

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

The 213th Annual General Meeting of The Royal Horticultural Society will be held at 2pm on Wednesday 12 July 2017 at RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon, EX38 8PH.



The Shrub Rose Garden

Photo credit: RHS/Clive Nichols

**For an alternative format of this Notice, or for any other matters relating to the AGM, please contact The Secretary:
by calling the AGM helpline on 020 7821 3653 (textphone 18001 020 7821 3653);
by email to agm@rhs.org.uk; or by mail to 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE**

Agenda

1. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
2. **TREASURER'S REPORT**
3. **DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT**
4. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017**

4a. MINUTES To approve the Minutes of the 212th Annual General Meeting held on 27 June 2016*

Voting will be by a show of hands at the Meeting.

4b. ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016/17

To receive and consider the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for 2016/17.*

4c. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND TREASURER

To declare elected unopposed Sir Nicholas Bacon as President and Alastair (Sandy) Muirhead as Treasurer for the next year.

4d. ELECTION OF ORDINARY MEMBERS TO COUNCIL To declare elected unopposed the following three ordinary members to Council:-

- Neil Lucas
- Mark Porter
- Jon Wheatley

Details of candidates are given from pages 14 to 16.

4e. CO-OPTION OF ORDINARY MEMBERS TO COUNCIL To note that Council has co-opted Kate Lampard to Council until the AGM 2018. Details are given at page 17.

4f. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS To appoint Grant Thornton UK LLP as the Society's Auditors for the next year.

Voting will be by a show of hands at the Meeting.

* Copies of the Minutes for last year's AGM and the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for 2016/17 are available on the RHS website at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/what-we-do/annual-reports> or from The Secretary by calling the AGM Helpline on 020 7821 3653; 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 August 2017 edition of *The Garden*.

4g. APPOINTMENT OF VICE PRESIDENTS To receive the names of the Vice Presidents of the Society for the next year.

Further information about the appointment of the Vice Presidents of the Society for the next year can be found at page 20.

4h. CLOSE OF MEETING

5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (30 MINUTES)

Please note that the RHS may take photographs of the Meeting for publication in *The Garden*, the Society's own journals and/or 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.



Rosemoor House

Photo credit: RHS/Mark Bolton

Attending the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the RHS will be held in the Garden Room at RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon, EX38 8PH at 2pm on Wednesday 12 July 2017. The doors will open at 1.30pm.

How to get to RHS Garden Rosemoor

By road: Exit the M5 Southbound Exit at Junction 27, and join the A361 link road signposted Barnstaple/Bideford. At Barnstaple join A39 signposted Bideford (Atlantic Highway), keep heading towards Bideford on the A39 until you reach a roundabout signposted to Great Torrington (B3232). Take this road and follow it into Great Torrington. RHS Garden Rosemoor is signposted at Great Torrington and is situated 1 mile south on the A3124 road which heads towards Exeter. Car parking is free.

By train: The closest station is Barnstaple (12 miles).

By bus: Bus 5B runs from Barnstaple and Bideford through to Exeter and back. Ring Traveline for up-to-date bus information on 0870 608 2608.

By bicycle: Please note that the approach to RHS Garden Rosemoor will take cyclists on a fast A road. Open-air bike parking facilities are provided.

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

Facilities for those with a hearing

impairment: There will be an induction loop available during the AGM.

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.

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

Refreshments: Tea, coffee and cake 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: For the health & welfare of our visitors, we operate a no-smoking policy, inclusive of e-cigarettes, in or near certain areas of the garden, including: dining or food outlets, eating areas or terraces, picnic areas, covered spaces or buildings and the children's play area. This may extend to other areas of the garden in periods of very dry weather.

AGM Helpline: 020 7821 3653. If you have any questions about the AGM, please call this Helpline between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Your normal telephone call charge will apply.

Map of the area



RHS Garden Rosemoor Tours

The RHS will be running the following free guided tours for members on the day of the AGM:

The Formal Garden

A walk looking at the stunning and fragrant roses and summer flowering perennials within the many themed garden rooms which make up this area. Hear about our exciting new project working with Chelsea Gold medallist Jo Thompson, creating a new cool garden showcasing plants with white and blue flowers and silvery foliage, the garden will also use water to good effect.

Time: 11.30 (approximately 30 mins)

Meeting point: The Hot Garden Terrace

Fruit & Vegetables

A look at the wide range of produce we grow and what we do with the harvest. The walk will showcase what can be grown best in the South West and some of the tricks of the trade which are used to gain perfect crops. Hear about how we select what we grow and learn more about the Award of Garden Merit, the RHS award for outstanding varieties.

