

## **The Meconopsis Group meeting October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016**

The meeting started at 10.27 am.

John Mitchell began by saying it was nice to see a good turnout again. He reminded everyone to keep their cups and to return badges to Sharon at the end of the meeting.

### **Announcements.**

John thanked everyone who had brought plants. It is tremendous to see so many and he looked forward to seeing the same number of plants at the AGM. He reminded members to keep their doot tickets for the raffle.

There is a card on the table for Evelyn who is going through chemotherapy. She is not very well but is being positive. The card is for people to sign and we will send it back to her tonight.

### **The Meconopsis Book Update** John Mitchell

Things are progressing really well. Four chapters are already with the editors. These are Classification, Cultivation, Species and The Big Blues.

Chapters still to be sent in are Plant Collectors, Hybrids, History of Meconopsis at RBGE and all the essays that people have written. I've just sent a list of the essays for people to have the final check to ensure they are happy with it. He has also asked for images. There is still quite a lot to do, but we are progressing. There is a meeting in two weeks time to discuss the Meconopsis book at the AGM of the AGS. There will be a further update at our AGM next year.

We are still going for the publication launch at Chelsea in 2017. We hope to get TV coverage . We are also doing a launch at Gardening Scotland on the Meconopsis Group Stand.

The proof readers are Mary Randal and Jim Jermyn. We still need to look at the front cover. The price may be around £40 depending on whether it has a hard or a soft cover and on the number of pages.

The book's title is 'Meconopsis for Gardeners'.

## **Gardening Scotland.** Sharon Bradley.

At Gardening Scotland next year the stand is going to be twice the size as normal because we will have to have another table for the books for sale. This will not be part of the main decorated stand, but we will need additional people to sell the books. I am hoping that we will get volunteers this morning or from the e-mails that have been sent out. It is only a couple of hours at a time but volunteers do get tickets to the show for the whole day. Slots can be chosen if you want to do first thing in the morning or last thing in the afternoon. We do really need more helpers.

Gardening Scotland with the launch of the book is really a culmination of what The Meconopsis Group has been about for the last 15 years. If we don't get more volunteers we will struggle to get the show going for the following year.

There is a paper for volunteers to sign. Gardening Scotland takes place on the first weekend in June. There are already two volunteers Pat Murphy and Jeannie Jones.

## **Signatories** Peggy Anderson - Treasurer

I would like to get membership approval for two proposals concerning the people who have authority to sign cheques.

This is the background:

At the present time there are four people who have the authority to sign cheques. These are Evelyn Stevens, John Mitchell, Steve McNamara and me. Any two of us are required to sign cheques. We never sign cheques made out to ourselves. It is always two of the other signatories. Evelyn has not been well, Steve is in Nepal. This leaves two signatories, John and me. One of the cheques we have to sign today is for the use of this room. I think it is alright for us to sign this today, because although John works here (at RBGE), the cheque is not for him.

I would like to propose the following:

a) That we expand the number of signatories to six.

This would give us more flexibility.

Is that acceptable to the membership?

**Agreed.** No-one against

b) I would like to suggest Ian Christie and Sharon Bradley as the new signatories.

Is that acceptable?

**Agreed.**

We'll minute that because the bank requires this. One of the requirements on the form is acceptance of nominees by the membership

Finally before introducing the first speaker John asked members to give seeds to Sharon who would pass them on to Ian Scott.