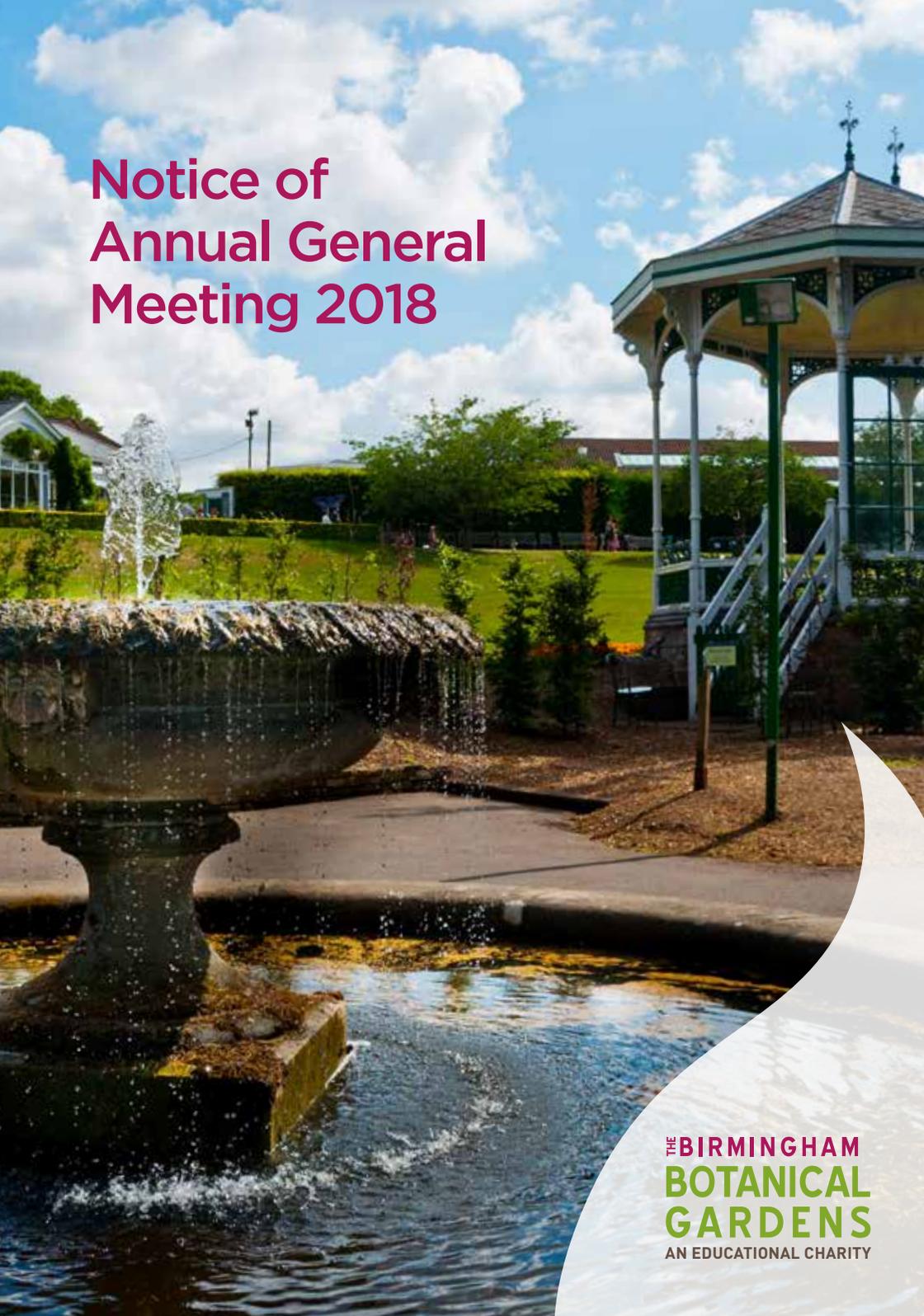


Notice of Annual General Meeting 2018



THE **BIRMINGHAM**
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
AN EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society Limited (Company Number 248827, Charity Number 528981) will be held at the Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses, Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham on Monday 24 September 2018 at 6pm to transact the following business:

To receive and adopt the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 and the reports of the Trustees and of the Auditors.

1. To re-elect existing Members and elect new Members of the Committee: C. Lucas, A. Sharma, V. Aspland, B. Leadbeater

2. To approve the following resolution: That with effect from 1 April 2019 the annual charges for membership of the Society, inclusive of Value Added Tax shall be:

- i Family Membership **£67**
(Entry for up to 2 adults and 3 concessions)
- ii Adult Membership **£42**
(One adult plus guest)
- iii Corporate Season Ticket **£122**
(Entry for five people)
- iv Concession Membership **£29**
(Students and over 60's plus guest)
- v Life Membership **£820**
(Entry for one person plus guest)
- vi Senior Life Membership **£510**
(Entry for one person over 60 plus guest)

NOTE: £2 discount is given to Family, Adult and Concession Members who pay by Direct Debit.

3. To appoint the auditor and authorise the Committee to agree their remuneration.

4. To transact any other business which may be transacted at an AGM

5. Special Resolution - it is proposed that, subject to obtaining any necessary Charity Commission consent, a special resolution is passed that new Memorandum and Articles of Association

be adopted in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing Memorandum and Articles of association either:-

- A. In the form set out in draft Memorandum and Articles "A" - to reflect current law and practice and to amend the membership provisions to draw a distinction between Visitor Members and Company Members; or
- B. In the form set out in draft Memorandum and Articles "B" - to reflect current law and practice.