Time: 12.00 (approximately 30 mins)

Meeting point: the Fruit and Vegetable Garden

The historic heart of Rosemoor

A walk in Lady Anne's garden full of unusual plants and interest. Anyone interested in plants will find this a paradise, enjoy the informality of the original Rosemoor and hear about how it all started with Lady Anne Berry. Take a look at the various garden rooms like the Exotic and Mediterranean themed plantings which will be coming into their own.

Time: 12.30 (approximately 30 mins)

Meeting point: The front of Rosemoor House

Rosemoor's woodlands

Discover all the work we are doing within our 120 acre woodland estate. Much of this is still not open to our visitors but we are planning to open up more of the estate over time. Have a walk behind the scenes and find out how we are turning timber plantations back to native broadleaves which will in turn increase the wildlife and biodiversity of the estate. The woodland plays a very important role with us creating a natural backdrop to the whole garden along with many borrowed views enhancing its beauty.

Time: 16.00 (approximately 30 mins)

Meeting point: The Winter Garden lawn

Heritage Devon apple orchard

A walk looking at our new orchard and the story behind it. This has been planted this year with help from Orchards Live, the aim is to show case these unusual Devon varieties and also to preserve them for the future. Many have great names which are often descriptive such as 'No Pip' and 'Pig's Nose'; see how they have been planted incorporating the existing wildflower meadow.

Time: 16.15 (approximately 30 mins)

Meeting point: The orchard in the Fruit Garden field

RHS GARDEN ROSEMOOR MAP

Source: RHS (2019/2020)

Key

- Toilet
- Disabled toilet facilities
- Baby changing facilities
- Bird Feeders
- Plant Centre
- Shop
- Picnic Area
- Restaurant & Cafe
- Tea Room
- Road
- Path / Track
- Hedge
- Wall / Fence
- Building
- Glasshouse
- Polytunnel
- Gross
- Beds and borders
- Water
- Children's Play Area
- Tree



Agenda Item 1 – President’s Report

The President will make his statement.

Agenda Item 2 –Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer will make his statement.

Agenda Item 3 – Director General’s Report

The Director General will make her statement.

Agenda Item 4 – Annual General Meeting

Agenda Item 4a – Minutes

The Chairman (the President unless he is not present) will invite you to approve the Minutes as an accurate record of last year’s AGM by a show of hands at the Meeting.

Agenda Item 4b – Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements 2016/17

The Annual Report is presented to the Meeting by the Treasurer and explains what the Society has achieved over the past year and its plans for 2017/18.

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 email at agm@rhs.org.uk , by calling the AGM Helpline on 020 7821 3653 or by writing to 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE.

Agenda Item 4c – 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 the Horticulture Board and is a trustee of the Society.

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

Sir Nicholas Bacon



Proposed by: Nick Dunn

Seconded by: Jekka McVicar

Supported by: James Alexander-Sinclair; Elizabeth Hoare; Richard Hobbs; Brian Humphrey; Lady Tollemache; Jon Wheatley.

My career has been a combination in the small corporate sector of land based and property interests alongside experiences in the not for profit sector. The motivation of volunteers, working with the various Charities which I have chaired, is a vital aspect of a Chairman's role, whether it is fundraising, the implementation of a strategy or the appraisal of the Chief Executive, my experience has covered all these aspects.

The RHS is a remarkable institution, well known but little appreciated for the enormous amount of work it does for the benefit of Horticulture. It is so important for its future in a world where, for example, pathogens are an ever present threat to our native flora, for the RHS to be a strong outward facing organisation capable of being the leading authoritative voice for all gardeners.

My business knowledge will enable me to make sure that the delivery of the charitable aims of The Society is efficient and effective, backed up by a thriving business which provides the financial resource for this to happen.

I have no horticultural qualification other than a passion for growing plants and an appreciation that gardening is a 'good thing' for so many aspects of behavioural and medical conditions. The education of children and a very small apprenticeship scheme is something that happens at my own garden, open 80 days a year for the general public.

It would be a privilege to continue to serve the RHS, I have the time, commitment and experience to do so.

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 Commercial Board and is a trustee of the Society.

The only candidate validly nominated for election as Treasurer this year was Alastair (Sandy) William Muirhead. As there were no other candidates, Sandy Muirhead will be declared elected unopposed as Treasurer of the Society.

Alastair Muirhead (known as Sandy)



Proposed by: Matthew Lindsey-Clark

Seconded by: Sir Anthony May

Supported by: George Anderson; Fiona Duffort; Ewen Gilmour; Dame Mary Keegan; Philip Rego; Katherine Thomas.

