

Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2011

The 207th Annual General Meeting of The Royal Horticultural Society will be held at 2pm on Friday 1 July 2011 in the Pinetum Marquee at RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB.

Agenda

1. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. MINUTES To approve the Minutes of the 206th Annual General Meeting held on 1 July 2010.*

3. ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2010/11

To receive and consider the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for 2010/11.*

4. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND TREASURER To declare the unopposed election of Elizabeth Banks as President and Sir Nicholas Bacon as Treasurer for the next year.

5. ELECTION TO COUNCIL To elect five members to Council.

Further information on the vacancies and details of candidates are given from pages 5 to 11. Voting will be by postal ballot in advance of the meeting – your voting paper can be found on page 15 of this booklet.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS To appoint PKF (UK) LLP as the Society's Auditors for the next year. Voting will be by show of hands.

7. APPOINTMENT OF VICE PRESIDENTS To announce the appointment of Vice Presidents of the Society for the next year.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Copies of the Minutes for last year's AGM and the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for 2010/11 are available on the RHS website at <http://www.rhs.org.uk/agm>; or from The Secretary by calling the AGM Helpline on 020 7821 3679; by email at agm@rhs.org.uk; or by post at 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE. Copies will also be available at the meeting. A summary of the Financial Statements will also appear in the July 2011 edition of The Garden.

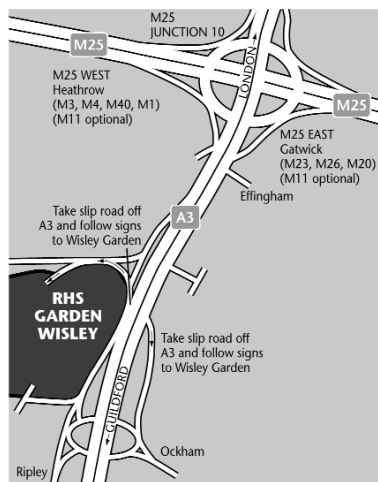
Please note that photographs may be taken of the meeting for publication in the Society's own journals and on the RHS website. These photographs may also be released to other media organisations. By attending the meeting, you consent to being photographed for this purpose.

For an alternative format of this Agenda, please call the AGM Helpline on 020 7821 3679, textphone 18001 020 7834 4333, or email agm@rhs.org.uk

Attending the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the RHS will be held in the Pinetum Marquee at RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB at 2pm on Friday 1 July 2011. The doors will open at 1pm.

How to get to the RHS Garden Wisley



By Road: The Garden lies between Cobham and Ripley in Surrey off the main London to Portsmouth road (A3) south of Junction 10 of the M25. You can find the Garden by following the brown tourist attraction flower symbols on the A3 and M25. Car parking is free.

By Bus: Daily from Surbiton train and Guildford bus stations. For further information please call Surrey Travel Line on 0871 200 2233.

By Train: From London Waterloo to West Byfleet or Woking. Taxis are usually available at the stations. West Byfleet is approximately 5 miles from Wisley, Woking approximately 7 miles.

Shuttle Bus: The RHS will be running a complimentary shuttle bus from Woking Station with buses leaving at 11am, 12pm and 1pm and returning from RHS Garden Wisley at 4pm, 5pm and 6pm. For further information or to book a place on the bus please call 01483 224234.

Access to the Marquee at RHS Garden Wisley: The Marquee has full access and facilities for people with disabilities. In the event that you require assistance, please speak to any RHS member of staff.

Admission to the AGM: You will need to show your RHS membership card to gain admission to the AGM. If you are attending the AGM as the representative of an affiliated society or other organisation you will be required to produce evidence that you are authorised to act on its behalf. Further guidance on acceptable forms of authority can be obtained from The Secretary of the RHS.

Security: You will be required to keep any bags or other personal belongings with you throughout the AGM. You may also be asked to agree to your personal items being searched.

Facilities for those with a hearing impairment: There will be an induction loop available during the AGM.

Mobile Telephones: Please turn off mobile telephones before entering the AGM.

Refreshments: Tea and coffee will be available after the AGM.

Medical Care: If you require medical attention, please contact any RHS member of staff who will ensure that you receive assistance.

Smoking: Smoking is not permitted in the Marquee or other indoor areas.

AGM Helpline: 020 7821 3679. If you have any questions about the AGM please call this Helpline between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Your normal telephone call charge will apply.

