



Inspiring everyone to grow

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

The 217th Annual General Meeting of The Royal Horticultural Society will be held at 11.30am on Friday 25 June 2021 at RHS Garden Wisley, GU23 6QB



The AGM is subject to change in accordance with any government restrictions in place at the time and **BOOKING IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND**. Please refer to the Society's website for the latest information: www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/What-we-do/annual-general-meeting

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 3068 (textphone 18001 020 7821 3068); 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 2021

4a. MINUTES To approve the Minutes of the 216th Annual General Meeting held on 31 July 2020*

4b. ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020/21

To receive and consider the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for 2020/21*

4c. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND TREASURER To declare elected unopposed Keith Weed as President and Matthew Lindsey-Clark as Treasurer for the next year.

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

- Wesley Kerr
- Pamela Maynard
- Nicola Spence

Details of candidates are given from pages 12 to 13.

4e. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS To appoint Crowe LLP as the Society's Auditors for the next year.

4f. 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 15.

4g. CLOSE OF MEETING

5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (30 MINUTES)

* Copies of the Minutes for last year's AGM and the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for 2020/21 will be available on the RHS website at www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/what-we-do/annual-reports or from The Secretary by calling the AGM Helpline on 020 7821 3068; 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 2021 edition of *The Garden*.

Please note that photographs may be taken 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.

Attending the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the RHS will be held in the Garden Room at Hilltop, The Home of Gardening Science at RHS Garden Wisley, GU23 6QB at 11.30am on Friday 25 June 2021. The doors will open at 11.00am.

How to get to RHS Garden Wisley

RHS Garden Wisley lies between Cobham and Ripley in Surrey, off the main London to Portsmouth road (A3) south of Junction 10 of the M25. Follow the brown tourist flower signs on the A3 and M25 to the RHS Garden. Car parking is free.

For SatNav users the address is: RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

By train: The closest stations are West Byfleet (4 miles), Woking (6 miles) and Guildford (8 miles). There are no taxis on standby at West Byfleet. For times and tickets see the National Rail Enquiries website

By bus: You can catch the 715 Kingston to Guildford via Wisley, hourly. For more information visit the Stagecoach website.

Alternatively, you can catch the RA2 Guildford to Heathrow coach service via Wisley. For more information and the current timetable visit the RailAir website.

Please note: For both the 715 bus and RA2 coach service, the buses stop along the pedestrian walkway of the A3. For buses travelling northbound, there is approximately a 15min walk to the main garden entrance. The bus stop on the southbound route is accessed via the pedestrian

footbridge over the A3, approximately a 20min walk from the garden entrance, this route has limited access including steps and uneven surfaces.

By bicycle: Open air bike parking facilities are provided.

Attendance at the AGM: Attendance will be in line with any government restrictions regarding Covid-19 in place on 25 June 2021. All visitors may therefore be required to wear face masks and adhere to any social distancing measures in place.

In accordance with the above, all members will need to pre-book attendance at the AGM through the RHS website at: www.rhs.org.uk/membersagm

Please note that bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis.

In order to manage capacity, members will be unable to attend without pre-booking.

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

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 confirm your booking and 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

Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2021

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 your personal items being searched.

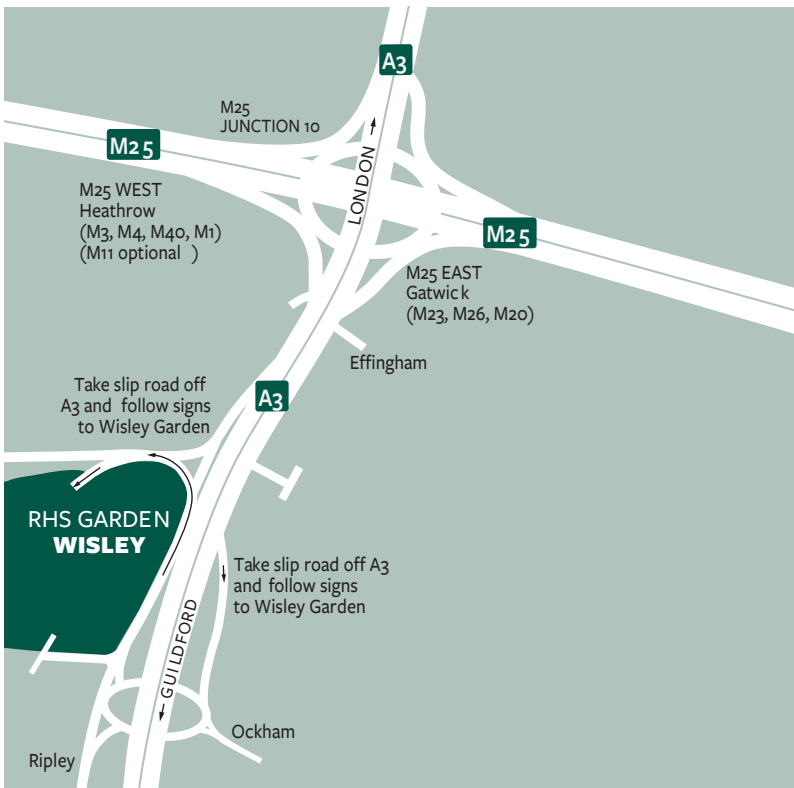
Mobile Telephones: Please turn off mobile telephones before entering the AGM.

