

## **NOTES FROM COMMITTEE MEETING OF 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

- Caroline Harcourt chaired the meeting and advised us that Peg Piel would be retiring from the committee and will not seek re-election at the 2013 AGM. (PLEASE ask your members if anyone is interested in joining the Executive Committee)
- A Twitter Account is now up and running and will be overseen by Kate Hutchinson. Twitter: name – CottageGardenSociety and tag - @CottageGardenSo

A few followers have been gained including Toby Buckland.

- The Treasurer, Maureen Hersee, reported that her aim this financial year was to reduce the deficit and this was going in the right direction. Maureen had attended the RHS Affiliated Societies day relating to direct debit schemes. The committee felt that such a scheme would make it easier for the society to collect subscriptions particularly when they increase. The views of all groups would be appreciated please and would you advise how many of your members would be prepared to sign up to Direct Debit.
- An email had been received from Christine Flint of the S. Hereford Group asking for an update on progress of the cost issues that were discussed in June at the National Group Meeting
- Maureen Hersee produced a succinct summary, which has been forwarded to Christine - a copy is attached for information for all groups. Maureen welcomes positive enquires and feedback about the society's finances from group leaders and members.
- The Editor, Julia Boulton, is continuing with her efforts to increase membership of the society and is forwarding copies of the magazine to contacts. Julia has recently met with the editor of The Garden (RHS Magazine) and is hoping to have an article published promoting the CGS.
- Details of the 2013 KENNETH BLACK LECTURES can now be found on the Website in the Events pages. If you wish your group to be included in the 2014 draw (2013 winners not allowed!) send names to me by the end of February.
- WEBSITE – your written contributions and photographs would be very welcome and should be sent to Caroline Harcourt. If you haven't already done so please send details of your 2013 programme to me.
- MAGAZINE – please encourage your members and their children/grandchildren to write articles, my granddaughter wrote the article "The Little Seed that wouldn't Grow" in the December magazine and she was delighted when it was published - the Editor would like more articles and letters. Articles from the magazine may in future be published on the website.

- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS - 2013 – Sunday 23 June at The Education Village, Darlington, when the speaker will be John Grundy talking about The Great Gardens of the North East. Garden visits have been arranged and further details are on the website and will be published in the March magazine. I do hope as many of you as possible are able to attend this meeting.
- 2014 AGM – this will be held at The Manor, Hemmingford Grey, Cambridgeshire; further details will be available in the New Year.
- The RHS Open Days at Wisley and Harlow Carr and the RHS Affiliated Societies Day at Wisley were attended by Committee members aimed at promoting the CGS and increasing membership.
- 2013 SHOWS, OPEN DAYS AND NATIONAL PLANT SALE – The future of shows were discussed at length as costs are increasing considerably. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting but please be aware that, for insurance purposes, the RHS has stipulated that all members helping on RHS days and at shows **must** be a member of The CGS. Keep checking on the website for details of plant sales and shows.
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS – To reduce costs Executive Committee Meetings have been decreased from 4 to 3 a year.

2013 meetings will be held on:

13 January – Please forward to me items for discussion at this meeting

12 May

15 September

JEAN ROSCOE