My deep love of gardening and plants first brought me into contact with the RHS and its wonderful gardens many years ago and I have been privileged to have been involved with it in an official capacity for the last 20 years, initially joining the Herbaceous Plant Committee ("Floral A") in 1997. I have been a member of Council since 2007 and, as Treasurer since 2013, I chair the Commercial Board, having sat on this Board and its predecessor bodies since 2002. My involvement with the RHS sits alongside and is, I believe, complementary to, my professional career as an accountant, corporate financier and investor spanning 40 years. Since 1996, I have focused on making investments in promising medium-sized UK companies, enabling them to grow, create jobs and develop into stronger, more diverse and often more international businesses. As a result, I bring to the RHS a deep experience of assisting a wide range of organisations in developing their commercial strategies and governance and control structures.

2017 will be an important year for the RHS, as expenditure on its strategic investments programme gets seriously underway. I relish the opportunity to continue to make a contribution to the RHS through the role of Treasurer, supporting the Society's President and Leadership Team in further enhancing the status of the RHS as the UK's pre-eminent gardening charity.

Agenda Item 4d – Election of ordinary members 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, Neil Lucas, Mark Porter and Jon Wheatley will retire as ordinary members of Council and their places will be filled by election for a term of five years. Neil, Mark and Jon are all eligible to stand for re-election and all three have put themselves forward for re-election. There were no other candidates nominated this year.

Therefore, there are three validly nominated candidates for the three vacancies. Accordingly, Neil Lucas, Mark Porter and Jon Wheatley will be declared elected unopposed as members of Council in accordance with the Bye-laws.

Candidates for election to Council

The following candidates are validly nominated for this year's election and will be declared elected unopposed:

Neil Lucas



Proposed by: Cleve West

Seconded by: Fergus Garrett

Supported by: James Alexander-Sinclair; Chris Blundell; Mick Crawley; Nick Dunn; David Haselgrove; Lady Tollemache.

Neil Lucas, M.I Hort, is the UK's leading ornamental grass specialist, owner of Dorset-based Knoll Gardens, RHS Judge, author and holder of ten consecutive Gold Medals at Chelsea. When not on the show circuit, either as Exhibitor or Judge, lecturing, writing, or off on plant hunting expeditions overseas, Neil spends his time tending what he describes as his "four acre exhibit", the garden and nursery at Knoll.

A long-time admirer of both the beauty and utility of grasses, Neil sees them playing an increasingly important part in our gardens. He launched and was first chair of his associated charity, the Knoll Gardens Foundation, which aims to promote the practices used within the garden to help everyone create sustainable, wildlife friendly and aesthetically pleasing gardens.

His genuine passion for his specialised subject led him to publish his first book in 2011, *Designing with Grasses*, described as "a must for gardeners and designers". Although now known for his work with grasses, Neil retains a deep interest in trees and shrubs; which originally led him to purchase Knoll Gardens.

Neil is also in demand on the media circuit and has made numerous television appearances, the most memorable perhaps when he was captured reducing the roots of a miscanthus with a large saw during the BBC's Chelsea coverage!

An accomplished and enthusiastic writer and speaker, Neil runs regular Masterclasses and demonstrations from Knoll Gardens and lectures both in the UK and overseas.

Mark Porter



Proposed by: Penny Snell

Seconded by: Rosemary Alexander

Supported by: Rosamund Bernays; Wolfgang Bopp; Catherine Hahn; Andrew McIndoe; Cathy Swann; Victoria Wakefield.

I have been a member of the RHS for many years, having developed a real passion for gardening since growing vegetables on my first allotment in my early 20's. Gardening clearly got into my blood as the desire to create a new garden for all seasons that could be shared with the public grew and grew and finally saw fruition after moving to a 'blank canvas' of field in Hampshire in 2001.

I am keen to pass on the practical skills I have learned to the next generation of gardeners, as well as those who just have a love of visiting and enjoying gardens and wanting to take home new ideas – that sense of well-being that a good visit gives visitors is such a positive experience. I now regularly give lectures to societies and clubs on a variety of gardening subjects.

I am the Hampshire County Organiser for the National Garden Scheme, overseeing 150 gardens across the county, raising funds for the beneficiary of charities such as Macmillan and Marie Curie. I also chair a thriving local horticulture society.

In my first term on Council I was able to contribute my financial, business and good governance experience gained during a long career in the world of IT and Strategy Consulting. I seek to continue this involvement, as well as contributing my increasing passion for developing our work in Community Outreach and schools, a key charitable aim of the RHS.

Jon Wheatley



Proposed by: Jekka McVicar

Seconded by: Grey Redwood

Supported by: Graham Badman; Helen Bainbridge; Wolfgang Bopp; David Haselgrove; Clare Hermans; Matthew Soper.