Making the most of your day: RHS Garden Wisley will be open from 10am to 6pm.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes

The Chairman (the President unless she is not present) will invite you to approve the Minutes as an accurate record of last year's AGM.

Agenda Item 3 – Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements 2010/11

The Annual Report is presented to the meeting by the President and explains what the Society has achieved over the past year and its plans for 2011.

During discussion of this item, you are very welcome to provide feedback and ask questions. However, it is helpful if you let us know your questions in advance of the meeting so that we can ensure that we have the information available to give you a full answer. You can provide advance notice of your question to The Secretary by calling the AGM Helpline on 020 7821 3679, by email at agm@rhs.org.uk or by post – 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE.

Agenda Item 4 – Election of President and Treasurer

PRESIDENT

The President of the Society is elected annually by the membership and provides leadership and direction to the Society's Council Members, enabling them to fulfil their responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the RHS. The President also acts as Chairman of Council and is a trustee of the Society.

The only candidate validly nominated for election as President this year was Elizabeth Christina Banks. As there were no other candidates, Elizabeth Banks will be declared elected unopposed as President of the RHS.

TREASURER

The Treasurer of the Society is elected annually by the membership and is responsible for advising the President and Council on the Society's financial and business affairs including those of the trading subsidiaries. The Treasurer also acts as Chairman of the Society's Business Committee and is a trustee of the Society.

The only candidate validly nominated for election as Treasurer this year was Sir Nicholas Hickman Ponsonby Bacon. As there were no other candidates, Sir Nicholas Bacon will be declared elected unopposed as Treasurer of the Society.

Agenda Item 5 – Election to Council

The Council of the RHS is responsible for the strategic direction of the Society and ensures that it acts in accordance with the objectives set out in the RHS Charter. Council comprises the President, Treasurer, 15 ordinary members and up to two co-opted members. Those who serve on Council are also the trustees of the Society.

Every year, as part of the democratic running of the Society, at least three ordinary members of Council retire and the resulting vacancies are filled by election at the AGM. At this year's AGM George Anderson, Michael Balston, David Haselgrove and Sarah Joiner will retire as ordinary members of Council and their places will be filled by election for a term of five years. George Anderson, David Haselgrove and Sarah Joiner are eligible to stand for re-election. In addition there are two casual vacancies to be filled by election arising from the election of Elizabeth Banks and Sir Nicholas Bacon to their positions of President and Treasurer at the AGM in 2010. These vacancies will be for a term of one year and a term of two years. Michael Balston will be co-opted onto Council for one further year.

Agenda Item 6 – Appointment of Auditors

The Society is required to arrange for its accounts to be audited by a firm of chartered accountants and the Bye-laws provide for an auditor to be appointed annually at the AGM. Council recommends that the Society's existing auditor, PKF (UK) LLP, be reappointed for 2011/12. The Chairman will invite you to vote on this recommendation by show of hands.

Agenda Item 7 – Appointment of Vice Presidents

Each year, Council appoints a number of members of the RHS to serve as Vice Presidents of the Society. The office is honorary and appointment recognises either past contribution to the Society's activities or the ability to contribute in the future to the achievement of the Society's aims and objectives. Vice Presidents are expected to act as ambassadors for the Society.

Council has appointed the following to the office of Vice President for 2011/12:

Lawrence Banks CBE, DL, VMH
Christopher Brickell CBE, VMH
Ambrose Congreve CBE
The Count de Kerchove de Denterghem
Vicomte Philippe de Spoelberch
Raymond Evison OBE, VMH
The Rt Hon the Lord Heseltine CH, PC
Carolyn Hardy OBE, VMH
Robert Hillier OBE, VMH

Professor Brian Huntley
Roy Lancaster OBE, VMH
John Ravenscroft VMH
John Sales VMH
The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury VMH
Martin Slocock VMH
Dr Kiat Wee Tan
Alan Titchmarsh MBE, DL, VMH
Professor Harold Tukey

Candidates being elected to Council

The following candidates are validly nominated for this year's election:

James Alexander-Sinclair

Proposed by: Alan Titchmarsh

Seconded by: Juliet Roberts

Supported by: Leslie Nigel Colborn; Andrea Jones; Tom Stuart-Smith; Joe Swift; Cleve West; Matthew Wilson



I have been gardening professionally for ever. Well, since at least 1984.