Copies of draft Memorandum and Articles "A" and "B" can be found at www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk and will be tabled at the AGM. Hard copies may be requested by contacting marie@birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk.

6. To transact any other business which may be transacted at an AGM

BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE

M. A. LIBERSON Chairman
1 August 2018

Registered Office:
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Westbourne Road, Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 3TR
Telephone
0121 454 1860
Email
admin@birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

If you are a Member who is entitled to attend and vote at the meeting, you are entitled to appoint another person as your proxy to attend the meeting to represent you and exercise all or any of your rights to attend, speak and vote at the meeting. You may only appoint a proxy using the proxy form which can be obtained from marie@birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk and using the procedures set out in the notes to the proxy form. The completed and signed proxy form must be sent or delivered to the Company no later than Monday 24 September 2018 at 09:00.



Overview of the year

We report below the key achievements in pursuance of our aims and objectives during the year ended 31 March 2018. The Charity offers grateful thanks to all who contribute to the Gardens including Trustees, Volunteers, Staff and above all, our Members and Visitors. Your support is vital if we are to secure the future of these Gardens because we are entirely self funding and have no other means of remaining open.

EDUCATION

14,924 school pupils and adults visited the Gardens this year. These included 287 group visits. 43% of visits came from Birmingham schools and 57% of visits came from areas further afield including Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, and Yorkshire. This generated a total education income to the Gardens for the year of £90,256. Our partnership with Birmingham Metropolitan College continues to offer a wide variety of popular horticultural courses from our Study Centre.

HORTICULTURE

The highlight of our Horticultural year was the Award of a Gold Medal to Birmingham Botanical Gardens for our exhibit of our National Cyclamen Collection at the Royal Horticultural Society's Early Spring Show in 2018. Team Leader for the Show was Nigel Hopes and the Charity is very grateful to him and the entire Horticultural Team for their great effort and skill which delivered this very prestigious award. This year has seen a real change in personnel within the external horticultural team. Christine Morris has retired and Wyl Durrant has changed careers; we wish them both well and thank them for all their hard work. Our new faces in horticulture are Chris Howell and Rob Holland who joined the horticultural staff at the end of November 2017. Our Arid House is now in urgent need of expensive and expert restoration work. The Gardens do not receive any public funding so if you would like to make a donation to the preservation of this priceless educational resource, please contact us.

ENTERPRISES

The Charity's trading and fundraising activities continued to enjoy success. Our Christmas Lights event attracted 36,000 customers at a time when traditionally few visit, and our Jurassic Kingdom summer event delivered 35,000 visitors and a very positive impact on retail turnover and income. Our caterers continued to provide a high quality, catering and events service for Weddings and other corporate and social occasions. A new contractor, Aramark, one of the world's most successful catering companies successfully bid for the Charity's catering contract and took over catering at the Gardens in July 2018. We are looking forward to working with Aramark to provide even more memorable events.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Fulltime equivalent employees at year end rose from 21.5 to 25.5. We are grateful for their commitment and hard work over the year. A new Trustee who joined our Board this year is Catherine Lucas who brings expertise gained in a very successful career in global retail design consultancy to support the Charity's aim to become more widely known and to attract new audiences. We look forward to working with Catherine to take the Gardens to even higher levels of popularity in the future. Volunteers provided us with 3976 hours of work during the year. The Friends of the Botanical Gardens continued their tireless efforts in raising much needed funds for the Charity. These activities bring much pleasure to visitors and include our popular Spring Book Sale and our commemorative Memory Pool. We offer our sincere thanks to all our Staff, Trustees, Friends and Volunteers for their work on the Gardens' behalf in the past year.

VISITORS AND MEMBERS

Our Charity relies on our own commercial income streams and these again showed positive progress. Most encouragingly, the number of day visitors to the Gardens showed an increase, with a resulting increase in admissions income. Our membership also increased in the year and we thank all our members for their loyalty and support. For those who wish to make a longer term commitment to the Gardens, we now offer life membership.

FINANCE

The 2017/18 has been a really good year in terms of financial results. For the first time since 2008, the Charity's net outgoing and incoming resources were positive. Total income rose by 4% compared to last year, with admissions income being 25% higher. Our retail income rose by 19% as a result of our increased visitors and our two main events - the Dinosaurs and Christmas lights. Total visitors to the Garden's rose by 6%. Membership numbers at year end were 5% higher than last year with 5,133 members at year end. We received £65,000 in donations and legacies (prior year £104,000). Catering income remained unchanged at the annually guaranteed level. Capital expenditure amounted to £138,000 and included spend on refurbishing the Pavilion toilets.

FUTURE

The Charity's five year business plan aims to deliver a financially sustainable business. We are grateful for the support we have received in response to our appeals for help to fund vital repairs: much more needs to be done. Our development plan continues to progress and includes expansion of our visitor entrance, car park, catering and retail offers. Renovation of our glasshouses and ancillary facilities will follow once funding is in place.

THANK YOU

Your support enables our vital work in horticulture and education to succeed in this unique historic and green location. Because of you, this priceless attraction continues to be enjoyed by all who visit. We hope you enjoy many happy visits here in the coming year ahead.

A full copy of the Annual Report and Accounts for the Charity is available as a PDF on our website: www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk or on request.

INCOME



	£
 Donations & Legacies	65,082
 Banqueting Suites	300,000
 Shop at the Gardens	253,617
 Other	17,914
 Investment	140
 Gardens	618,487
 Education	143,880
Total	1,399,120

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Westbourne Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham B15 3TR

Tel: 0121 454 1860

birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

Find us on:    

The Gardens are a registered
Educational Charity, No: 528981