



THE JOHN INNES SOCIETY

FOR CONSERVATION IN THE JOHN INNES ESTATE AT MERTON
Registered Charity No. 803759

TRUSTEES FOR 2018/19

Officers:

Co-Chair Alison Cousins
Co-Chair Desé Child
Vice-Chair Ingrid Holtz
Hon. Secretary Tim Fripp
Hon. Treasurer Vicky Kelly

Committee members:

Pauline Bottrill Ann Redfearn
Catherine Bottrill John Veale
Hubert Child Tris Kelly

Hon. Auditor: Mr. F. Rayner

**The 48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Wednesday 24th April 2019
at Merton Park Primary School at 8 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2018**
3. **To receive the Annual Report**
4. **To receive the Accounts and the Auditor's Report** and confirm the appointment of the Auditor for 2019
5. **Motions:**
 - (a) Involving a change in the Constitution and Rules of the Society: .
 - (b) Other motions not involving a change of the Constitution and Rules. (*Any motion in this category should be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary not less than 7 days before the meeting.*)
6. **To elect the Officers** (Officers are elected for one year).
7. **To elect the remaining Members of the Committee**
(Under the existing Constitution members serve for one year and are eligible to be nominated for re-election. Under rule 8 the permissible number of Committee members, other than the officers, is 12. Nominations are therefore sought for all 12 positions.)
8. **Any other business**

Notes:

Every member whose subscription is paid up to date at the time of the AGM shall be entitled to vote on each motion – Rule 3.

Nominees proposed as officers or members of the Committee must be over 18 years old and must be fully paid up members of the Society. It is not necessary for the proposer or seconder or their nominee to be present at the meeting at which the election takes place. Nominations must reach the Hon. Secretary not later than 10th April 2019 – Rules 7 and 8.

Tim Fripp, Hon. Secretary, 16 Melrose Road, Merton Park SW19 3HG

After the AGM there will be a talk and discussion about

***Merton's Open Spaces with Cllr Nick Draper, Merton's Cabinet Member for
Community and Culture.***

followed by an opportunity to socialise with complimentary refreshments.

PLEASE BRING THIS INSERT, THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS, WITH YOU TO THE AGM

Data Protection All personal information supplied to the Society by members will be used solely for communications with them concerning the Society's Governance, Membership, Events and matters concerning the Society. It will not be shared with any other organisation except where there is a Statutory obligation to do so.

Annual Report of the John Innes Society for the year ending December 31st 2018.
Charity no. 803759

Membership – membership numbers currently stand at 750 in 420 households. Income from subscriptions and donations continues to hold up well and we thank members who provide Gift Aid declarations enabling us to claim additional tax relief income.

Committee - We welcomed Tris Kelly to the committee. Pauline Bottrill moved away and Joanna Bazley sadly died. Although Joanna had been all too briefly part of committee, she had been a regular contributor to the newsletter. Pauline had done exceptional work for Area Embellishment and established the successful Garden Vision Projects.

Financial Situation - Fundraising events continued to generate a healthy income to spend on improvements to the area. The Bridge Club has been particularly popular this year and congratulations are due to Michael Forbes for his leadership and enthusiasm. Our reserves, accumulated over many years, remain healthy and the Committee decided to increase our building repairs reserve fund for the Coach House and our local action contingency fund in view of several major plans on the horizon which may require response. We are grateful to Vicky Kelly for taking initiatives on these and future budgetary plans.

The committee had several **administrative actions** to deal with, namely the implications of the General Data Protection Regulation and a resulting Data Audit, a protocol on Financial Controls and ensuring that we conformed to the requirements of the Charities Automatic Disqualification Rules.

We also re-joined the London Forum (a group of other civic societies) and signed up to the Small Charities Commission, which we hope will give us some wider publicity.

Newsletter – for most of 2018 Rebecca Dalton became our Editor but had to retire at the end of the year when she took on a full time job. We agreed to have a regular special colour edition of the printed version to mark special events. Of the 420 member households, 111 receive the newsletter by email reducing our carbon footprint.