Firstly as a Landscape Contractor in London where I started Terra Firma Landscapes. We used to beetle around in a van laying terraces, building walls, erecting fences and maintaining gardens. In 1992 my family and I moved to Northamptonshire where we built a house and began making the garden at Blackpitts.

Around the same time I morphed from contractor to Garden Designer and since then have worked on many projects both large and small.

I have also presented television programmes for the BBC and Channel 4 and give lectures all over the country to diverse audiences from local gardening clubs to international flower shows. Currently I write monthly columns in *Gardeners' World Magazine* and *The English Garden* and have written for many other magazines and newspapers.

I have been involved with the RHS for many years by contributing to Press launches, compereing theatres and as a show garden exhibitor and judge. I would relish the opportunity to contribute further. I feel passionately that we need to work together to build a Society fit and ready for the next couple of centuries.

George Anderson

Proposed by: Stephen Blackmore

Seconded by: Roy Lancaster

Supported by: George Hiton; Jim McColl; Dr Valerie Payne; Dougal Philip;

Dr David Rae; David Sinclair



I have had a lifelong involvement in gardening and horticulture, serving my apprenticeship in an East Lothian estate walled garden, then working in the glasshouse crops industry in the Clyde Valley before entering the student course at The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in 1966. I was Head of its School of Horticulture from 1983 to 2004.

In the training and education of horticulturists of all ages I introduced students gardeners on the 'Diploma Horticulture Edinburgh' (DHE) Course, aspiring Plantsmanship students on the HND 'Horticulture with Plantsmanship' Course, RHS General students in evening classes and as distance learning students, as well as students of Landscape Architecture to the magic of horticulture and the world of plants. I have served as Senior Examiner at General, Diploma and Master of Horticulture (MHort RHS) levels and continue to be involved in my role as Chairman of the RHS Qualifications Advisory Committee.

As a keen gardener and allotment holder, I am very concerned with the need for practical skills to be passed on to the next generation of gardeners before it is too late and they are lost. I would therefore, if re-elected, bring my long experience of working and teaching in horticulture to Council and the wider membership, especially in relation to the Society's ongoing and developing role in education. I am also keen that the RHS establishes a stronger presence in Scotland.

Dennis Edward Espley

Proposed by: Colin Squire

Seconded by: Gordon Rae

Supported by: Dr Stephen Dowbiggin; Robert Hillier; Malcolm Joyce; Charles Notcutt; Dougal Philip; Christine Walkden; Richard Webb



I have been involved in horticulture for 40 years, studying at Pershore College, then working in nurseries and landscaping. Most of my career has been spent in garden centres, the last 25 at Squire's Garden Centres where I am Managing Director.

My interest in horticulture, gardening and as an allotment holder, as well as contact with gardeners at all levels of skill and ages, helps me to understand the interests of RHS members.

Many of the horticultural and commercial issues I encounter as MD are the same as those experienced by the RHS.

I enjoy visiting gardens and nurseries and am active in the horticultural trade, currently the Chairman of the Garden Centre Association, a member of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners and recently Plant Heritage.

For the last four years I have been a member of the RHS Nominations Committee, and recently appointed a trustee of the RHS Pension Fund. This valuable experience has enabled me to understand the wide ranging activities and quality of work the RHS carries out currently and its future direction.

I am enthusiastic to encourage gardeners at all levels of skill, and hope that as finance permits the RHS will be able to open gardens in other parts of the country.

David Keith Haselgrove

Proposed by: Dougal Philip

Seconded by: Captain Peter Erskine

Supported by: Chris Brickell; Giles Coode-Adams; Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson; Gordon Rae; Lady Skelmersdale; Martin Slocock



My professional career was as a solicitor in general practice in North East London for over 35 years.

I am a keen amateur plantsman who created a 3 ½ acre on a bare field site. The garden is maintained without paid help and has a wide variety of trees, perennials, fruit, vegetables, alpines and bulbs. We have opened our garden for over 10 years under the National Gardens Scheme.

I have worked as a volunteer officer and committee member of the Alpine Garden Society over the last thirty years and as publications manager and managing director of AGS Publications Ltd for 25 years, being responsible for the publishing activities and book sales of the Society.