Refreshments: Subject to Covid-19 restrictions,

refreshments will be available on arrival and water will be available throughout the meeting.

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

AGM Helpline: 020 7821 3068. 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.



RHS Wisley Garden Tours

The RHS will be running the following free guided tour for members on the day of the AGM for a maximum of 15 people. Bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis by emailing agm@rhs.org.uk. Please state your membership number and preferred time of tour to book your place.

Seasonal Garden Highlights including the new Hilltop Gardens

This guided 45 minute walk will take you through the new Hilltop Gardens, walking through the Mixed Borders and the Bowes Lyon Rose Garden

Tour 1 and 2: 10.00am. Meeting Point: The stone bench around the bird bath, on the edge of the Conifer Lawn

Tour 3 and 4: 1.15pm. Meeting Point: The stone bench around the bird bath, on the edge of the Conifer Lawn

Agenda Items

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 2020/21

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 2021/22.

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 we have the information available to give you a full answer. You can provide advance notice of your question to The Secretary by email to agm@rhs.org.uk or by calling the AGM Helpline on 020 7821 3068 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 Keith Weed. As there were no other candidates, Keith Weed will be declared elected unopposed as President of the RHS.

Keith Weed

Proposed by: Lady Tollemache

Seconded by:

James Alexander-Sinclair

Supported by: Dennis Espley,
Kate Lampard, David Rae, Sarah Raven,
Janet Walker, Jon Wheatley.



I have had a lifelong love for gardening, from growing vegetables as a young boy to being an enthusiastic hands-on gardener today. I have recently redeveloped my garden from creating a new herbaceous border to a productive vegetable and fruit garden.

During my career I have gained broad experience in leading businesses in the public and charitable sectors as Chair, CEO and director.

While my main focus is now the RHS, I am also on boards of other charities and can transfer best practice and ideas to the RHS. I have experience in the key areas of developing and implementing strategy, supporting and guiding the CEO, fundraising and business delivery to fund charitable initiatives.

I am a RHS member and Fellow and live just 7 miles from RHS Wisley.

I am a regular visitor to the RHS gardens and shows which are such powerful examples of horticultural excellence. I am also interested in the outreach of the Society to communities, its education programme and the positive impact gardening has on people's physical and mental health. The RHS is an amazing society and has a strong reputation for its horticultural excellence.

Going forward I believe the role of science, sustainability and flora diversity will only grow in importance in an increasingly challenged world.

I would be privileged to serve the RHS as President to build on its considerable heritage and bring my passion for gardening and business experience to help shape the next chapter of the Royal Horticultural Society.

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 Matthew Lindsey-Clark. As there were no other candidates, Matthew will be declared elected unopposed as Treasurer of the Society.

Matthew Lindsey-Clark

Proposed by: Mark Porter
Seconded by: Andrew Sibbald
Supported by: Edward Banks, Swagata Ganguly, Dominic Geer, Lesley Hegarty, Mary Hopkins, Corrinna Wakefield-Wylde.



I have been associated with the Society for over 25 years, having been a member since 1995, a Founder Fellow since 2011, on the Commercial Board since 2014, a member of Council since 2016 and Treasurer since 2019. Through my involvement over recent years, I have gained a thorough understanding of the Society's organisation, its financial affairs and its many activities, including the transformative strategic investment programme that is so important for its future development.

Professionally, I have been a corporate finance adviser for over 30 years, with extensive experience of helping a wide range of businesses to navigate significant strategic and organisational change. I have worked with the same team since the mid-90s, helping to build the business we founded from a handful of partners into one of the largest independent advisory firms in Europe.

I am a keen gardener and nature lover. I am passionate about the charitable aims and vision of the RHS and believe that the organisation has never been more

relevant. By helping people to connect with plants, gardens and the natural world, the RHS can play a vital role in improving both the environment and people's well-being and quality of life – something that has become even more necessary as a consequence of the pandemic. It would be a great privilege to serve a further term as Treasurer of the Society.

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 James Alexander-Sinclair, Dennis Espley and Sarah Raven will retire as ordinary members of Council.

Wesley Kerr, Pamela Maynard and Nicola Spence have been nominated for election in 2021 and with three nominated candidates for three vacancies all will be declared elected unopposed as members of Council at the AGM.



Candidates for election to Council

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

Wesley Kerr

Proposed by: Andrew Turvey

Seconded by:

Lady Caroline Egremont

Supported by:

Timothy Batchelor, Thomas Blaikie, Richard Hamilton, Fiona Hilleard, Cleve West, Sandra Winder



The whole country has realised the vital importance of accessible green spaces, plants and gardens for physical and mental wellbeing. I have great affection for the Society and would be honoured to be elected to the Council. I love gardening and working to conserve beautiful historic landscapes.

