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# Annual Report 2018

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# PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

DR OWEN DOYLE  
CHORT FCIHORT



It is my pleasure to introduce you to our Annual Report for 2018. My two year term of office ended in October 2018 and may I take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues on Council, the Management Board, Branch committees and individual volunteers for their efforts in developing our Institute and advocating for our profession over this past year. Gerald Bonner was elected as President and Susan Nicholas elected as President-elect/Vice President at our AGM which was held in the Farmers and Fletcher's venue in London. Also at the AGM John Whetman retired after many years of distinguished service as Treasurer of the IOH and CIH, we thank him for his dedicated service. Our new Treasurer is Gabriel Roe who had been, amongst many other roles in the IOH and CIH, Treasurer of the Ireland Branch.

I am my colleagues continued our efforts to advocate for horticulture and promote the CIH at the highest levels of local and national Governments. I highlight just three examples of advocacy and acknowledge the many other contributions made by CIH members. Firstly, the CIH and its members contributed to the outcomes from the deliberations of the Westminster All Party Group for Gardening and Horticulture, secondly, the confirmation that the subjects Ornamental and Amenity Horticulture have been added to the ESFA regulations/funding guidance as specialist areas that contribute towards whether or not a College qualifies as a specialist land based provider, a decision that is a critical for the future funding of horticulture education and training organisations. And lastly, the political statement at the Oxford Farming Conference in July 2018 which recognised that horticulture is based on STEM subjects (Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics). The translation of this statement into government policy is the next stage in placing the horticulture industry alongside other STEM sectors, such as engineering, ICT and biotechnology for example. I am sure that this will raise the status of our profession with, students,

parents/guardians, teachers, guidance councillors and government policy makers.

Our Annual Strategy Day was held in June using the Business Canvas Model. Council reviewed the business structure of the CIH and this will help focus our future activities as a member organisation and ensure that our principle task, which is to support and assist individual members in their career development and education, will be delivered. One of the key outcomes of this review exercise was the description of the 'Value Proposition', that is the tangible and real benefits of membership that our institute provides. A first iteration of these benefits was used at the recent GLAS industry trade show, held in Dublin, to enumerate the reasons why horticulturists should join our Institute. These were reiterated at our very successful Conference and AGM held in London in October.

Our new Education and Qualifications Committee was empanelled in early 2018 and they have been working on development accredited pathways for Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Our objective to appoint a Development Officer was unfortunately not realised during 2018, however, it is anticipated that this position will be filled in early 2019.

Last but not least, I must acknowledge our flagship event the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition which has continued to develop under the guidance of Susan Nicholas, Graham Porter and the many other colleagues at Branch level, but in particular the horticulture education institutions that arrange many of the local competitions. The Grand Final was held during the Harrogate Flower Show and was streamed live to an international audience. We acknowledge the significant help and financial support of the Percy Thrower Trust, Bord Bia and all of the YHOY sponsors.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the CIH and the advancement of our profession during 2018, I commend this Annual Report to you.

# INSTITUTE COMMITTEES

## MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

The Management Board comprises the Honorary Officers of President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President. In addition co-opted members are also included as chairman of sub committees.

The purpose and direction of the Management Board is set by Council. The Management Board is tasked with overseeing and organising the sub committees of Membership, Communication and Education and it also manages our out-sourced secretariat provided by HTA

Our out-sourced secretariat provision came to the end of the three year contract in December. After an extensive selection process the 2019 contract for secretariat services was awarded to the British Growers Association from Louth in Lincolnshire. The BGA is an experienced horticultural organisation providing administrative, HR and accountancy services to Horticultural organisations. We look forward to a long and rewarding relationship.

The 2018 AGM and Conference took place at the Farmers & Fletchers Hall in Central London and was a resounding success. Attendance totalled 85 and we had an extensive range of speakers from Consultancy, Soft Fruit and the Ornamental sectors. The Farmers & Fletchers Hall proved to be a very convenient location and we will return to this location in 2019. One difference in 2019 will be the separation of the AGM and Conference. The AGM will move to an early date of 1 June 2019 at Pershore College and Conference will be on Thursday 3 October 2019. Moving forward the AGM will move around the country to be a focal point for branches.

The Management Board continues to review its offering to members and in particular we will seek to review our service offering to Chartered Members. A new portal has been developed on the web site and a members log-in is now available along with online payments for events and membership. Our new member CRM system continues to develop and we now have all members on the new system. This new CRM system offers great potential for member communication in the future and our new secretariat will be fully utilising this resource.

A series of meetings has taken place with

other chartered organisations to provide a complementary CPD offering. We hope this will be available in Autumn 2019 along with an on-line CPD submission form. This online form will make the process of logging CPD activity very straight forward. In addition the Education committee has also been meeting with provider organisations to ensure that we have a multiplicity of routes to chartership for experienced horticulturists, new entrants and career changers. We hope that this new chartership programme will be launched in early 2020.

Our Communication committee continues to improve our social media offering and in particular our news and events section on the website. The web site has been continually updated in 2018 and this has been a significant improvement.

*The Horticulturist* also continues to develop and this is now available online for members to access. The Journal is published three times a year and attracts a wide global list of contributors and subscriptions.

Our search for a development officer will continue in 2019 as we embed our new secretariat and establish the full capabilities of our new CRM system. The Institute is in a very health financial position and our membership continues to grow. We look forward to the roll out of CPD and Chartership, the improvement of our website and social media offering, and the programme of hosting our AGM around the country with branches. Much progress has been made in 2018 and much more will be made in 2019.

My immense thanks to all Management Board colleagues for their dedication and contribution in 2018.

**Gerald Bonner CHort FCIHort**  
**Chairman, Management Board**

# INSTITUTE COMMITTEES

## HONORARY TREASURER REPORT

2018 continued to be a good financial year for the Chartered Institute of Horticulture. By year end the Institute was in a considerably stronger financial position than at the start of the year.

Income was mainly composed of membership fees of almost £148k, Legacy bequest of over £9k, YHOY heat sponsorship £6k, monies from Shropshire Horticulture Society for 2017 and 2018 YHOY finals of £22.5k, Conference £6.7k and miscellaneous £5k.

Expenditure was mainly Secretariat £78k, meetings £14.5k, IT and database £9.7k, The Horticulturist £19.3k, YHOY heats £4.4k and final £10k, Membership refunds £9.6k, AGM and Conference almost £12k and miscellaneous £9.8k.

