

# RUNWELL HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

**Newsletter No: 122**

**November 2019 to February 2020**

This newsletter is being sent out to inform you of the outcome of an Extraordinary Meeting the Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.

We also had the sad news that Reg Bailey passed away at the beginning of October. He had been ill for some time and had never really got over the loss of his wife Maureen. Reg took over as Chairman at a time when the club was struggling and will be greatly missed.

**The Reason for Extraordinary Meeting:** The committee numbers have dwindled over the past few years and the recent loss of Dave Slipper and Reg Bailey, has highlighted the need for more committee members. The purpose of the meeting was to establish how we would continue to run the club due to the lack of committee members.

**Presently in Office:**

Marianne Smith - Chair

Robin Hills - Treasurer

Teresa Dawson – Membership Secretary

Kevin Taylor – Outings

Ann Prince – Raffles/ Refreshments

Roy Dockerill, Ray Smith, Jim Salmon.

Two members have recently come forward on the committee:

Vera Bangs – Secretary

Rita Merrick, Trading Hut Manager

**Outcome of the Meeting:** Roy Dockerill decided that after many years of loyal service to the club he would not be standing on the committee after the AGM in March 2020 and Marianne announced her resignation due to other commitments but agreed to carry on for another year (until 2021).

The remaining Committee Members present did not want to close the club and agreed to continue - duties for the present time, split as follows:

- **Chair** – Marianne Smith
- **Vice Chair** – Vacant
- **Secretary** – Vera Bangs
- **Treasurer** – Robin Hills
- **Trading Hut Manager** – Rita Merrick
- **Membership Secretary** – Teresa Dawson
- **Show Manager** – Vacant – Duties to be split
  - Schedule Co-ordinator** – Teresa Dawson
  - Points administration** – Robin Hills
  - Cards and Labels** – Jim Salmon
  - Setting up** – Marianne Smith
  - Judges** – Marianne Smith
  - Trophies** – Jim Salmon
- **Outings Co-ordinator** – Kevin Taylor
- **Raffle Co-ordinator / Refreshments** – Ann Prince
- **Programme Co-ordinator** – Kevin Taylor

- **Website** – Marianne Smith
- **Newsletter and Distribution**– Vera Bangs

Committee Member, Ray Smith, and several non-committee members have offered to help when needed at events such as the Spring and Autumn Show and the Trading Hut – these members will be allocated a role ie: stewards, setting up the hall, helping in the kitchen, Trading Hut Rota and any other duties accordingly.

Two main problems highlighted are finding someone to take on the Role as Show Manager and whether the Trading Hut is to continue due to lack of interest.

The role of Show Manager could be split with several members taking on the duties as listed above and at the AGM in March we will be asking for more members to come forward to take on these roles.

The Trading Hut opened in 1985: it was a viable business for many years and provided a healthy income for the club, including a substantial financial bonus when a supplier closed down. Unfortunately, times have changed; running the Trading Hut has been a problem for some time with sales decreasing. The many garden centres and cheaper outlets such as B&Q, Homebase, Poundland and even the Supermarkets offer a greater choice for members to stock up on their gardening sundries. It has also been difficult finding members to man the Hut on a Sunday from 10am to 12 midday.

Members have not been supporting the Hut as they did in the past and looking over recent sales, it appears that it is the committee members who use the Hut the most ! There is minimal profit from the sales and when the weekly rent is taken into account, there is little financial gain. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that from February 2020, we would open the Hut at the Monday meetings from 7.30pm to 8.00pm to see if this increased sales. We will also be asking for a show of hands at the AGM in March to ask:

- To keep the Hut open or close it.
- If the decision is to keep it open would they support the Hut if we stocked items they required
- What items they would like to see on the shelves

We will be ordering the stock as usual in January to re-open in February but should the vote in March be against continuing, the Hut will be run down slowly and eventually closed. The present stock will be sold off and the Parish Council will be informed of the decision so that they can decide as to how they will use the Hut in the future.

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Social on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December (buffet included) when the club will celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be a Fun quiz on Monday January 13<sup>th</sup> (bring your own drink and nibbles) and the speaker booked for Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> is Mike Abel to talk about 'Biological Control and Non-Pesticide Control'.

Please make every effort to attend the AGM on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020.

We hope the club will continue for many years to come **BUT** this will only happen with more members and more members willing to commit their time to the committee.

**NB The Date for the Fun Quiz is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January not 12<sup>th</sup> as stated on the programme.**