

## **The Meconopsis Group AGM held at RBGE on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019**

David Rankin welcomed members to the meeting which he chaired in the absence of Jim Jermyn who was presenting a snowdrop weekend at Branklyn. He reminded members of the need to vacate the building through the fire escape doors should there be a fire alarm, to keep their coffee cups and to hand in name badges at the end of the day. A volunteer was needed at the plant sales table at lunchtime.

He also reminded members that to vote they should have paid their subscription and could do so by seeing Sharon, the membership secretary who was sitting by the door.

The AGM started at 10.30 am.

There were 37 members present.

Apologies were received from:

Julia Cordon, Al Elliot, Jim Jermyn, Jeannie Jones, Alice Bremner, Ian Christie  
John Mitchell, Eric Allen, Siri Caspersen, Tommy Tonsberg, Peter Hart,  
Frank Gafner, Ernie Scales, Peter and Anne Elliot, Helen Warrington, Clive Rose,  
Insignae Gardens, Wei Zhang, Angela Mitchell, Ruth Plant, Alan Oatway  
Colin Crewes, Celia Wright, Peter Treeby, and Leslie Dickinson.

**The Minutes of the AGM** held on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 had been circulated. There were no questions. He asked that they be approved:

**Proposer:** Margaret Thorne

**Secunder:** Matt Heasman

**The seed exchange manager's** report had already been circulated.

**Proposer:** Matt Heasman

**Secunder:** Peggy Anderson

**The Membership subscription** report had already been received.

**Proposer:** Peggy Anderson

**Secunder:** Matt Heasman

### **Committee Changes**

Ian Christie is standing down as Vice Chair.

Ian Scott proposed that Professor David Rankin be the new Vice Chair.

**Proposer:** Ian Scott

**Secunder:** David Thorne

Alice Bremner is standing down from the committee. In her role as Database manager she has provided a lot of technical expertise. David thanked her for her support over the years. This statement was applauded by the members.

Bruce and Pam Sherriff will be taking on the role as joint Database Manager and Reports and Newsletter coordinators. This has been approved by Committee.

**Proposer:** David Rankin

**Secunder:** Matt Heasman

All other Committee members are prepared to stay on for another year.

John Mitchell, Ian Christie, Sharon Bradley, Peggy Anderson, Ian Scott, Pat Murphy, Margaret Thorne, David Thorne, Alan Elliott, Jim Jermyn, Alistair Chalmers, David Rankin, Julia Corden, Matt Heasman.

**Proposer:** Helen Knowles,

**Secunder:** Jackie Thomlinson

Ian Christie is stepping down as Chairman of the Plant Assessment Committee.

Pat Murphy will take on this role.

**Proposer:** Margaret Thorne

**Secunder:** Geoff Hill

Complimentary membership is proposed for the Vandusen Botanic Garden in Vancouver, Canada. Ian Scott has been dealing with them and the Seed Exchange will benefit from this membership.

**Proposer:** Ian Scott

**Secunder:** Matt Heasman

David then asked for volunteers to help with some of the administration of the New Web site. This would involve gathering information and editing text to a given format provided by the committee.

Example: The Members Area Archive would involve sorting the contents into sections, newsletters, reports, talks etc.

Members interested should talk to any committee member,

It has been suggested that we hold some meetings during the Meconopsis Growing Season. This could include visits to Branklyn or Pitlochry in Scotland, and Holehird and Dalemain and other Meconopsis rich gardens in south Scotland and north England.

The meeting approved of this idea by a show of hands. The visits are planned for 2020. Further details will be available later.

David also asked members to start recording the meconopsis growing in their own gardens by photographs and or videos with a view of giving short talks at future meetings to see differences from garden to garden or region to region. Information on how they propagate plants would be interesting. If members were unable to give talks themselves then their photos and propagation procedures could be presented by committee members.