During the year £15k was transferred to the CCLA account leaving a balance at the end of the year of over £41k in this account. This also left a bank balance at the end of the year of £25.2k.

In addition, the legacy bequest was deposited in an NFU Mutual account. This along with previous investments meant that there was £112.7k in the NFU Mutual accounts at the end of 2018.

Membership fees were adjusted in line with inflation for 2018. This resulted in the following fees; Associate Membership £88, Member £112, Fellow £142 and the Chartered supplement of £102. Retired Membership fees varied from £44 to £70 depending on category.

The Management Board and Council continued to monitor income and expenditure very closely over the year with the aim of maximising income and ensuring that the expenditure contributed to the capacity of the Institute to deliver an enhanced professional service for the membership.

**John Whetman**

**Honorary Treasurer**

### **Charitable and public benefit**

The Charity Commission requires all charities to make an annual statement as to the way their activities benefit the public.

The Institute considers that the securing of Chartered Status provided both the horticultural industry and its members with added professional status from the wider world, especially as more members become 'Chartered Horticulturists'. The collaborative work of the Institute with key organisations ensure both the Institute and the industry has a voice on the wider stage.

The Institute continues to provide professional development and support to its membership on a regional basis in the furtherance of its Aims as well as celebrate young talent in Horticulture through the continued organisation of the Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition. It also supports horticultural education and vocational training organisations through the maintaining of the Education and Training Group and Grow Careers initiative. The Trustees are mindful of the Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit.

### **Reserves policy**

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture's policy concerning the level of cash and investments is to have funds available to: meet liabilities as they fall due; meet emergencies and build up investments over a period with the aim of providing an additional income stream to cover its activities.

The Trustee's free reserves target, at a minimum, is to cover the full cost of operating the Institute for two months. The current level of free reserves held is considered by the Trustees to be sufficient to support the Institute's Reserves Policy. This policy is reviewed annually.

### **Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Internal risks are minimised by the maintenance of procedures for the authorisation of all transactions.

A Business Plan was produced and adopted in September 2010 to give direction and aid planning. This is reviewed by Council to monitor progress and the Strategic Goals are re-examined and updated annually to agree a proper match between incoming resources and expenditure.

A Risk Register has been compiled and is reviewed annually by Council. Examples of risks evaluated, monitored and managed are;

- Failure to achieve income targets through grants and sponsorship contributions
- Risk of fraud through inadequate financial controls
- Vacancies on Council and in branches - lack of quorum/capacity.

### **Subscription rates**

Council proposed a 2% increase in subscription fees for 2019 to reflect the rising cost of inflation. The number of categories has been simplified for 2019. The proposed fees are therefore:

Member £115

Fellow £145

Associate £90

Retired £65

Additional fee for Chartered status £105

Student FREE

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

David Wortham, WorthamJaques, Crediton.

# INSTITUTE COMMITTEES

## EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS COMMITTEE

### Current members

Dr Phillippa Dodds (Soft Fruit)  
Dr Owen Doyle (Higher Education)  
Dr David Elphinstone (R&D)  
Paul Mooney (Further Education)  
Dr Ed Moorhouse (Salads and Vegetables)  
Dr Phil Morley (Protected Edibles)  
Keith Vernon (Amenity)  
Graham Spencer (Ornamental)  
Sara Redstone (Botanical)

### Recent activities

This committee is continuing to develop routes to provide Continued Professional Development for members who wish to maintain their Chartered status whilst also considering alternative routes for members to become Chartered (currently the only route is the application form and providing evidence to fulfil the required competences).

### The AgriFood Training Partnership

We had our last meeting with the AgriFood Training Partnership (AFTP), who are a consortium of Universities and research institutions who provide Masters level courses. Current partners include:

Aberystwyth University  
Rothamsted Research  
Campden BRI  
The University of Nottingham  
Harper Adams University  
University of Reading University of Surrey  
University of Birmingham  
Bangor University  
Leatherhead Food Research  
Cranfield University  
University of Aberdeen  
NIAB

They recognised the following as the key requirements for Chartered status:

- For the institution the commitment to on-going learning and professional development.
- For members – Chartered status allows recognition of this continuing development and striving for advancement BUT
- It is time consuming, may be costly and takes a professional away from their professional (and personal) commitments often when these are at their peak

- Where Chartered status is not a requirement to practice, there must be a level of prestige and recognition to make it worth the effort.

They proposed five methods by which CIH and AFTP could work together:

1. CIH members are able to undertake any of the courses currently offered by the AFTP either as Continued Professional Development without assessment or to gain academic credits for these to count towards a Master's degree programme.
2. Development of a means of recognition or accreditation by CIH by which members can evidence their Continued Professional Development with or without attainment of academic credits; the AFTP has a suite of modules developed which allow academic credit to be gained for professional development activities which fall outside of the courses delivered by the wider AFTP. This approach could be modified which would provide a recognition mechanism for the 30 hours of Continued Professional Development which is required of a CIH member to retain their Chartered status.
3. Undertaking any of the online courses offered by University of Reading without the need for completing the pre-study or assessments. These each take approximately 30 hours of study.
4. Development of tailored courses which may better meet the needs of the members as they work towards attainment or maintenance of their Chartered status and to provide academic credits for contribution to a post graduate award; the AFTP can work together with members of the CIH's education committee to develop and deliver training in areas which are specifically of benefit to their sector and to address identified niche skills gaps.
5. Contextualisation of degree apprenticeships; the AFTP has learned that an apprenticeship provider is only required to deliver 50% of the course and that the remainder can be outsourced to alternative suppliers provided that the assessments map to those of the apprenticeship standard. The AFTP is able to provide this contextualisation, either with its existing courses, or with those which the CIH may wish to co-develop.

Other, smaller, more incremental mechanisms were discussed such as papers in *The Horticulturist* with online 'quizzes', videos, vlogs etc through CIH's social media platforms

### Future work

- We need to work on recommended modules to achieve Chartered status
- We need to talk to AFTP about the development or inclusion of other modules to satisfy the breadth of the horticultural industry – notably the ornamental maintenance side of the industry
- We need to consider mechanisms for people to progress to this level 7 type activity, from level 3 upwards.

### Conclusion

It is hoped that a full and expansive CPD programme and a multiplicity of pathways to Chartership will be in place by winter 2019.