I have served as an RHS judge for many years and was chairman of the Rock Garden and Alpine judging group for two years. I also serve on the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee. I am a member of Business Committee and also of Audit and Risk, Nominations and Appointments, Gardens Advisory, Shows Advisory, Trials Advisory and Plants Advisory Committees. I am one of the Garden Advisors to Hyde Hall Garden.

The Hon Sarah Joiner

Proposed by: Pamela Macfarlane

Seconded by: Mary Dolores Leadbeater

Supported by: The Countess of Buckinghamshire;

Pamela M Cooke; Cheryl Lynch; Kay Rulton; Amanda Stokes-Roberts; Lord Woolf



Following a successful career in the Department of Health and the NHS alongside over 30 years of voluntary sector experience, I am now Chairman of Trustees, Gardening for the Disabled Trust and active Patron of the MS Trust. I enjoy being part of my local community and have good experience of working with young people.

I have greatly enjoyed my time on Council since July 2010 and am a member of the Bursaries, Libraries, Daffodil & Tulip and Fundraising Committees. I have been able to learn how the RHS manages its full and varied work and have been impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of everyone I have met.

I am particularly interested in the wide range of charitable activities the RHS are actively engaged in – Campaign for School Gardening, bursaries to assist young horticulturists, educational qualifications in horticulture, scientific research, conservation of our gardening and horticultural heritage through our libraries and collections – to name just some. RHS Britain in Bloom is making a real difference across the UK and reaching into many communities, encouraging ownership and pride in local neighbourhoods.

I believe I can help in strengthening and widening public awareness of our charitable activities and in securing support to ensure the work continues to achieve our aims.

Mark Stephen Porter

Proposed by: Jane Balfour

Seconded by: Patrick Daniell

Supported by: Duncan Rutter; Catherine Hahn; Sue Alexander; Helen Allan;
Jan Gapper; Anthea Fortescue



I was fortunate to be able to retire in 2010, after 30 years in the IT industry, in order to spend more time on my passionate interests of horticulture and wine-making and to help others using my leadership and management experience.

Moving to a 'blank canvas' of a field 10 years ago, the garden my wife and I have created on chalk in Hampshire was accepted as worthy of the National Garden Scheme 3 years ago. The special feel in winter with coloured stems, drifts of bulbs and evergreens really excites our visitors, as do the rose arbours and vineyard in the summer. I now chair our local Garden Society and speak on

the design and creation of winter gardens.

While meeting and talking to the hundreds of people who come to see the garden it has become clear to me how thirsty they are for detailed knowledge of what grows well – and how – and why – and that I have an ability to communicate clearly and with energy and enthusiasm. I believe I would bring these qualities as a Member of Council in order to help direct the RHS to be ever more relevant to its membership.

Peter Brian Wadham

Proposed by: Philip Hall

Seconded by: John Massey

Supported by: Valerie Barr; Diane Burt; Peter Catt; Daphen Foulsham;
Andrew Lodge; Alan Wolsoncroft



Passionate about plants? Enthusiastic gardener? Concerned about our environment?

I am an avid amateur gardener, member of the RHS for over forty years and long involved with the Alpine Garden Society and the Nerine and Amaryllid Society. My $\frac{3}{4}$ acre garden provides a wide range of challenges, whilst my other leisure pursuits include charitable work for the disabled, sailing and as a local Councillor.

The RHS has four magnificent gardens, 360,000 members, £65m p.a. income, many expert volunteers and much to be immensely proud of. Enthusiastic gardeners, often also members of local or specialised societies, are the backbone of the Society. They epitomise the British love of gardening and deserve to be heard on Council. I hope that the RHS will move forward in achieving better recognition for the contribution that volunteers, including members of committees, provide to the Society.

A career as a director in the finance industry, working with CEO's of the largest international companies, has given me the political and financial skills to make a real contribution to Council's decision making. A vibrant membership fully represented on Council is vital for the success of your Society.

I encourage you to vote; please vote for me.

Thank you.

Voting

As there are seven candidates for five vacancies, an election will be held by postal vote and the result declared at the AGM. The Society has appointed Electoral Reform Services as scrutineers to supervise the ballot.

The election is your chance to elect those who you want to lead the Society, and Council urges you to use your vote. A voting paper can be found at page 15 of this booklet.

