

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society Limited will be held at the Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses, Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham on Monday 23 September 2013 at 6pm to transact the following business:

1. To receive and adopt the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 and the reports of the Trustees and of the Auditors.
2. To re-elect Members of the Committee:
Mr V.A Aspland, Dr B S C Leadbeater and Mrs R M Graville.
3. To approve the following resolution:
That with effect from 1 April 2014 the annual charges for membership of the Society, inclusive of Value Added Tax shall be:

(i) Family Membership (Entry for up to five people from the same family)	£65
(ii) Annual Membership (Entry for two people from the same family)	£40
(iii) Single Membership (Entry for one person only)	£35

NOTE:

A discount of £2 is allowed to Family, Annual and Single Members who pay by Direct Debit.

Guest tickets at £13 are available to Single, Annual and Family Members who wish to bring an additional person to the Gardens.

Season Tickets are also available: Senior Citizen at £27.50, Weekday at £29.

4. To re-appoint the auditors, Mazars LLP, and authorize the Committee to agree their remuneration.
5. To transact any other business which may be transacted at an Annual General Meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE

M. A. LIBERSON
Honorary Secretary

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The notice of the year's Annual General Meeting appears opposite. A full copy of the Annual Report and Accounts for the Society is available as a PDF on our website: www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk or on request.

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

We report below the key achievements in pursuance of our aims and objectives during the year ended 31 March 2013. Highlights of the year included a new Butterfly House, funding from NHS West Midlands for a project to promote locally grown food and the employment of four new apprentices.

Thanks are due to members of the Board of Trustees who contributed many hours to the successful retendering of the Society's catering to external contractors for the first time in 27 years. Our new subcontractor, Ampersand, is a leading caterer in the visitor attraction and hospitality sector and began operating at the Gardens on 24 June 2013. We wish them every success.

Our activities have been carried out in a challenging trading climate. Income from the Gardens' most significant income streams showed decreases during the year. The number of day visitors decreased by 16.5% from 49,768 to 41,383. Membership numbers decreased by 8% from 5,408 to 4,971 and member visits decreased by 26.5% from 63,153 to 46,310. Revenue from banqueting and conferencing run by our catering subcontractor decreased by £24,240 in the year. The contribution made by the Society's other commercial activities including the Shop at the Gardens was significantly reduced also. Our financial results for the year ending 31 March 2013 recorded a deficit of £213,717, an increased loss of £20,897 or 11% on the previous year.

The Society restructured staff and key job roles to adapt to falling income and increased costs. Posts made redundant in the year included those of Plant Collections Manager, Retail Assistant, Receptionist and Aviarist. Many of the postholders were long serving employees and we thank them for their contribution to the Gardens over many years. In the current market conditions we continue to rely heavily on volunteers who provided us with 7,000 hours of invaluable work during the year. We aim to build on this strong foundation. We thank management, staff, Friends, donors and volunteers for the efforts made by them over the past year to maintain and enhance the Gardens in so many ways.

Horticulture

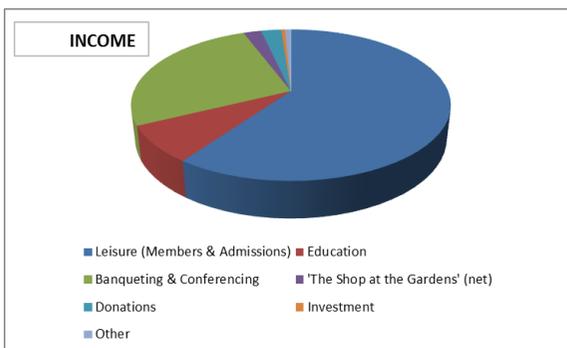
Derek Wilkes and Robert Colder retired and the horticultural team reduced from eight staff members to four. Our students became Horticultural Apprentices. The restoration of the Rock Garden Pool featured on the television programme, 'How Britain Worked' and attracted many visitors. A popular introduction was our new Butterfly House filled with tropical flowers and exotic species. A new *Dahlia* colour wheel was planted in our Grass Garden. Also opened was our plant nursery area and alpine glasshouses which produces a wealth of colour. We planted 15,000 Spring bulbs, more spring flowering trees and 1,000 fragrant *Hyacinth*. A further project was replanting of the Bandstand and Wilson Borders with species collected by Ernest Wilson.

Education

Major changes included the departure of Environmental Activity Leaders and Study Centre Administrator. The schools' programme was relocated and our Study Centre leased to Birmingham Metropolitan College who now offer courses including Apprenticeships and NVQ qualifications. The number of pupils and adults attending this year was 8,318 compared with 8,456 last year. Group numbers also remained consistent with 210 this year and 222 last year. Finance received from schools' activities was £30,873 which was an increase of £940 on last year's figure of £29,933. We continued to work closely with the Outdoor Learning Service (OLS). OLS pupil and teacher numbers attending were 7,277 compared with 6,486 last year. 167 groups were admitted during the year. Two brand new Gardens' educational items were a series of monthly changing children's trails and Family Explorer Backpacks.

Finance

Operating conditions remained extremely tough. income was £168,856 lower than in 2012. Income from admissions and membership reduced by over £28,500 partly due to reductions in the admission price to encourage more visitors. Sales from The Shop at the Gardens showed a 17% fall. Income from education activities decreased by over £25,000 despite the new lease arrangements with BMet. Donations and legacies also fell significantly. Costs were reduced by £147,959 in the year despite significant one off charges for consultancy and redundancy payments. The Gardens' payroll reduction of £164,025 means we currently employ just twelve full time and four part time staff. We suffered significant increases in utility and maintenance costs in the year. Capital expenditure in the year amounted to £114,749. Our cash balances reduced by £142,409 during the year but at year end, the Gardens continued to retain cash reserves of £314,497.



Future

The Trustees continue to progress long-term plans for the development of the Gardens. In order to broaden Trustee expertise in areas in which this is required, the Board is seeking new members with experience in the areas of marketing, IT, retail, finance, construction and maintenance. Interested parties may obtain further information in the first instance from the Chief Executive and Curator.



Notice of
2013
 Annual
 General
 Meeting
 and
 Overview
 of the
 Year

President
 Sir Euan Anstruther-Gough
 Calthorpe Bt