Website and Emails – A preview version of the new website was launched at the AGM. This is being worked on by Catherine Bottrill and will have more attractive visual material, and links to key documents and supportive information. The e-mail lists were updated by Ingrid Holtz and Dave Clifton in accordance with the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulation. Ingrid continues to do all the e-mail alerts and update the existing website.

Events – regular activities continue to be well supported and profitable.

Yet again the **May Plant Sale** enjoyed wonderful weather and was moved to an earlier time so that the royal wedding might not be missed.

The autumn **Plant and Produce Sale** was dogged again by rain but was still successful – rain does not stop cake consumption or compost delivery.

Ann Redfearn and Viv Tuley are to be thanked for organising both events, as well as their “significant others” – Keith Etherington and Simon Tuley. Between them they grew the majority of the excellent quality plants on sale.

Music in the Park, organised by Dese Child and Ann Redfearn this year featured the Kaleidoscope Saxophone Quartet, but a clash with an England World Cup Football game meant the audience were not as many as there could have been. Absentees missed a really good concert.

There were two bites at the **Quiz** cherry this year – a mini session in the Coach House run by Alison Cousins and a full house in the Church Hall with Dr. Chris Abbott as quizmaster, organised by Penny Clarke, Ann Redfearn, Katherine Watkins and Alison Cousins. To celebrate the completion of work on **Merton Priory**, John Hawks from the Trust was invited to

give a talk on stage 1 of the upgrade to this unique resource.

By popular demand, a second very successful **Open Gardens** day was capably managed by Nasreen Rahman and again beautiful weather enabled participants to showcase some exceptional gardens.

New for this year was a joint venture with the Natural Childbirth Trust – a **Family Festival** enthusiastically co-ordinated by our new member Tris Kelly. This aimed to promote the JI Park to young families and produced a small profit to be used specifically in the park by the Friends Group.

Heritage Events – this year was particularly significant for us, being the centenary of the vote being granted to some women and marked a borough-wide celebration of our local suffragettes. Our major input was a tea party in the grounds of Dorset Hall, the former home of Rose Lamartine Yates, a notable suffragette. This was inspired by Catherine Bottrill who also took part in events and featured banners made by students from Ricards Lodge school. Earlier in the year, the Garden Vision Project under the guidance of Pauline Bottrill had organised a banner making workshop and marched proudly through Central London with them. Alison Cousins also mounted an exhibition of photos from the life of Rose at the Coach House, which later transferred to the Heritage Centre in Morden Library. In May we again supported the Discovery Day there with John Veale, who represents the Society on the Heritage Forum, on the stall. Rebecca Dalton spearheaded our appeal to support the move to get a blue plaque on Dorset Hall and we reprinted our booklet on the house to mark the year.

Planning – In addition to evaluating and responding to the regular planning applications within our Area of Benefit, Dese Child led lengthy committee deliberations on The London Plan and Merton Local Plan, and we submitted detailed responses to both. The importance of these strategic planning documents cannot be underestimated. Vicky Kelly attended a meeting at which the new Wimbledon Town Centre Master Plan was presented. Hubert Child represents us at meetings concerning Crossrail 2, but there is little progress due to lack of funding. We were also called to give a statement at a specially convened Council meeting in respect of Merton's actions regarding the future of Merton Hall, in view of it having been a donation by John Innes to the community. At the end of the year Transport for London presented their options for a possible new tram route from Wimbledon to Sutton and members were encouraged to submit their own responses and also on Heathrow's Flight Path changes.

