

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY MIDDLESEX GROUP – AGM 2019

Chair's Report

1. 2018 was very busy year for HPSMG. The key highlights of the year were:
 - an increase in our membership figure to 124 – a record number;
 - a very successful Passionate About Plants 2018 with four excellent speakers and a variety of nurseries and marketplace sellers;
 - day trips to Pashley Manor Tulip Festival, RHS Malvern, Capel Manor and Myddleton House and Gardens, Falconhurst NGS and Chapel Down Vineyard;
 - an excellent programme of eight thought provoking and inspiring speakers; and
 - three public plant sales.

2. However the year has not been without its challenges:
 - it has proved difficult to get people to join the Committee and to volunteer to help with specific projects. We are grateful to those people who have stepped forward to fill Officer posts for 2019, and those who have volunteered to join the Passionate About Plants 2020 sub-group, but more help is always welcomed;

 - we have seen the revenue from plant sales decline as people, for good reasons, no longer take tables at the public plant sales or bring or donate plants at evening meetings. HPSMG has an excellent reputation for its plant sales and we want that to continue. We are very grateful to Brian Franklin for all his hard work in running these and we need more people who can bring and sell plants to continue his good work.

3. Looking forward to 2019, the Committee's priorities are:
 - a successful Passionate About Plants 2020;

 - delivering a range of trips that appeal to our Members. As it has not proved viable to run the overnight trips we planned to Keukenhof and RHS Chatsworth this year because of the cost of transport and hotel rooms, our primary focus in the future will be on day trips;

 - increased publicity and visibility for HPSMG to raise awareness of the Group and what it offers and attract new members including a presence at other shows and fairs including Chenies and Eastcote House ;

 - to consider how we might diversify what we offer e.g. through visits to HPSMG Members' Gardens and other activities.

4. Lastly, we could not run HPSMG without the commitment and hard work not only of the Committee members, but also those who look after the raffle, our seeds and card sales and run the refreshments rota and I would like to document my thanks to them for their on-going support, without which the Group could not continue.

Lynne Ronayne- Belhadj - Chair – HPSMG
18th February 2019