You may cast your own vote directly at this election or ask the President of the Society to vote on your behalf as your proxy. The President will cast all proxy votes as she thinks fit. However, the President has asked Council and a specially appointed Nominations and Appointments Committee for guidance as to which candidates would make the most suitable Council members having regard to the skills and experience of the candidates and the current members of Council.

Council Recommends

Council recommends that Members vote for the following candidates for the reasons shown:

James Alexander-Sinclair – James has a rare range of experience and skill, which encompasses having been a garden designer for several years as well as being a well-known writer and broadcaster on gardening issues. His knowledge and experience of horticulture alone would render him a useful Council member, but it is also his particular involvement with both print and broadcast media that attracts him to Council.

George Anderson – George has had an involvement in horticulture that has spanned more than fifty years. He has accumulated knowledge and expertise in roles as diverse as being a gardener's boy to the Head of the School of Horticulture, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. This experience, his active involvement with horticultural education over many years and his leading role in horticulture in Scotland make him a valuable Council member.

Dennis Edward Espley – as managing director of a successful garden centre group as well as currently being chairman of the UK Garden Centre Association, Dennis has extensive experience of the horticultural trade, with which it is important for the Society to maintain close and active links. He has also been involved with the RHS as a member of the Nominations and Appointments Committee for the past four years.

David Keith Haselgrove – David has been a particularly active member of Council for the past year and is also a member of the Business, Gardens Advisory, Trials, Nominations and Audit and Risk Committees. He has acted as an RHS judge and been a member of the Alpine Garden Society for many years. The range and depth of his knowledge of the RHS and his commitment to so many of its activities, combined with his experience as a solicitor, make him a valuable and highly respected member of Council.

The Hon Sarah Joiner – Since joining Council in 2010, Sarah has made a substantial impact by serving on several administrative committees as well as the Daffodil and Tulip Committee. As a member of the Britain in Bloom Development Society Group and chairman of Trustees, Gardening for the Disabled Trust, she speaks with particular authority as a voice for the amateur gardener, on community gardening and for the interests of the disabled in the activities of the RHS and gardening generally.

All five candidates have demonstrated their personal passion for horticultural excellence and gardening.

The President has indicated that she expects to cast her proxy votes for these candidates.

Declaration of Result

The Chairman will declare the result of the election at the AGM.

The three candidates that receive the highest number of votes will serve on Council for five years. The candidate receiving the fourth highest number of votes will fill a casual vacancy and serve for two years. The candidate receiving the fifth highest number of votes will also fill a casual vacancy and serve for one year. The successful candidates will take office from the end of this AGM.

Council Members continuing in office after the AGM

The following members of Council will continue in office after the AGM:

Rosie Atkins
Michael Balston (co-opted)
Christopher Blundell
Raymond Evison OBE VMH
Mark Fane
Peter Gregory
Jekka McVicar
David Morrison
Alastair Muirhead
Dougal Philip
Prunella Scarlett LVO

How to vote at the election for Council 2011

The election to fill the five vacancies on Council will take place by post. You will find a voting paper on page 15. The following instructions will guide you on how to complete the voting paper. Please note that to vote you must be over 18 and an individual, family or associate member of the Society or represent a member organisation such as an affiliated society.

1. Go to Box A and print your name, address and membership number and sign in the space provided. If you are completing the voting paper on behalf of an affiliated society or other member organisation, the Chairman or Secretary of the affiliated society or organisation (or equivalent) must sign the voting paper.

THEN

2. Quick Vote – If you wish to appoint the President as your proxy to cast your vote at her discretion – go to Box B and place an ☒ in the space provided.

OR

If you wish to cast your own vote directly at the election – go to Box C and place an 'X' in the boxes (e.g. ☒) next to the candidates for whom you wish to vote. You may vote for up to **five** candidates. If you vote for more than five candidates, your votes will not be counted.

THEN

3. Once you have completed your voting paper, please detach it from this booklet and return it in your own envelope to The Secretary, The Royal Horticultural Society, c/o Electoral Reform Services, FREEPOST ND6352, 33 Clarendon Road, London, N1 1BR, not later than noon on Friday 24 June 2011 (No stamp required in the UK).

Note: If the voting paper is signed by someone on behalf of an individual Member, a Power of Attorney or letter of authority must be received by The Secretary, The Royal Horticultural Society, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE not later than noon on Friday 24 June 2011.