Area Embellishment / Enhancement – we paid for the repair and repainting of the Coach House as a requirement of our Lease from the Council. We purchased new plants for the rockery in the John Innes Park for the Friends Group, headed with considerable vision by Jo Pfeifer, and work is under way clearing the pond and providing for easier access to maintain it. In Kendor Gardens, the Friends Group, under the guidance of Fred Rayner and Catherine Bottrill, assisted by the local Focus - 4 – 1 adult mental health group, achieved great things. We provided funds for all the rose beds to be restocked and cleared, making a significant difference. A small picnic was held to thank all helpers. David Cowie gave a presentation on the history and ecology of the Glebe Field to the Garden Vision group who also organised a holly workshop. We attended meetings of the Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum which enables us to contact the Council's contractor directly, and we receive the newsletter of the Merton Tree Wardens.

Appreciation – thanks are due to so many people but above all to our conscientious committee secretary Tim Fripp. Thanks also to Fred Rayner who acts as our Hon. Auditor, to all members of the two Friends' Groups, and everyone who contributes to and delivers the newsletter, donates plants, cakes, and above all, their time, in support of the work of the Society.

THE JOHN INNES SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the Years ended 31st December 2017 & 2018

	2017		2018	
	£	£	£	£
GENERAL ACCOUNT				
Members' Subscriptions	4,035	3,937		
Gift Aid tax relief	818	912		
Interest	266	319		
Donations	706	772		
Total Receipts		5,815		5,940
Running costs:				
Annual Meetings	276	215		
Depreciation	70	52		
Rent & Rates	1,264	1,399		
Insurance	1,422	1,531		
Software, stationery	140	95		
Electricity	568	569		
Maintenance	178	1,600		
Subscriptions to Outside Bodies	-	100		
Sundries	87	4,005		5,561
Surplus/(Deficit) on General Account		1,810		378

PROJECTS ACCOUNT

Fundraising Income:				
Plant Bring & Buy Donations	4,324	4,136		
Bridge	1,955	2,105		
Open Gardens	-	1,818		
Other Events & Fundraising	2,330	3,438		
		8,609		11,497
Fundraising Costs:				
Plant Bring & Buy Costs	2,028	2,064		
Bridge purchases	-	132		
Open Gardens	-	191		
Other Events Costs	1,561	2,456		4,843
Net total fundraising		5,020		6,654

Spending on Society Activities:

Historical e.g. exhibitions, archives	336	112		
Newsletter incl distribution	1,591	1,335		
Suffrage Centenary activities	-	954		
Environmental e.g. gardens, parks	946	1,439		
Use of Park Fund monies	-	(161)		
Total Society Activities		2,873		3,679
Surplus/(Deficit) on Projects Account		2,147		2,976

The Society has progressively accumulated the General Reserves and Projects and Provisions funds over a number of years. The Society has a full repairing Lease on the Coach House, a Locally Listed building, and also holds reserves in the event of a decision to launch a legal challenge e.g. a Judicial Review.

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2017 & 2018

	2017		2018	
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS:				
Investment Accounts	61,637	64,953		
Balance at Bank	8,324	10,213		
Equipment	209	157		
Stocks at Cost - Books	70	320		
Advance payments & Gift Aid receivable	1,398	750		
		71,638		76,393
Less accruals and subscriptions in advance		(1,606)		(2,645)
		70,032		73,748

Represented by:

GENERAL RESERVES

Brought forward	7,379	9,189
General Account Surplus/(Deficit)	1,810	378
	9,189	9,567

PROJECTS AND PROVISIONS

Brought forward	51,628	53,775
Projects Account Surplus/(Deficit)	2,147	2,976
	53,775	56,751

Life Members' Subscriptions	2,745	3,250
Bequests	2,002	2,012
J.Hutchin Fund	1,327	1,334
J.Wallace Archive Fund	243	244
Graffiti Fund	315	315
Park Fund	436	275

TOTAL RESERVES:

	7,068	7,430
	70,032	73,748

V J Kelly, Hon. Treasurer

Report of the Auditor to the Members of the John Innes Society

I certify that these accounts show a true and fair view of the Society's results for the year ended 31st December 2018 and the state of affairs at that date.


 2nd February 2019
 Hon Auditor Frederick J Rayner
 30 Daybrook Road, Merton Park, SW19