As a Trustee of the Royal Parks, as a Vice-President of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, as a writer and broadcaster I'm passionate about sharing the joys of horticulture with the widest audience. I am constantly learning. Studying for the RHS's General Certificate was a turning point of my mid-life. I saw the RHS's reach when I made a radio series about Britain in Bloom, its global influence making dozens of films worldwide about plants people and gardens for the BBC's Chelsea and Hampton Court coverage.

The RHS could be more outward-looking and the horticulture world could do far more to reach diverse audiences, those in inner cities without gardens, the less affluent, those without cars.

I welcome the recent emphasis on pot plants, community based horticulture, all-age education and apprenticeships, working with other organisations. We must preach to the unconverted - sustainable green spaces, cherishing local street trees, improving public parks through advice and volunteering.

The RHS with its remarkable history, gardens, shows and charitable mission is an instrument of transformation. Having invested much recently in fresh facilities and a new garden it needs to be efficient commercially, but keep focussed on bringing people and plants together.

Pamela Maynard

Proposed by: Mark Porter

Seconded by:

James Alexander-Sinclair

Supported by: Dennis Espley, Sally Jordan, Deborah Venner, Linda Wakeling, Alison Welton, Michael Welton.



In 2019, I became the CEO of AvanaDe, a global technology company and the leading digital innovator in Microsoft technologies. As a purpose driven leader, I know that to truly innovate and devise the most brilliant solutions to solve the world's problems, we must become a more diverse and inclusive industry.

You may be wondering what this has to do with the Royal Horticultural Society. Born and raised in Britain, my passion for gardening and gardens was ignited at a young age by my mother. I was familiar with the RHS and their work, history and impact. But I was especially interested to learn about the desire and future plans to make the RHS an accessible organisation for everyone. Some might see gardening as a traditional pastime, but an RHS that focuses on inclusivity, education, and sustainability is one with an eye to the future. This may not be a tech company, but it is innovating – and in that, we have a lot in common. Which is why I was delighted to join the Council Technology Group in late 2020.

Beyond similarities, I'm eager to see how we learn from each other – how my experience in technology could prove valuable to growth plans, and how the rich legacy and fresh ideas of the RHS could encourage me to see things in new ways. I'm excited and inspired to discover how we build a brighter, greener future together.

Professor Nicola Spence

Proposed by: Rosemary Collier
Seconded by: David Slawson
Supported by:

James Alexander-Sinclair,
 Sir Nicholas Bacon, Ross
 Cameron, Mick Crawley,
 Peter Gregory, John Grimshaw.



I have had a life-long passion for horticulture, sparked by gardening with my grandfather as a child and then pursuing a career in horticultural research. I have a BSc in Botany, a MSc Microbiology and a PhD in Plant Virology and have more than 25 years' experience in plant pathology research in horticultural and wild plants in the UK and Africa. I am also passionate about science education and have helped train students and edited scientific journals.

Currently I am the UK Chief Plant Health Officer. I advise Ministers, industry and stakeholders about the risks posed by plant, tree and bee pests and diseases, and ensure that appropriate science, evidence and operational measures are in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact. I have been a member of the RHS Science Committee for 5 years which has given me insight into the objectives of the RHS and the opportunity to work more closely with staff and Council. I garden on the Yorkshire Wolds and have been an RHS member for more than 18 years, regularly visiting its gardens, particularly Harlow Carr.

I am passionate about horticulture and take a strong personal and professional interest in protecting and promoting plants and trees. I bring skills and experience in horticultural science, policy, communication and fund-raising and I would love to contribute to the objectives and future success of the RHS for its members and wider society by joining RHS Council.

Council Members continuing in office after the AGM

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

Prof Mick Crawley	Mark Porter
Nicholas Dunn	Dr David Rae
Sarah Eberle	Lady (Xa) Tollemache
Kate Lampard	Jon Wheatley
Neil Lucas	Janet Walker
Lorna Parker	Ruth Willmott

Agenda Item 4e – 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 Crowe LLP be re-appointed for the financial year 2021/22.

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



Agenda Item 4f – 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 re-appointed the following to the office of Vice President for 2021/22:

Rosie Atkins
Michael Balston
Lawrence Banks CBE, VMH, DL
Baroness Floella Benjamin
Christopher Brickell CBE, VMH
The Count de Kerchove de Denterghem
Raymond Evison OBE, VMH, F.I.Hort
Mark Fane
Jim Gardiner VMH
Rosy Hardy
The Rt Hon the Lord Heseltine CH, PC
Robert Hillier OBE, VMH
Prof. Brian J Huntley
Roy Lancaster CBE, VMH, F.I.Hort
Jekka McVicar VMH
Sandy Muirhead
Dr. Henry Oakeley VMH
Jane Pepper
Dougal Phillip
John Ravenscroft VMH
John Sales VMH
Prunella Scarlett
Vicomte Philippe de Spoelberch
Tom Stuart-Smith
Dr Kiat Tan
Alan Titchmarsh MBE, VMH, DL
Richard Webb VMH

In addition, Council has appointed the following to the office of Vice President for 2021/22:

James Alexander-Sinclair

Agenda Item 4g – 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.

