unfortunately the Pool room was already booked, this only becoming apparent shortly before the meeting. The billiard room was adequate, but somewhat hidden through a door and down a corridor. More apologies than usual were received for various reasons, and the numbers attending were lower than usual at about 20.

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted. The Chairman gave a report on the previous year and thanked all members of the committee for their invaluable contributions to running the Society. The Treasurer, Pat Baker, gave his report, and issued copies of the accounts, which he expanded on. Essentially they showed that the Society continues to be in a satisfactory financial position.

Elections were held and the new officers and committee are as follows: -

President:	Ken C. Dunthorn
Chairman:	John Merrick (Avalon House, Lower Godney, Wells BA5 1RZ)
Vice Chairman:	Jim Searle
Correspondence Secretary:	Mrs Lin Driscoll
Minutes Secretary:	Mrs Mary Whitaker
Entries Secretary:	Pat Baker
Membership Secretary:	Pat Baker
Treasurer:	Pat Baker (2 Prospect Close, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5YD)
Show Manager:	Gordon West
Press Officer:	Ruth Hamlett
Committee:	John Baker, Chris Bentley, Paul Boncey, Mrs Kay Burleton, Colin Driscoll, Sonny Dunthorn, Mrs Sandra Lovelace, Tony Nicholls, Les Taylor, Terry Vernoum, Kate Wilson Plus Officers

Again, the officers are unchanged, and the only change to the committee was the resignation of Barrie Lovelace. Although unable to attend, his wife, Sandra was asked to pass on our thanks for his contribution to the committee over a long period. President, Ken Dunthorn, reminded us that the committee has the ability to co-opt members during the year – so if any members would like to become more involved by joining the committee they should contact any member of the committee.

Thanks to Pat Baker for organising the raffle and to Gordon West for arranging the refreshments.

After the break, we were treated to a magnificent demonstration of Floral Art by Jake Nicholson-Lailey, assisted by his colleague, James. Jake owns and runs Abundiflora Florists in Glastonbury, and has impressive qualifications in his subject. He also has access to flowers which he sources for his shop. His demonstration consisted of a number of designs (seven I think I counted), including two with a Valentine's Day theme. He was able to produce these at a rate that left the members who know how difficult it is flabbergasted! Jake donated the finished arrangements for prizes in the raffle – and these were rapidly snapped up. Jake drew the tickets for the raffle. A very popular demonstration – no doubt others will be regretting missing it. Some photos of the demonstration are below:-

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society



These will be available at the **Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, 6th May in the Library Gardens, Street**, starting at 8am until c12 noon. Fuchsia plants for the Members Challenge cup will also be available. Plants are being supplied by members and grown on by Sweet Acre Nursery. We plan to have an even better selection of plants this year, so come early for best choice. Money raised at the plant sale helps to fund the Annual Show, along with donations and sponsors.

The date for the **Society's Annual Show** will be on **Saturday, 9th September**. As mentioned at the AGM, it looks as though Crispin Hall may not be available in time for the show, and the committee have been looking at other options. The current plan is to hold the Annual Show in the Victoria Club, Street. This has the advantage of having parking – an added bonus, as the lower end of Leigh Road now has double yellow lines preventing any parking there!

Also mentioned at the AGM was the decision by the committee to review the prize money for the Annual Show. This has not changed for a long time, so discussion will be taking place in committee. Obviously, the money has to come from somewhere. A slight increase in entry fees will raise some of this, but sponsors for classes currently not sponsored would be very welcome.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a class should contact Ken Dunthorn on 01458 442477 ASAP as he is currently preparing the schedule for printing.

Schedules should be available at the Plant Sale.

Joseph Rogers (Joe):- Report by Ken Dunthorn

Since the last Newsletter, sadly we have to report that Joe has died. He was a good gardener and his garden at Goswell Road, Street was a “feast for the eyes”, a regular “CORNUCOPIA” of produce, especially the contents of his Polytunnel. He exhibited at our shows and achieved success with prize cards.

Joe was a Somerset man to the core. He served in the infantry from 1939 to 1946. As a teenager he escaped from Dunkirk and saw further service at El Alamein, Sicily, Anzio and finally France, Belgium & Germany. He returned home to his beloved Somerset to complete over forty years as an electrician with SWEB. His cheery nature will be sadly missed. His daughter, Jill, and her husband, Steve Durston of DURSTON GARDEN PRODUCTS LIMITED are supporters of the Society which will keep a link for us.

To improve communication and to save paper and postage, it would be helpful to have e-mail addresses for as many members as possible. This would reduce the cost of keeping you informed. Please send your e-mail addresses to Pat Baker (pbaker042000@yahoo.co.uk) or John Merrick (merrickj13@gmail.com). Contributions to the Newsletter also welcome. Please also look on our website – www.streetcdvs.org.uk ,

and our Facebook page - .