### Dr David Elphinstone

Chair, Education & Qualifications Committee

# INSTITUTE COMMITTEES

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

### Current members

Jonathan Ward (JW), Chair  
Andrew Lambie (AL)  
Pilar Dell (PD)  
Stacey Drinkell (SD)  
Ruth Harris (RH)

As a Committee, we are currently holding quarterly meetings via skype rather than face-to-face and are in regular communication via a WhatsApp group and email for day-to-day matters.

### Recent activities

The main recent activity of the committee has been:

#### 1. Social media

The CIH's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts are now active, as is the Grow Facebook page. Initial activity has been focused primarily on Facebook posts which has led to increase in the number of people following the CIH page (now 3,049 people; for comparison British Association of Landscape Industries 2,500 and Arboricultural Association 13,000).

There have been a couple of negative comments to posts relating to the inappropriate promotion of members' businesses and a few members taking the opportunity to criticise the CIH. The members concerned have all been contacted. Following this we have updated the Institute's Social Media Policy and Guidelines for all trustees, committees and the Secretariat. Key points affecting ordinary members will need to be incorporated into the Code of Conduct.

Currently there no access to the CIH LinkedIn profile and Grow's Twitter account due to lost passwords. Ruth is working on both these issues.

#### 2. Website

We are in the process of reviewing content on the website and have been making minor adjustments to layout and content e.g. home page and YHOY pages. In addition, we are regularly updating the news sections and adding both branch and external events (Institute events are also being added to Facebook).

Ruth is working on setting up an online payment section of the website which will used eventually for booking/paying for all Institute events and paying memberships. She is also looking at setting up online submission for CPD records.

#### 3. Internal communications

Stacey is working on setting up shared online folders for branches and committees so documents can be kept on CIH controlled systems and allow better access to documents, images, and other resources to carry out work.

We propose that a quarterly report is compiled from trustee, management board and national committees to be circulated to all branch committees.

#### 4. Membership

We propose the following immediate actions:

- Setting up of a publicly available register of Chartered Horticulturalists on the website.
- Branch and YHOY events to automatically be added to the e-hort.
- A shorter CIH events bulletin email to be sent out all members two week after each e-hort.

Summary of current action points

- Updating of news and events on social media and website (SD with support from the committee as required).
- Submission of the draft Social Media Policy and Guidelines to Management board (AL).
- Updating of members Code of Conduct with key social media points (Hon. Secretary).
- Regain control of Grow Twitter and CIH LinkedIn profile (RH).
- Setting up online payments (RH).
- Setting up online CPD submission (RH).
- Setting up shared folder facilities (SD).
- Approval by management board for the circulation of quarterly report to branches.
- Approval by management board for all items listed in section 4.

#### 5. Future planned activity

- Organise the 2019 Conference.
- Develop press release guidelines and review existing press contact database.
- Update internal event submission guidelines including producing national guidelines on fees (in consultation with branch committees).
- Source news stories for social media and the website from members.
- Continue to review, update, and develop content for the website (both public resources

to help meet our charitable statue and for members).

- Review and develop brand guidelines for the CIH.
- Review and develop CIH marketing materials.
- *The Horticulturalist* – promote and source articles (in consultation with the Editorial Board).
- Produce monthly analytics reports on social media and the website.
- Develop communications plan to promote the CIH to the public and industry.
- Develop communications plan to promote YHOY (in consultation with YHOY Action Group).

**Jonathan Ward**

**Chair, Communications Committee**

# INSTITUTE COMMITTEES

## YHOY ACTION GROUP

### Regional heats

Forty-five heats took part across Great Britain and Ireland during January and February 2018, with over 2,000 people taking part. Fifty three competitors registered via the website, half of which entered via Skype and the remainder were allocated to college heats.

### Regional finals

Eight regional finals were scheduled to take part across the regions. Due to severe snow Northern Branch and North West & North Wales regional finals had to be cancelled at the last minute. In order that competitors could take part a set of questions plus the identification rounds were extracted from the main questions, and facilitated by college lecturers and the regional organisers.

### Grand Final

The Grand final took place at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show on 28 April. The North of England Horticultural Society proved to be excellent hosts, provided entry into the flower show for all attending this attractive venue. They also provided prizes of local produce and handmade gifts in goody bags for the finalists.

Initially the competitors were neck-and-neck with a few marks between them. During the last two rounds Tim Miles from the South East went ahead, but a late challenge from Emily Marston, a new apprentice from RHS Harlow Carr, provided an exciting finish.

### Scores

Tim Miles (South East) 55  
Emily Marston (Northern) 46  
Frances Porter (North West & North Wales) 39  
Sally Newbrook (South West) 38  
Josh Egan-Wyer (West Midlands & South Wales) 37  
Owen Harlow (Scotland) 33  
Leo Walsh (Ireland) 31  
Rosie Innes-Taylor (Eastern) 27

Martin Fish, the question master was able to contain the competitor's enthusiasm, with Graham Porter acting as adjudicator. Gordon Nicholas provided the facility to live stream the competition via YouTube. We were pleased that Tim's in-laws were able to watch the competition live in Oregon, USA.

The logistics of setting up the competition in a working show proved challenging, and in my experience the hardest to date. Thanks to Caroline Norton, Graham and Judy Porter and Gordon Nicholas for their hard work and support.

### Sponsorship

The competition continues to attract sponsorship. We have seen decrease of sponsorship at regional level, but we are able to support the regional finals from national funding. The number of national sponsors is the lowest this has been for many years.

### National sponsors

PTT/SHS: £12,748  
ICL: £3,500  
HTA: £2,500  
CIH: £1,600 (administration of final)

CIH: Membership for one year  
Plant Network: Annual membership  
Northern Horticultural Society: Venue plus free entry for 100 people into the Harrogate Spring Flower Show.

### All Ireland sponsors

Bord Bia: €2,500

### Regional sponsors

Bulldog Tools  
Cherry Lane Garden Centres  
North of England Horticultural Society  
Plant Network  
South West Growers Show  
Stockbridge Technology Centre

### Regional supporters

Perennial

### Venues

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew  
Cannington College  
Cherry Lane Garden Centres  
Threave Gardens  
Pershore College  
National Botanic Gardens Glasnevin  
Liverpool University Botanic Gardens, Ness  
Thorp Perrow Arboretum

### Regional organiser

Many of our regional organisers, who do an excellent job, have been in the post for many years. We are now in the process of training up the next generation of regional organisers to take their place should they wish to relinquish their role. We are in possession of

two state-of-the-art wireless buzzer systems thanks to the generosity of Shropshire Horticultural Society. The idea is that these will eventually replace the existing buzzers. We are in the process of training operatives in each region to operate them.

