

AGM Saturday 10th March 2018

The meeting started at 10.31

John greeted everyone saying it was good to see such a good turnout to the meeting and that the gardens would be open at lunchtime. Access to the glasshouses would be determined by the strength of the wind.

He reminded members of the procedure should there be a fire alarm and to keep their coffee cups over lunch.

There were two notices. Congratulations to Eric Allen who is 80. He hoped he had a nice present.

On a sadder note he reported that a longstanding member Norma Bland had passed away

All members had received the minutes of the previous AGM held on March 4th 2017 plus the various reports for this year excluding the Financial Report.

John asked that these be accepted as a true record.

Proposer: Jim Jermyn

Seconder: Julia Corden

Chairmans Report

John began by saying that The Meconopsis Group has been a huge success thanks to the work by members and committee over the years. One of the main objectives of The Group had been to produce a book. This has now been achieved. Of the 400 printed, 280 copies have been sold.

He congratulated Sharon for her award winning stands at Gardening Scotland. On the previous Wednesday she had received a Certificate from The Cally for her work on Meconopsis

There was sad news last year when Dr Evelyn Stevens passed away, who with Mervyn Kessell was one of the main founders of The Group. Without them The Meconopsis Group would not have existed.

He finished by reporting that it had been a privilege and an honour to be Chairman of The Group, a post he had held for 17 years. It had been enjoyable. He thanked all the committee members who had helped make The Group so successful. He was handing over the Chairmanship to a reliable person Jim Jermyn,

Treasurers Report

Peggy Anderson began by asking The Group to approve the addition of one more signatory able to sign The Group's cheques.

Each cheque requires two signatories. There are four signatories John Mitchell, Sharon Bradley, Ian Christie and Peggy Anderson. Peggy proposed adding Jim Jermyn to the list.

I should like that to be minuted.

The addition of a fifth signatory was agreed.

The agreement to the additional signatory was reported in the Minutes. The bank required this to be in the Minutes.

The Meconopsis Group
Financial Statement for 2017
(Presented to members at the AGM, 10th March 2018)

1. I should like to present the accounts for the 2017 financial year. That is for the period running from the 1st January to the 31st December, 2017.
2. The books have been examined by Willie Campbell and he is satisfied they are in order.
3. The books are here and you are welcome to examine them.
4. The Group has money in three accounts:
 - i. The Pay Pal account is used for members to pay their subscription, seed payments and to give donations.
 - ii. The nominated account for PayPal is what I call the second account. This is an account into which we can transfer money to and from PayPal. It acts as a buffer account between PayPal and the General Account so that if PayPal were to be hacked into, the hacker would not get into our main account, which contains more money. Money comes from PayPal is then transferred to the Main Account.
 - iii. The third account is the General Account, which is used for the day-to-day running of the Group. Also money from the second account is paid into the main account.
 - iv. The take-home message with respect to the 2017 finances of The Meconopsis Group is that they are in a healthy state.

Slide 1 Summary of the money in all 3 accounts at end of financial year

Members like to compare the figures for one year with those of the previous year. I have done this for all the accounts, but don't put too much weight on the comparisons, as they are not necessarily like-for-like as I'll explain as we go along.

The money in the 2nd account at the end of December is the bank figure and it is **wrong**. I'll explain this later. This figure inflates the amount of money we have in the bank. The amended figure on 2/1/18 is correct. So we should treat the 2/1/18 figure as the correct amount of money in our accounts at the end of the year.

4. PayPal Account

Slide 2

In 2016 we had one button for payment of memberships and seed sales. In 2017 Matt Heasman set up a second button for seed sales. Before this went live, Matt tested it by paying in various amounts. This is the income under the Testing System heading. Matt was refunded, but this comes into 2018 expenditure.

In 2017 £1,653.39 was paid into PayPal. Of this, £1,294.89 was for subscriptions and £331 for seed sales and £27.50 for testing the new seed button.

A fee is levied on every income transaction. This amounted to £98.22 in 2017. Meaning that the net income in 2017 was £1,555.17.

We don't like having too much money in our PayPal account so we periodically move some into the nominated account. In all I moved £1,547.64 into the 2nd account leaving £307.53.

5 2nd Bank Account

Slide 3

As noted above money is periodically transferred from PayPal to the 2nd account.