I have been a Council member for over four years and during my tenure community horticulture has developed with Britain in Bloom, the Campaign for School Gardening and community outreach. All of these initiatives I am fully committed to.

I trained at Wisley and have been fortunate to pursue a life's interest in plants and growing, designing and building many Chelsea and Hampton exhibits in Garden Design and Floral Projects. I have been awarded the Associate of Honour, Lawrence Medal and Tudor Rose Awards as well as many other medals. I run a nursery with my wife Jane and a landscape design and build company, in the West of England, with my daughter Lizzy.

I have a strong commitment to community horticulture and am currently the Chairman of South West in Bloom involving over 400 groups. My Committee involvements are extensive, being the Vice-Chairman of the Tender Ornamental Plant Committee, a member of the Horticulture Board, the Education Committee, the Awards Committee and the Three Counties Agricultural Society. Floral Judging Moderation and Shows Advisory, as well as Britain in Bloom and the Windlesham Trophy (encouraging horticulture in prisons) are also key to my involvement with the RHS.

I am fully committed to pursuing the aims of the RHS and will continue to promote happy healthy Horticulture in all of its branches. I am proud to be associated with all of these initiatives and strongly wish to continue to assist in their development.

Agenda Item 4e – Co-option of ordinary members to Council

As set out in the RHS Charter, Council has the power to co-opt any Member of the Society (who has been a Member for at least three years) to serve as a member of Council and any co-opted member shall retire at the AGM following their co-option.

Council has agreed to appoint Kate Lampard as a co-opted member of Council until the end of the 2018 AGM.

Kate Lampard



I took my first steps as a gardener in my early 20s, when I grew vegetables in the small back garden of a rented flat in central London. On getting married and moving to Kent I had the opportunity, with my husband, to create a garden from scratch on chalk downland. Thirty years on, that garden consists of herbaceous borders, woodland walks planted with spring bulbs and a walled vegetable garden. Gardening, gardens and horticulture continue to fascinate me and to occupy most of my leisure time. I am a regular entrant in our local horticultural society show.

In my working life, I was for a number of years a practising barrister specialising in company, insolvency and property law. I then moved into the public sector where I have held a number of senior non executive roles. In addition I have worked as a consultant advising public sector organisations on governance arrangements, and on leadership, board and organisational development.

I have been able to contribute my legal and governance skills and experience to the work of the various RHS committees on which I have served. These include the Nominations, Appointments and Governance Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee. At a time of significant and ambitious activity for the RHS, I believe my particular skills and experience will also allow me to make a necessary contribution to the work of the Council.



The Shrub Rose Garden

Photo credit: RHS/Clive Nichols

Council Members continuing in office after the AGM

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

James Alexander-Sinclair
Chris Blundell
Prof Mick Crawley
Dennis Espley
Mark Fane
Prof Peter Gregory

Dame Mary Keegan
Matthew Lindsey-Clark
Lorna Parker
Sarah Raven
Dr David Rae
Lady Tollemache

Agenda Item 4f – 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 Grant Thornton UK LLP be appointed for the financial year 2017/18.

The Chairman will invite you to vote on this recommendation by a show of hands at the Meeting.

Agenda Item 4g – 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.

It is with sadness that the death of the following Vice Presidents during the year is noted:

Carolyn Hardy OBE, VMH
The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury VMH

Council has re-appointed the following to the office of Vice President for 2017/18:

Michael Balston
Lawrence Banks CBE, VMH, DL
Christopher Brickell CBE, VMH
The Count de Kerchove de Denterghem
Vicomte Philippe de Spoelberch
Raymond Evison OBE, VMH, F.I.Hort
The Rt Hon the Lord Heseltine CH, PC
Robert Hillier OBE, VMH
Prof. Brian J Huntley
Roy Lancaster OBE, VMH, F.I.Hort

Jekka McVicar VMH
Dr. Henry Oakeley VMH
Jane Pepper
John Ravenscroft VMH
John Sales VMH
Martin Slocock VMH
Dr Kiat Tan
Alan Titchmarsh MBE, VMH, DL
Professor Harold Tukey DL
Richard Webb VMH

In addition, Council has appointed the following to the office of Vice President for 2017/18:

Jim Gardiner
Prunella Scarlet LVO
Tom Stuart-Smith

Agenda Item 4h – Close of Meeting

The President will formally draw the AGM to a close.

Agenda Item 5 – Members' Questions

There will be an allotted time of 30 minutes for members to ask questions. Questions should be submitted in advance to agm@rhs.org.uk or in writing to The Secretary, 80 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PE.

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