The competition would not happen without the support of many volunteers in our regions. It is a privilege to work with dedicated people who promote the competition to give new opportunities to young people in our industry.

**Susan Nicholas**

**Chair, YHOY Action Group**

# BRANCH REPORTS

## SOUTH WEST BRANCH

### Committee members

Jess Evans, Chair  
Iain Park, Secretary  
John Whetman, Treasurer  
Chris Bird, YHOY Co-ordinator  
Jess Evans, Representative to Council  
Saul Walker, Events Co-ordinator

A lot of gardens in the south west seem to be having a lovely start to the year, certainly compared to last year. The slightly drier weather for a lot of us has enabled us to get onto the soil a bit earlier and so get going with preparations for this year.

In the South West branch we have been a bit slow on communicating with our members as quite a few of us in the committee have had busy starts to the year personally too. We hope to be in touch with you soon with information about trips we have planned for this year. Our first one we have organised is a trip to see the plans for the new Alpine greenhouses at Pershore college, the home of the AGS. We will get information out about this as soon as possible. Other visits for this year include to a wildflower meadow and Abbotsbury gardens for our AGM.

### Young Horticulturist of the Year

We have just seen the regional final of the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition at Exeter University. We would like to say a huge thank you to Sue and Gordon for their support in this and for continuing with a horrendous journey down from up north with the buzzers and technology. Thank you also to Gerald Bonner for coming along to support the heat. Chris Bird has been organising the South West YHOY for many years and once again did a fantastic job with the local heats and the regional heat this year.

Finally, thank you to Iain at Exeter University for helping with the organisation of the heat and your fantastic tour of the campus. It was fascinating to hear about how they manage the landscape of the site to maintain its history but also to ensure that all new buildings are built with respect to their environment and sit within the landscape. The *Magnolias* and *Amelanchiers* were looking fantastic. It was a stiff competition for the first place with good points scoring for everyone who was involved. It is a fantastic

achievement just to get to the regional final so well done to everyone. Congratulations of course go to Sally Newbrook and very best of luck for the final at Kew Gardens in May.

### Branch visits

We will be in touch soon with information about upcoming visits but in meantime if there is anything you would like to ask please or if you have any suggestions for visits please do get in touch. We would also like to hear from you if you would like to get involved with the committee as there are a couple of positions available.

### Jess Evans

Chair, South West Branch

## SOUTH EAST BRANCH

### Committee members

Angela Evans, Chair  
Gerry Houghton, Secretary  
Bernard Farrell, Treasurer  
John Brannan, YHOY Co-ordinator  
David Richardson, Representative to Council  
James Firth, Events Co-ordinator

### Young Horticulturist of the Year

The branch had another successful year, starting with the Young Horticulturist of the Year regional final at Kew Gardens in March. The evening was ably organised by our branch Co-ordinator John Brannan and Kew's Martin Staniforth, with support from Perennial. Our regional winner, Tim Miles of Sissinghurst Gardens, went on to win the Grand Final and plans to use his bursary to expand his knowledge of Japanese woodland flora, tools and horticultural practices.

### Branch visits

Our spring visit in April to Exbury Gardens, laid out by Lionel de Rothschild, was led by Head Gardener Tom Clarke. The spring colour was superb, with the Rhododendrons and Azaleas in full splendour.

In May we were treated to a return visit to Hyde Park 'Super Nursery'. Mike Jones, Nursery Manager, invited the branch back to see the nursery in full production. Thousands of plants were in prime condition, ready for planting out in the eight Royal Parks.

The branch attended the Landscape Show at Battersea Park in September. It was great to chat to lots of members, and we recruited several new members. Thanks to Gerry Houghton, Leo Pemberton, John Brannan and James Firth for manning the stand.

A very wet visit to the Savill and Valley Gardens near Windsor was saved by the superb knowledge and enthusiasm of John Anderson and his team. The scale and management of the gardens is truly remarkable, with an impressive eye to the future, past and present. The autumn colours were stunning.

Our christmas social in the West End was well attended and great fun, some 'old-faithfuls' and some new faces too.

### ABM

Our June ABM at Waterperry Gardens in

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Oxfordshire was well attended. The garden, established in 1932 as a horticultural school for women, has been open to the public since the early 1970s. Formal and naturalistic planting, with the backdrop of the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside, contrasted dramatically with the afternoon's visit to Oxford Botanic Gardens. The oldest botanic garden in Britain, it was founded in 1621, growing medicinal plants for research.

## Other news

In January 2018 the branch started an Instagram account. We have 80 posts and 357 followers. It's been fascinating to link with members, other horticulturists and enthusiasts in the UK and around the world, showcasing both horticulture and the Institute.

Your branch committee have worked throughout the year to organise events, meeting about 150 members during the events, and communicating with hundreds more. Huge thanks to John Brannan, Gerry Houghton, Bernard Farrell, David Richardson, James Firth, and to Doug Mackay who retires as Membership Secretary.

Always feel free to get in touch with us at [southeast@horticulture.org.uk](mailto:southeast@horticulture.org.uk) if you have any suggestions or comments. Most of our events are as a result of members offering to take us round where they work: showcase your labours!

## Angela Evans

Chair, South East Branch

## EASTERN BRANCH

### Committee members

Jason Daff, Chair  
Kristopher Harper, Vice-Chair  
Martyn Davey, Secretary  
Geoff Deeble, Treasurer  
Ian Roofe, YHOY Co-ordinator  
Jason Daff, Representative to Council  
Ian Roofe, Events Co-ordinator  
Johanna Seymour-Tavernor, Membership Secretary  
Fran Suckling, Student Representative

Another successful year for the branch, with events taking place around the whole of our region. Thank you to everyone who organised, hosted or participated in branch CPD visits over the past year.

### Young Horticulturist of the Year

The YHOY regional final was held at Shuttleworth College, our regional winner was Rosie Innes-Taylor, Senior Gardener at Wrest Park. The Eastern region final was sponsored by Cherry Lane Garden Centres, and was supported by an audience of more than 25 sponsors, employers and family supporters.

Thanks to all YHOY organisers particularly Ian Roofe, Kenny Higgs and Ben Everitt.

Following the regional final of YHOY, members were joined by competitors and their families for a tour of The Swiss Garden. Considering we had only recently visited the garden we were amazed at the changes that had been made to improve the openness and the feeling of light and space.

