

**LNHS Botany Section AGM to be held on Zoom on Thursday 24 November 2022 at 6.30 pm**

**AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Minutes** of the last AGM on Thursday 18th November 2021 (circulated)
- 3 Adoption** of the annual report and financial statement (circulated)
- 4 Nomination and election of officers and committee:**
  - a) Officers

Chair	George Hounsome
Secretary	Andrew Planet
Indoor meetings secretary	Vacant
Field meetings secretary	Jon Agar
Minutes	Robin Blades
  - b) Committee members

	Paul Bartlett
	Annie Chipchase
	Ian Kitching
	Wendy Knowles
	Mario Maculan
	Saba Rokni
	Mary Clare Sheahan
	John Swindells
  - c) Recorders

	Peter Howarth (Bryophytes)
	Mark Spencer (Flowering Plants and Vascular Cryptogams).
	Andy Overall (Fungi)
	John Skinner (Lichens)
  - d) Representative on Council

	Maureen Parry
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  - e) Representative on Library Committee

	Vacant
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- 5 Any other business**
  - a) The London Flora Project.

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**LNHS Botany Section meeting to be held on Thursday 24 November, immediately after the AGM**

**AGENDA**

- 1 Minutes** of the last meeting Thursday 18th November 2022 (circulated)
- 2 Exhibits**
- 3 Observations**
- 4 Announcements**
  - a) The Society's AGM will be on Thursday 8th December 2022 on Zoom @ 6.30 pm
  - b) The Botany Quiz will be held on Tuesday on Thursday 23 February 2023 on Zoom @ 6.30 pm
- 5 Any other business**
- 6 Talk by Tim Rich** on “**The Difficult Plant Problem.**”
- 7) Vote** of thanks, questions, and discussion.

## LNHS Botany Section

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Zoom on Thursday 18 November 2021 at 6.30pm

Maria Roberts chaired the meeting. Up to 72 members and guests present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** None. All votes in favour of the resolutions include five votes submitted in advance of the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the last AGM held 12 November 2020:** Approval as a true record was proposed by Mark Spencer and seconded by Keiron Brown. 34 in favour, 0 against, 4 abstentions.
3. **Nomination and election of officers and committee:**
  - a) **Officers:** Maria Roberts said that no nominations had been received for Chair, Indoor Meetings Secretary or for Secretary after Sarah Graham-Brown stands down on 31 December 2021. George Hounsom had been nominated as Field Meetings Secretary and confirmed that he hopes to continue in this role. Proposed by Anke Marsh, seconded by Mark Spencer. 45 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention. Maria asked Mark Spencer to speak at this point. Mark said that he was making a desperate plea for new people to help the Section keep going, particularly in the capacity of officers. Without this, it will become impossible to run field meetings, events and training sessions. Many of the existing committee have been doing this for many years. Volunteers should contact Mark or Maria to talk about what they might be able to do. It is not necessary to be a botanical expert to contribute.
  - b) **Committee members:** Paul Bartlett, Robin Blades, Annie Chipchase, Frances Dismore, Ian Kitching, Mario Maculan, Maria Roberts, Mary Clare Sheahan, John Swindells. Proposed by Mark Spencer, seconded by Michael Wilsdon. 47 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention.
  - c) **Recorders:** Peter Howarth – Bryophytes; Mark Spencer – Flowering Plants and Vascular Cryptogams; Andy Overall – Fungi; John Skinner – Lichens. Proposed by Keiron Brown, seconded by Mark Spencer. 49 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention.
  - d) **Representative on Council:** no nominations.
  - e) **Representative on Library Committee:** John Swindells was willing to continue or hand over to someone else interested in the role. Proposed by Mark Spencer, seconded by Helen Baker. 48 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.
4. **Annual Report and Financial Statement:** Maria Roberts thanked Sarah Graham-Brown for preparing the report. It includes an account of David Bevan's outgoing talk as Chair on "The Ancient Woodlands of North London". This was based particularly on his experience of the ancient woodlands in Haringey where he was Conservation Officer. He reintroduced coppicing to Coldfall and Queen's Woods to the benefit of the ground flora. The talk had been very well received at the time and subsequently attracted a lot of interest on Youtube.

The Covid pandemic had led to a gap in field meetings between Brompton Cemetery in March 2020 and Box Hill in September 2021. Three well-attended meetings had been held in autumn 2021 with more to come over the winter. The Best Botanical Photos and Botany Quiz had been held successfully online. A number of botanical topics had been included in the Society's series of Zoom talks and these are available online.

There had been no expenditure on the Section's account during the year so the balance in hand remained at £82.58.

The report includes an account by Andy Overall (Fungi recorder) of survey work at Richmond Park from September 2020 to August 2021. Increases in public use since the start of the pandemic and pollution are a concern, particularly people walking on roadside verges which are an important habitat for grassland species. However the results of the survey had been very good. They included an *Amanita* species possibly new to science and a total of 407 species of which 50 are new to Richmond Park and 19 to Greater London. Adoption of the report and accounts was proposed by Michael Wilsdon and seconded by David Bevan. 48 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention.

- 5. Any other business:** Maria Roberts thanked all recorders, officers and committee members for their work during the year.

## Annual report from George Hounsome (chair)

The year has seen substantial changes in the botany committee. Sarah Graham-Brown, the secretary, has had to step down, the role now being fulfilled by the enthusiastic Andrew Planet. Robin Blades has agreed to minute meetings. The field meetings secretary, me, has been replaced by Jon Agar. The previous chair, David Bevan has also had to step down after many years of competent service during which he demonstrated his impressive knowledge of not only botany but also the depth and range of his contacts in the botanical world, all very useful when trying to set up meetings. The post has not been formally filled but I will chair committee meetings for the time being. The lack of an indoor meetings secretary causes some problems. Three regular functions are: organisation of the speaker for the AGM, the Botanical Photos show and the Botany Quiz. This year the first two of those have been arranged by other members of the committee but not the third. We need someone to take charge of these and other events or they will not take place in future years. It does occur to me that some of the meetings we might have had with our physical presence have now been Zoomed, but they still need to be arranged with potential speakers after discussion at the sectional meetings.

The field meetings programme has restarted in earnest after the covid hiatus. We have had 26 meetings this year with an average attendance of 14-ish for the meetings for which I have figures and we are very grateful to our leaders for all the time and effort they put in to making the days interesting.

We have also welcomed several other new members to the committee, in alphabetical order Wendy Knowles, Maureen Parry and Saba Rokni and we hope they find their roles interesting and enjoyable. New folk mean new ideas and approaches and we hope all these will be demonstrated in the year to come.