

Meeting on 15th March 2014, including AGM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We are now 15 and a half years old – founded in 1998.

Another successful year in 2013 to report and there are changes in our management committee to be dealt with today as well.

1. AGM trial The 3 year RHS trial of big blue poppies for AGMs at Harlow Carr concluded successfully last summer.

i. Pat Murphy gave an excellent talk on the trial at our last meeting.

ii. There were 10 new AGMs, plus confirmation of an AGM for Slieve Donard.

Only 2 of these were already recognised and named in 1998

iii. The site at Harlow Carr was not ideal for all cultivars and there were some “near-misses”. There are plans for a reassessment of these near-misses this summer when Joint Rock is in Scotland for Gardening Scotland

2. Awards

i. Gardening Scotland The excellent Meconopsis Group stand was set up by Sharon Bradley and it received a Gold Medal. Congratulations to Sharon and all involved. Sharon is doing it again this year, so thank you to her.

ii. AGS’ Clarence Elliott award for the best article in Volume 80 of the Alpine Gardener was awarded to Evelyn Stevens. Article title “Sorting out the big blue poppies”.

3. Publications

i. Article in Sibbaldia by Ian McNaughton on “The importance of polyploidy in Meconopsis with particular reference to the big perennial blue poppies” in autumn 2013

ii. Chris Grey-Wilson’s monograph on Meconopsis is due for publication by Kew this coming September. This is the first full monograph on the genus since George Taylor’s of 1934

4. Management committee

There are several changes – to be dealt with later under Appointment of office-bearers and management committee.

But here it is important to mention that:-

Secretary: Norma, our Secretary, is resigning. She has done a marvellous job for years and we owe her much thanks.

Web-site manager: Peter Taylor has wished to resign after doing this since the web-site started in 2004. He is not a plant person, but he has been largely responsible for the design of the site and for managing it, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for managing and designing a very successful site.

Matt Heasman has kindly agreed to take over and we are very grateful to him, also. Peter had out-dated software to work with, and designed it for many people without broadband at that time. Matt’s first task, using up-to-date software, is to rearrange the site so that it fills the whole screen using modern software and he has made a start at this.

Seed exchange manager:

Ian Scott has taken this on from Jim Jermyn and done an excellent job in his first year. He will report on this later.

5. Fact-sheets are available for people to take if they have a use for them

6. Prize draw Thanks to people who have donated plants for this

7. Thanks from the chairman for all who help with this meeting

Bring plants for sale

Selling plant on the plant sales table

Doing the Coffees

Also thanks to the members of the management committee not already mentioned for their work – and to members for supporting The Meconopsis Group.

8. Hand in name badges at the end

9. Income received by the Meconopsis Group at this Meeting was a respectable total of £241.01 and was composed of £72 from Door & Raffle Money. £154.50 from Plant Sales, £8.51 from Donations and £5 from Seed Sales. Thanks to all who contributed.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

i. The following have resigned or are resigning to-day: Peter Taylor (web-site manager), Norma McDowall (Secretary) Jim Jermyn,

Thank you again to all of them for all their valuable work. Have already mentioned Norma and Peter. Jim Jermyn has been a great help and stood in for me (John) on a number of occasions and ran the seed exchange successfully for many years

ii. Members prepared to serve for another year:

Chairman: John Mitchell

Treasurer: Peggy Anderson

Co-ordinator and Convenor: Evelyn Stevens

Matt Heasman (Newly as Website manager)

Beryl McNaughton

Steve McNamara

Sharon Bradley (Newly as Subscription Secretary)

Pat Murphy

iii. New members prepared to be elected today

Secretary: Allan Jamieson

Seed Exchange Manager: Ian Scott

Margaret Thorne

David Thorne

David Rankin

iv. Election of ii and iii above

Thanks to all of these, particularly those taking on new administrative roles: Allan and Sharon and Matt

Appointment of Trials and Assessment Subcommittee

Reappointment of:

John Mitchell

Jim Jermyn,

Beryl McNaughton

Steve McNamara

Evelyn Stevens

Additional appointment:

Pat Murphy - proposed by Jim Jermyn, seconded by Evelyn Stevens

Reappointment of auditor

Willie Campbell (Willie is happy to be reappointed)