### Branch visits

In April, members joined us for a day of nursery visits in the Cambridgeshire Fens, the first of which was Delfland Nurseries. A family business owned and operated by husband and wife team John Overvoorde and Jill Vaughan, Delfland produce up to 40 million vegetable plants a year, both conventionally and organically. Following a networking lunch in a local pub we headed to Chapel Cottage Plants. David Green and his son Nicholas toured members around their nursery. Currently producing over 900 different herbaceous perennial lines, in either one or three litre pots. Cuttings and seeds are raised in their dedicated prop house erected in 2015 greatly reducing the reliance on young plant raisers.

In June we visited Fullers Mill Garden which is the home of the charity Perennial in the East, this visit allowed us to hear all about the charities' excellent work in support of horticulturists when the need help the most. Laura Garnett (Development Manager) was on hand to answer questions as well as Head Gardener Annie Dellbridge who led an excellent tour of the gardens.

Ted Smith, Adam Paxton and Jason Daff, represented the Eastern branch at Horticulture Week's Parks and Gardens Live event which was held at Woburn Abbey on 27 June. This trade-only event aimed at parks, landscape and amenity horticulture professionals gave us an opportunity to speak to visitors about the institute, our activities and the value of membership.

The September CPD visit was to Sandringham House, Head Gardener Martin Woods gave a tour of this historic landscape, taking in the best of the late summer interest.

The final visit of the year was to Barcham Trees, situated in the heart of the Cambridgeshire Fens, with a backdrop of Ely Cathedral, the Barcham Trees Nursery has over 500 varieties available to see on a site covering 350 acres. A holder of two Royal Warrants, Barcham are renowned for producing high quality specimen trees for the trade and public. David Johnson (Sales and Planting Consultant) gave a guided tour of the nursery and their impressive production facilities. The visit was followed by networking lunch in Ely.

### ABM

The Eastern Annual Branch Meeting took place on Saturday 28 July, in the Willow Room at the Beth Chatto Gardens in Elmstead Market, Essex. The meeting was preceded by a tour of the Gardens led by Dave Ward, Gardens and Nursery Director.

At the ABM, the committee were elected as follows: Chair and Council Representative: Jason Daff MCIHort. Vice-Chair: Kristopher Harper MCIHort. Treasurer: Geoff Deeble CHort MCIHort. Secretary: Martyn Davey MCIHort. Events Secretary and YHOY Coordinator: Ian Roofe MCIHort. Membership Secretary: Johanna Seymour-Tavernor MCIHort. Student Representative: Fran Suckling.

### Other news

As a branch we have been delighted to be joined by several new student members on our recent CPD visits, we hope that our

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student members are finding these visits useful and we welcome their participation. To this end, our Student Representative Fran Suckling, penned an excellent piece for the *The Horticulturist* published in the winter 2018 edition, detailing her experience as a student member and the benefits it has brought to her.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the branch committee, without whom we would not be able to provide such a diverse range of CPD opportunities. In particular Ian Roofe, Geoff Deeble, Jo Seymour-Tavernor and Fran Suckling.

We welcome ideas and suggestions from our members; if there is somewhere you would like us to visit, or you have suggestions for improving the networking capability within the branch, please get in touch at [eastern@horticulture.org.uk](mailto:eastern@horticulture.org.uk).

**Jason Daff**

**Chair, Eastern Branch**

## WEST MIDLANDS & SOUTH WALES BRANCH

### Committee members

Josh Egan-Wyer, Chair  
Lynn Stevens, Secretary  
Josh Egan-Wyer, Treasurer  
Richard Toft, YHOY Co-ordinator  
Lynn Stevens, Representative to Council  
Lynn Stevens, Events Co-ordinator

### Young Horticulturist of the Year

2018 started with our Young Horticulturist of the Year regional final. Eight lucky young people battled it out for a place in the Grand Final. Our winner went to the Harrogate Flower Show and came a very close 5th, with only two points between 3rd and 5th place!

### Branch visits

This was very closely followed by another visit to Pershore College, this time to visit the Agritech Unit. We saw the new facilities for students that showcased the very best and latest technology emerging in the horticultural industry. We also heard about projects being carried out with local employers and the AHDB.

Next on the programme was a re-visit to Hampton Court, Herefordshire which is a 15th century castle with 12 acres of gardens that have been transformed over the past ten years. It was a well-attended visit, and many members even toured the eccentrically decorated castle after tea and cakes in the tea room.

The next visit was also very well attended and took longer than expected due to the exciting plans and changes we learnt about at Howle Hill Nursery, Ross on Wye. Peter Dowle, who exhibits at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival each year, along with his team toured us around their nursery that specialises in specimen sized plants, particularly Acers. After partaking in some fantastic hospitality for which we were very grateful, we drove to a new site they were opening as a garden centre and saw the work being completed before opening.

After a very brief lunch, our afternoon took us to EC Drummond, a local fruit and vegetable grower. Our thanks go to the owners who showed us around on their weekend. It was great to see a grower dealing with a varied crop range and not wanting to limit their customer base and income streams

investing heavily in just one crop.

Our final visit of the year in October was to Spetchley Park Gardens, where we hadn't visited for some time. The garden is a living and evolving one rather than historical, and after the passing of the late Mr Berkley, his son had been developing new ideas with the head gardener who toured us around and shared some exciting plans for the future.

### ABM

Our ABM was held at our Vice-Chairman's place of work, Thyme, a boutique hotel in the Cotswolds. The gardens were fascinating to walk around, as we learnt about future plans and even had a look inside some of the luxurious accommodation. Thanks very much to the owner who very kindly allowed us space after lunch in the local pub to hold our AGM with no charge.

### Other news

My personal thanks to our small committee who help us to put on such a varied programme. Most have held officer positions at some point in the past at least once, some twice. A few of us now hold multiple positions to keep things afloat and it would be great to see some of our very enthusiastic newer members come in and make their mark. Free student membership has boosted membership, and we hope with our 2019 programme we can encourage them to continue their memberships for many years as well as give something back to our other members too.

**Josh Egan-Wyer**

**Chair, West Midlands & South Wales Branch**

# BRANCH REPORTS

## NORTH WEST & NORTH WALES BRANCH

### Committee members

Andrew Lambie, Chair  
Rob Mackey, Secretary  
Gordon Limb, Treasurer  
Andrew Lambie, YHOY Co-ordinator  
Gareth Manning, Representative to Council  
Andrew Lambie, Events Co-ordinator

The branch has continued this year to deliver several visits, running the regional heats and final for the Young Horticulturalist of the Year, provide an advice stand promoting horticulture, good practice to the public and raising the profile of the CIH.