In 2017 I moved £1,547.64 into the 2nd account

The money does not stay in the 2nd account for long and it is quickly transferred to the General Account. In all I transferred the £1547.64 to The General Account.

This amount was successfully transferred to the General Account ([Slide 4](#)) but the final £547.64 did not leave the 2nd Bank Account. So at the end of the year the same £547.64 was in 2 different accounts.

6. General Account

Slide 4

Because of time constraints, I am only going to highlight one or two items

Income

6.1 **Seed Sales** Sales of seed in 2017 via Ian Scott and at Gardening Scotland came to £1207. The figure in 2016 was £1,328.60.

In both 2017 and 2016 we received income from sale of seeds donated by the Taylors. In 2017 the money we got for this was included in the money from plant sales, so I don't know how much we actually got for 2017 Taylor seed sales. But seed sales are keeping up quite well. (As an aside since we will not have a stand at Gardening Scotland 2018, we will not have income from seed sales at Gardening Scotland 2018).

6.2 Book Sales In the summer of 2017 we sold copies of the joint AGS/The Meconopsis Group book ' at £38. Most were sold at Gardening Scotland. To facilitate sales, we hired a card reader from World TS under a deal negotiated by Gardening Scotland. Sales came to a total of £2,013.00 for 53 books.

Expenditure

I only want to address two items of expenditure.

6.3 Gardening Scotland

The expenditure in 2016 for Gardening Scotland is for the Meconopsis Group stands at both 2016 and 2017 and Sharon's costs for 2017. There would have been expenditure in 2017 for a 2018 stand had we been having one. But as mentioned earlier we will not have a stand at Gardening Scotland 2018.

6.4 In 2017 we paid the AGS £2,090 for 55 copies of the Meconopsis book. This is 2 more copies than we sold. This is because we gave out 2 complimentary books which the group paid for. One copy was given to Carol Bainbridge for reviewing the book and the other was to Billy Carruthers as a thank you for transporting Meconopsis Group material to Chelsea.

We had costs amounting to £176.63 for hire of the WTS card reader at Gardening Scotland. This may seem a lot for a 3-day hire. However this includes £60 for set-up costs which we will not have to pay again should we want to use a card reader in the future.

In 2016 £8,000 was paid to the Alpine Garden Society for our contribution towards publication of The Meconopsis book.

So our costs towards production and sales of the book were £8,000 + £76 = £8,076.

6.5 The expenditure for RHS affiliation and insurance in 2016 represents the costs for two years viz. 2016 and 2017 whereas there was no expenditure in 2017. The 2018 RHS affiliation and Insurance costs come into 2018 financial year.

Summary

Slide 5.

This slide brings together strands of income and expenditure for various categories of transactions.

- * Most of the income for subscriptions comes from PayPal.
- * Most of the income from seed sales comes from Gardening Scotland, but we will forgo this source of income in 2018 because we won't have a stand at Gardening Scotland.

- * The cost to the Meconopsis group of the Meconopsis book is £8,076 for publication costs and sales of complementary copies of the book.

When the costs of card reader etc is added the total becomes £8,253.63.

Summary

Slide 6.

This slide gives the same information as the first slide and is just a reminder.

Questions: None

Acceptance of report: Proposed by: Ian Wright
Seconded by: Jeanie Jones

Secretary's Report. This had been circulated.

Questions: None

Acceptance of report: Proposed by: David Thorne
Seconded by: Ian Wright

Seed Exchange Report This had been circulated

Questions: None

Acceptance of Report: Proposed by: Matt Heasman
Seconded by: Celia Wright

Nomination of Jim Jermyn as the New Chairman

Proposed by: Roger Nelson
Seconded by: Peter Treeby

Members of the Committee are prepared to stand again for another year

Proposed by: Helen Knowles
Seconded by: Matt Heasman

The Plant Naming Committee are prepared to stand again for the next year

Proposed by: Matt Heasman
Seconded by: Peggy Anderson

Complimentary membership.

Jim Sutherland has been an excellent supporter of The Meconopsis Group and stalwart in sending seeds to the Seed Exchange. It is suggested that he be made a complimentary member.

Proposed by: Matt Heasman

Seconded by: Jeannie Jones

AOB

Jim Jermyn called for a vote of thanks for John for his years as Chair of The Group.

The AGM closed at 10.50