

GALLEYWOOD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

2019 AGM – Chairman's Report

You will all know that this is my last year as Chairman. Having been a committee member for 16 years I would like to thank all those have been either on the committee or have acted in any way as helpers. Over the years our society has managed to cope with the changes required as society in general has changed. I trust we will all support the new committee over the coming years. Apart from the secretary and me, Jean Baldwin is also 'retiring.' She has been on the committee for thirteen years. She has run the monthly raffle and also made her home available to us for summer parties. We are indebted to her for her constant presence and help.

We started this year wondering if we would be able to keep the society going past the end of 2019. Over the year, attendance for the monthly meetings has been slightly up on average. Entries for the Show were in line with previous years although, disappointingly, there was no increase in numbers for the vegetable classes. Despite losing money on recent outings, we decided to arrange a trip to RHS Wisley this year and it was a success financially as well as an enjoyable day out. The celebrity evening was our most well attended for many years.

In the summer it was decided we should go ahead and produce a programme for 2020. Margaret has managed to produce a full programme for next year with a very interesting celebrity speaker. Officers for the committee have been identified and we hope you will support the nominations we have made as a committee. Extra committee members are still needed to back them up and add ideas.

At this point I would like to express a particularly strong thank you to Margaret for her hard work as secretary arranging all our meetings and bearing the brunt of all our problems. She was a committee member for five years, three of which were as secretary. Then after a break, came back as secretary for the last two years to help us keep going. Alongside her, Sarah our treasurer, Philip, Helen and recently Lynne have been stalwarts in their support for the society. They have now been joined by Bill. Without them all we would certainly have had to fold some time ago.

Finally, Peter Seabrook has been our President since 2000. Anyone involved in any way with the society since then will know that it is due to his unstinting and generous support that we have been able to perform as we have over the past twenty years. He is still a very busy man. Nevertheless he always turns up to all our meetings and we all owe him our most sincere thanks.

Richard Spilsbury