### Young Horticulturalist of the Year

Due to severe snow the YHOY regional final in March had to be cancelled at the last minute. Instead a modified final held online was facilitated by regional organisers. Frances Porter went on to represent the North West and North Wales region at the Grand Final held at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show. She achieved an impressive third place.

### Branch visits

In April, members were treated to tour of the private Cherry Tree arboretum, owned by John and Elizabeth Ravenscroft, former owners of Bridgemere Garden World. Planted across a 50-acre site over the past twelve years, the arboretum, is known for its significant numbers of magnolias and other flowering trees in spring.

The afternoon will consist of a tour by Gardens Curator Kathryn Robey around the nearby Dorothy Clive Garden. Created in 1940s by Colonel Harry Clive, the gardens are set in a disused quarry. They are a delightful mixture of formal and informal areas including a woodland gardens and alpine scree.

There planned June visit to Westgate farm and Farringtons in Lancashire to look at the commercial propagation and field production of broccoli and cauliflower was cancelled due to low uptake. This was mainly due to it being a mid-week visit rather than at a weekend.

In August there was of a tour of the private gardens of Cogshall Grange. The contemporary gardens are set in the historic landscape of a late Georgian country house and were designed by the internationally renowned garden designer, Tom Stuart-Smith.

The afternoon consisted of a visit to the nearby Bluebell Cottage Gardens and Nursery. The small but perfectly formed garden wraps around the cottage in a series of linked 'rooms' with winding paths enticing visitors to explore its many different sections.

In August we provided an advice stand at the Southport Flower Show answering 400 questions. A special thank you to our members who provided their expert knowledge.

### ABM

The Annual Branch Meeting was held at Ness Botanic Gardens in November, during which Sue Nicholas announced she would be stepping down from the post of chair and branch representative to Council in order to take up the role of the Vice President of the Institute from January 2019.

On behalf of the branch I would like Sue for all her work over the years on the committee in various roles but latterly as Chair and Branch representative. She has been instrumental in keeping things moving forward at the branch. Following lunch there was a tour of the 64-acre gardens owned by the University of Liverpool overlook the Dee Estuary with stunning views of North Wales.

Attendance at events is holding steady in comparison to previous years accounting for approx. 10% of branch members and some attendance from other branches. Thanks, also, go to Victor Criddle for helping to arrange events, Richard Lewis for compiling reports to *The Horticulturalist*, and Gordon Limb for his accounting skills.

### Membership numbers

The Branch consists 203 overall members comprising 10 Chartered Members, 10 Fellows, 74 Members, 19 Associates, 20 retired and 70 Student Members.

The growth of student members has however been excellent due to the offer of free membership, but the branch is very concerned about the lack of realistic progression to other membership grades. The branch also notes the lack of uptake with chartered status. This is not helped by the lack of a CPD requirement to other grades nor any incentive related to benefits to members to upgrade. In addition, the jump in fees from member to chartered is not helpful.

### CPD scheme

The branch notes the current CPD scheme is very vague and not used by members. The branch has issued no CPD certificates this

year as there has been no requests. The current system is too basic and the system of CPD certificates antiquated. is well overdue. This is now one of the key roles of The Education, Training and Careers committee. GM advised that a new CPD scheme is being developed by the Committee who are due to report in the New Year.

### Finances and funding

The branch finances are healthy with a balance of £791.11. This is due to the rising funds due to branch events and the cost neutral method of running The YHOH regional heat and finals. The current funding of £1 per branch members for branch events is derisory.

Branch treasurer Gordon Limb GL reported that there was now no communication between the CIH treasurer and branch treasurers. He also notes that the accounting rules of branches/Institute need revising.

### Andrew Lambie

Chair, North West & North Wales Branch

# BRANCH REPORTS

## NORTHERN BRANCH

### Committee members

Graham Porter, Chair  
Sarah Owen-Hughes, Secretary  
Derek Hargreaves, Treasurer  
Graham Porter, YHOY Co-ordinator  
Doug Stewart, Representative to Council  
Graham Porter, Events Co-ordinator

The branch programme for the year has been arranged. In an effort to publicise events it was agreed that the branch would re-launch the newsletter.

### Harrogate Spring and Autumn Flower Shows

The branch once again provided an information stand at the flowers shows. Over 1,500 enquires were dealt with by an excellent team, consisting of branch members, who have a wealth of knowledge. Thanks to Graham Porter for organising the stand, and thanks to all who volunteered.

### Young Horticulturist of the Year

The year commenced with the Young Horticulturist of the Year heats taking place across the region. Graham Porter has contacted a number of organisations in an effort to encourage open heat entrants into the competition. The final was due to take place at Thorp Perrow Arboretum on 3 March, however, leading up to the event the snow came down heavily and it had to be cancelled. With the help of college lecturers' we were able to test the finalist individually. Whilst this was not ideal it provided us with a worthy regional finalist. Emily Marston from RHS Harlow Carr went on to represent us in the Grand Final and took 2nd place.

We are grateful for the continued support from the North of England Horticultural Society and Stockbridge Technology Centre for their continued support and sponsorship.

### Memorandum of Understanding with Australia and New Zealand Institutes

Graham Porter advised that he has been involved in correspondent with John Mason with a view to setting up a Memorandum of Understanding between CIH and various institutes in Australia and New Zealand. He has prepared a report to take to the next council meeting.

## ABM

The Annual Branch Meeting was held at Stockbridge Technology Centre on 16 June 2018. Philip Airey received the Branch Commendation for his outstanding contribution to horticulture in the North of England. The award was presented by Graham Porter the Chair of the Northern Branch of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture.

Philip accepted the Award with gratitude. Philip is the Assistant Manager at Horticap.

Graham Porter stood down as Chairman, Branch Representative to Council and a member of the Branch Committee after 19 years but promised to continue with his YHOY responsibilities and the organisation and management of the Gardening Advice Bureau at the two Harrogate Flower Shows.

### Other news

During the year a number of discussions have taken place around the improvements that could be made to benefit members. They include,

- Ways in which we can offer student members more opportunities through guidance and visits.
- Improved CPD events
- Funding branch events. It is felt that the present level of funding given to branches is inadequate.
- Reducing fees for students attending conference.
- Improved social media contacts.

