

Newsletter

Spring 2018

What a winter so far! Having had a long spell of very wet weather, a brief dry period ended with cold from Siberia meeting storm Emma, and giving us heavy snowfalls. The Met Office issued the first “Red Warning” for the South West. Travel was pretty impossible for a couple of days, with many vehicles being stranded for long periods. As I write this, the snow has nearly all gone, and rain and hailstones have taken over. Gardening will have to wait, and spring is being delayed!

Annual General Meeting:

The AGM took place in the main hall at the Unity Club on Tuesday 6th February. Unfortunately the Pool room was again double booked, and we had to use the stage end of the main hall. The reports from the Officers were given from the stage, although we were not accustomed to looking down on the members! A cold evening, but reasonably well attended. Numbers attending were just under 30.

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 although we made a small loss during the year. This was due to a combination of lower sales at the Plant Sale and the increased Prize money in the Annual Show. However, the number of entries in the Annual Show was somewhat higher than in previous years.

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:	Post not filled – discuss at next committee meeting
Committee:	Chris Bentley, Paul Boncey, Colin Driscoll, Mrs Ruth Hamlett, Mrs Sandra Lovelace, Les Taylor, Terry Vernoum, Mrs Kate Wilson Plus Officers

Ruth Hamlett is unable to continue as our Press Officer, although she is remaining on the committee. Ruth has been very efficient in organising publicity for the Society, making contact with various local magazines as well as the local papers, and producing a display board about the Society, and contributing to the Society Facebook pages and the tombola. Our thanks to Ruth for all her hard work. A replacement for Ruth as Press Officer was not found at the AGM, but we hope to fill that role in committee. 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.

For many years, our President, Ken Dunthorn, has composed the Schedule for the Annual Show each year. He has been very successful in this, as it is not a simple task. Paul Boncey has volunteered to take this on, with the support of the committee. We wish him well.

There was also a discussion regarding the venue for the 2018 Annual Show. The Victoria Club was felt to have been very successful for the last show. There was also some doubt that Crispin Hall may not be available early enough for us to be confident about using it this year. On a show of hands, there was strong support for using the Victoria Club again. The committee is always pleased to receive feedback from

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members and it would be useful to hear how you feel about this. See contact details on website – www.streetcdvs.org.uk or at the end of this Newsletter.

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

After the break, we were treated to an excellent illustrated talk on “How to Grow Giant Vegetables” by Claire Hart, from Donyatt. Claire is an “Agriculturalist and PR Expert” (website: www.grassrootspr.co.uk) and was recommended by Les Taylor, who heard her speak to Compton Dundon Gardening Club. She did not disappoint! Lots of information and amazing photos. Apart from dedication in looking after your vegetables, the secret is buying special giant vegetable seed!

This year’s **Annual Plant Sale** will be held on **Saturday, 19th 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, 8th September**

As previously mentioned, the prize money for the Annual Show was increased last year, and we are told that it is now better than many National Shows. The 2017 Schedule is on the website – but will be replaced by the 2018 schedule when available, and prize money is detailed in the schedule. We are always pleased to have new sponsors for classes in the Show. Anyone wishing to sponsor a class should contact Paul Boncey on 07775697879 ASAP as he is currently preparing the schedule for printing.

Schedules should be available at the Plant Sale.

Obituaries: We are sad to report that the following members/supporters of the Society have died since the last Newsletter:-

Joy Dunthorn: Joy was treasurer for a while and she scrutinised the Society’s accounts very closely! She also helped to sell raffle tickets at the shows, and supplied cakes for, & sometimes helped with the refreshments. She passed away last November after being at Arthur’s Court Home for about a year. She will be missed.

Margaret Burge: Margaret was associated with the Society for many years. Her first husband, Gordon Richards, who died in the 1990’s, was a very good chrysanthemum grower and won many prizes locally, regionally and nationally. Margaret was a very good knitter. In the 1970’s & 1980’s she produced sweaters for all the committee emblazoned with C D & V Society. After a spell as a widow, she married Geoff Burge, who was keen on growing sweet peas & fuchsias. He joined the Society, and soon became the secretary. He sadly also died. Margaret continued to involve herself with the Society and was a generous sponsor of the Show in the names of her husbands. Margaret died just before Christmas 2017. She will be missed.


Mike Lewis: Mike was a “born in Street” supporter of the Society for many years; his dry humour was something not to be missed when walking around the show exhibits.

Mrs Elsie Higgins: Mrs Higgins was the widow of one of our founder members – Fred Higgins. Elsie passed away recently at the ripe old age of 103!

(Obituaries by Ken Dunthorn)

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STOP PRESS: At the committee meeting on 6th March, **Kate Wilson** was appointed to fill the post of Press Officer. We are delighted that she has agreed to fill that post, and wish her all the best. I am sure she will make an excellent job of this.

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 - .