



**The 64th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY**

**MINUTES**

**The online meeting took place on the 29th September 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

Presenters: Roy Lancaster (Patron), Jan Vaughan (Chair), Pamela Clark (Vice Chair), Stuart Senior (Hon Treasurer), Helen Curtis (Hon Secretary)

Webinar Host: Jon Segar

Attendees were welcomed by Jan Vaughan

This was our first online AGM. There were 74 requests received from members to attend the meeting. The voting was completed prior to the meeting by ballot. There was no open forum and no matters were submitted for the Trustees to consider.

Apologies for absence were received by Diane Puncheon, Julie Harvey, Jan Craig, Sue Lander Sue Pinsent, Eileen Heylin, Judith Thompson and Lynne and Brian Hackett

**1. Approve the minutes of the last AGM 2020.**

The AGM last year was cancelled, as were all meetings and other events last year. The accounts were published in the July newsletter along with the ballot paper and the results were published in the November Newsletter. There were no matters arising so this is considered to be a true record.

**2. Annual Report of the Chair. :**

The report was published prior to the meeting in the July 2021 Newsletter. However, Jan announced a few recent developments. Pamela Clark agreed to stand for election as Chair, she was a great support as Vice Chair over the last year, and she will provide a good lead for the Society.

Jan continued -

‘There are now signs of normality after the fear and confusion of the Coronavirus pandemic. Face to face meetings are gradually being added to our calendars. As gardeners we have perhaps enjoyed extra time spent in the garden but missed friendship and inspiration found in meeting with others. The benefits of gardening for our mental health and wellbeing have also been talked about.

HPS only exists because individuals are prepared to offer their time and energy to ensure that things run smoothly at National and Local level. New volunteers are always needed; volunteering gives an opportunity to join others in making the Hardy Plant Society even better.'

Jan thanks the Trustees, Post holders and Clare our Administrator for her help and support during the last three years. Finally we all look forward to the next meeting in Somerset.

### **3. Annual Report from the Treasurer**

The accounts were published in the July Newsletter. 2020 was a strange year - there was very little spent on bursaries, and nothing on shows. Subscription income was down and the trend is continuing; the reasons for this are unclear as group membership numbers have been stable. More analysis is required and this is a matter for the Trustees to consider.

No comments have been received about the accounts and they have been approved by Trustees, published in the newsletter and reported to the Charity Commission.

The accounts were duly adopted.

### **4. Results of the Ballot**

Election of Pamela Clark as Chair, proposed by Linda Hall, seconded by Jamie Blake

Currently there is no vice chair as this is a position previously held by Pamela Clark.

Re-election of Stuart Senior as Hon. Treasurer, proposed by Roy Strickland,  
seconded by Lady Rosemary Fitzgerald

Re-election Helen Curtis as Hon. Secretary, proposed by Jan Vaughan,  
seconded by Catherine Part

Election of Graham Farquhar as Trustee, proposed by Jan Vaughan, seconded by Helen Curtis

Election of Heather Farquhar as Trustee, proposed by Jan Vaughan, seconded by Helen Curtis  
both Graham and Heather Farquhar were previously co-opted by the Trustees

Approval of James Watts as the independent examiner of the Societies Accounts

Thanks to all members for joining in the voting process.

### **5. Roy Lancaster addressed the members**

Roy welcomed Pamela and thanked her for accepting the role as Chair. He also thanked Jan for her work over the last three years. Roy also offered thanks to the Journal and Newsletter editors and the organisers of Local and Special Groups

HPS is a force for good and the love of gardening, but Roy's thoughts turned to all those people who don't have a garden or access to a park, perhaps because they live in high rise flats or inner cities, he recognised their difficulties particularly during the pandemic.

Plants can, however, be found in the most unlikely places. Roy noticed plants (weeds) growing on the verge near his house, after it had been left rough following roadworks. He surveyed what grew there over the last two years and noted 73 different species of wild flowers, including the shining cranesbill, moss mallow and fiddle dock (the leaves resemble a fiddle). Roy had enjoyed researching the folklore and stories about the plants he'd found.

Sharing plants, swapping seeds and seedlings, forging friendships all make the world a better place. Roy gave a special praise for everyone involved in the Seed Distribution Scheme. We welcome new members - and say farewell to past members, but they are not forgotten. Things are now improving and we look forward to a good year ahead.

Finally Pamela offered thanks to Roy Lancaster, Jan Vaughan, Post holders, Clare Powell, our Administrator, Jon Segar and to members for giving up their time to attend.