Concern has been expressed at the lack of volunteers coming forward to take up positions of office at branch level. To date we do not have an elected Chairman!

Our thanks go to the regional committee for undertaking the extra work involved.

### Graham Porter

Chair, Northern Branch

## SCOTLAND BRANCH

### Committee members

George Gilchrist, Chair  
Tom Angel, Vice Chair  
Peter MacDonald, Secretary  
Graham Rolf, Treasurer  
Victoria George, YHOY Co-ordinator  
Matthew Lowe, Representative to Council  
Cameron Tasker, Events Co-ordinator  
Neil Woodcock, Branch correspondent

### Branch visits

In June the group had a tour of Branklyn Garden (National Trust for Scotland) by Jim Jermyn Head Gardener and Property Manager. It was also the venue for the Scottish AGM.

In August we visited Beechgrove Garden and Castleton Fruit Farm. Thanks should be given to Beechgrove Head Gardener Mairi Rattray and Murray and Rhoda Mitchell at Castleton for making the group extremely welcome and sharing their knowledge and wisdom with the group. Thanks also to Stephen McCallum and Peter MacDonald for organising the visits.

### Grow Careers Scotland

The 2018 event was a great success with RBGE lecture theatre being at its maximum capacity of 240. It included lectures from Francis Tophill and Ross Cameron and Lachlan Rae (Young Horticulturist of the Year winner). All attendees were treated to a free networking lunch with 24 trade/professional organisations taking up a table in the RBGE's Fletcher building. The concept of the day is to inspire/inform the next generation of horticulturists. Thanks should be given to the main organisers for this George Gilchrist, Peter MacDonald and David Knott. The event would not be possible without industry support, especially the organisations that sponsor the event and other CIH members that help on the day.

### Young Horticulturist of the Year

Great credit should be given to Victoria George who does an excellent job organising this. This year's competition was held at Dundee College.

The YHOY Regional Final 2018 was held at Dundee and Angus College. Their facilities were very good (we were in their large lecture

# BRANCH REPORTS

theatre) however we had some technical issues and the alpine workshop was cancelled. The college managed to get an alternative with the owner of Gilmartin, Fife, giving a talk. The technical issues meant we ended up having to undertake the competition manually as the buzzer system did not work however our quiz master, Ally Bruce, handled the situation amazingly well and the audience got involved in deciding who had put up their hand first which made it a very interactive day. The top three places were as follows.

1st: Owen Harlow (Threave)

2nd: Craig Stewart (SRUC Oatridge)

3rd: Ben Clansey (Open Heats).

## **CIH stand at Gardening Scotland**

A small stand relating to careers advice was organised by Victoria George and Peter MacDonald and staffed for the three days of the show by other members. This provided good engagement with visitors to the show and Scottish members.

### **George Gilchrist**

**Chair, Scotland Branch**

## **IRELAND BRANCH**

### **Committee members**

Claire Woods, Chair

Mike Hagan, Secretary

Paul Fitters, Treasurer

Sandra Austin, YHOY Co-ordinator

Owen Doyle, Representative to Council

Gabriel Roe, Events Co-ordinator

### **Young Horticulturist of the Year**

The year started with five heats and then the regional final of the Young Horticulturist of the Year. This was then held at the Botanic Gardens in Dublin on, 15th March. The event started with a tour of the gardens which were just coming to life again, organiser Dr Sandra Austin put members on the spot with a ident test for the members and audience. After a very close contest decided on the last question the winner was Leo Walsh. Thanks, were extended to the Ireland Branch sponsors Bord Bia, and we are grateful to Michal Slawski for attending.

### **ABM**

The ABM took place in the Slade Suite of the City West Hotel during the Glas trade show in July. The show was bigger than ever with more trade stands, we are indebted to the organizers for providing the CIH with space to promote the Institute. There are now seminars running throughout the day and Claire Woods was able to promote the Institute as she delivered a presentation entitled 'Professionalism in Horticulture for the 21st century'. The ABM was chaired by Claire Woods, the secretaries report was presented by Mick Hagan and the treasurers report by Gabriel Roe. Thanks, were expressed to Bord Bia for providing the hospitality for the meeting and for their continued generous support of the YHOH regional competition during the year. The ABM proceeded with the election of all the office bearers, this year, as Gabriel Roe has taken on the role of CIH honorary treasurer, Dr Paul Fitters was elected to the position treasurer of the Ireland Branch.

### **Branch visits**

The Autumn study tour took place in the North East and started with a visit to Glenarm Castle Walled Garden where one of our members Ciaran Mulholland gave us an interesting and entertaining tour of the garden

which was restored just over 20 years ago. After a stunning drive across the Antrim Hills we enjoyed a presentation about the multi awarding village of Broughshane and a walk along the river to see some of the environmental enhancements. The rest of the afternoon was then spent as guests of Mid and East Antrim in what is now a rare facility, their council nursery, where under the enthusiastic leadership of Alex McMichael the staff grow all their own bedding plants from either seed or plugs and they are now starting to raise their own perennials.

Heritage was the theme for the Saturday visits starting in the recently restored Tropical Ravine in Belfast. Adrienne Armstrong from Belfast City Council gave us a behind the scenes tour of the ravine. It was then on to Hillsborough Castle which is now under the management of Historic Royal Palaces where Garden and Estate Manager Stephen Martelli gave use a tour of the formal gardens. We had a chance to see the 4-acre walled garden which was nearing the end of its redevelopment, which will see it represented as a beautiful garden complete with a dipping pond, an area for growing seasonal produce for use in the café, herbaceous borders and an orchard. The study tour concluded with a visit to Rowallane a National Trust garden set in the rocky and drumlin landscape of Co. Down.

On behalf of the branch thanks must go to all our hosts. In October the branch worked in partnership with Bord Bia to organise the annual David Robinson Memorial Lecture. A full day programme was organised for the students at Powerscourt there were tours of the gardens, the golf course and the garden centre and lectures on plant health, the keynote speaker was Dr Darragh Lupton who introduced us to the new Botanic garden in Oman.

Moving forward we are intending to organise another event in the spring to benefit student members and we would encourage student members to consider joining the committee to help us engage with the students in our region to ensure our programme of events is what they require.

We welcome ideas and suggestions from our members; if there is somewhere you would like us to visit, or you have suggestions for improving the networking capability within the branch, please get in touch at [Ireland@horticulture.org.uk](mailto:Ireland@horticulture.org.uk).

### **Clair Woods**

**Chair, Ireland Branch**

# MEMBERSHIP

## MEMBERSHIP AND NEW FELLOWS

Membership is currently 1,230 which is down on last year which stood at 1,309.

The Institute now has 109 Chartered Horticulturists (11% of total membership) and this continues to grow every year.

Election to Fellowship marks the recognition of a very high standard of achievement and distinction in the practice of the science and arts of horticulture. At the time of writing the following Members were elected as Fellows since the last Annual General Meeting:

- James Firth
- Ian Wright

## CHARTERED MEMBERS

Adlam, David CHort FCIHort  
Angel, Tom CHort MCIHort  
Arnold, Steve CHort MCIHort  
Barnes, Ian CHort MCIHort  
Barnes, Sue CHort MCIHort  
Barrett-Mold, Heather CHort FCIHort  
Bartlett, Matthew CHort MCIHort  
Beagan, Peter CHort MCIHort  
Beauchamp, Roger CHort FCIHort  
Bennett, Roger CHort FCIHort  
Bernhard, Stephen CHort FCIHort  
Bonner, Gerald CHort FCIHort  
Buczacki, Stefan CHort FCIHort  
Byrne, Sarah CHort MCIHort  
Cheng, Brian CHort MCIHort  
Chester, Mark CHort MCIHort  
Ching, Christine CHort MCIHort  
Clarke, Dennis CHort FCIHort  
Cotterill, Andrew CHort MCIHort  
Crane, Brian CHort FCIHort  
Croke, Joseph CHort MCIHort  
Crowther, Kenneth CHort MCIHort  
Curtis-Machin, Raoul CHort MCIHort  
Cuthill, Steven CHort MCIHort  
Davies, Stephen CHort FCIHort  
Deeble, Geoff CHort MCIHort  
Desmond, Steven CHort FCIHort  
Doyle, Owen CHort FCIHort  
Eastham, Gordon CHort MCIHort  
Edwards, Gerald CHort MCIHort  
Evison, Mark CHort MCIHort  
Eyres, Anna CHort FCIHort  
Farrelly, Kelly CHort MCIHort  
Fisher Tomlin, Andrew CHort MCIHort  
Flecken, Emanuel CHort MCIHort  
Forster, Marcus CHort MCIHort  
Freeman, Edward CHort MCIHort  
Funke, Charles CHort FCIHort  
Gallagher, Declan CHort MCIHort  
Geddes, Antony CHort MCIHort  
Giles, Malcolm CHort FCIHort  
Gordon-Alleyne, Frank CHort MCIHort  
Gregory, David CHort MCIHort  
Hardware, Gareth CHort MCIHort  
Harvey, Samantha CHort MCIHort  
Hawkins, Frank CHort MCIHort  
Hayden, Dorothy CHort MCIHort  
Hegarty, Patrick CHort MCIHort  
Higson, Simon CHort MCIHort  
Hindmarch, Colin CHort FCIHort  
Hughes, Elaine CHort MCIHort  
Huxley, Theresa CHort FCIHort  
Kingston, Miranda CHort MCIHort

Knott, David CHort FCIHort  
Kordatos, Charalambos CHort FCIHort  
Lambie, William CHort MCIHort  
Latimer, Martin CHort FCIHort  
Lau, Ching CHort MCIHort  
Leung, Man CHort MCIHort  
Lim, Miaw CHort MCIHort  
Loh, Patrick CHort MCIHort  
Luckhurst, Gerald CHort MCIHort  
Maskell, Maskell CHort MCIHort  
Maynard-Bligouras, Glynis CHort FCIHort  
McBride-Munro, Valerie CHort MCIHort  
McCallum, Stephen CHort MCIHort  
McDermott, Ian CHort MCIHort  
Mills, Bryony CHort MCIHort  
Minter, Susan CHort FCIHort  
Mooney, Paul CHort MCIHort  
Morris, Leigh CHort FCIHort  
Morton, Richard CHort MCIHort  
Mulholland, David CHort MCIHort  
Mycok, Harold CHort MCIHort  
Nicholls, John CHort MCIHort  
Norton, Margaret CHort FCIHort  
Notcutt, Roger CHort MCIHort  
Parker, Clive CHort FCIHort  
Prestt, Andrew CHort MCIHort  
Quinney, Colin CHort MCIHort  
Reece, Brian CHort FCIHort  
Richardson, David CHort FCIHort  
Robinson, James CHort MCIHort  
Sales, Carol CHort MCIHort  
Segall, Barbara CHort FCIHort  
Sessions, Helen CHort MCIHort  
Shaw, Mark CHort MCIHort  
Shelley, Michael CHort MCIHort  
Sheridan, Bernard CHort MCIHort  
Shropshire, John CHort FCIHort  
Simpson, William CHort FCIHort  
Squires, Francis CHort MCIHort  
Stacey, Paul CHort MCIHort  
Stevens, Lynn CHort FCIHort  
Stewart, Douglas CHort FCIHort  
Taylor, John CHort FCIHort  
Thorburn, George CHort MCIHort  
Thorne, Nigel CHort FCIHort  
TSUI Ka Hing, Stanley CHort MCIHort  
Vernon, Keith CHort FCIHort  
Walker, Michael CHort FCIHort  
Watkins, William CHort FCIHort  
Weir, John CHort FCIHort  
Woods, Claire CHort FCIHort  
Youd, Samuel CHort FCIHort  
Yu, Ching-tin CHort MCIHort

# GOVERNANCE

## GOVERNANCE

Council, as the governing body, and trustees of the Institute as a registered Charity, is responsible for all policy decisions and actions taken by the Institute. This work is governed by the Institute's Royal Charter, its associated Bye-laws and such policies as are deemed necessary. Council meets at least twice a year and met three times in 2018 in order to agree and monitor progress on the Institute's strategic objectives.

Much of the initial planning and implementation of policies is carried out by the Management Board.

Invitations are circulated to members to nominate corporate members to be elected to the Council of trustees and voted on by members at the next Annual General Meeting. Consideration is made to any skills gaps present within the Council when recruiting new trustees. New trustees receive training on their legal obligations and those of the Charter and Bye-laws through use of a Trustee handbook and Charity Commission guidelines.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### Council

President: Dr Owen Doyle CHort FCIHort  
President-Elect: Gerald Bonner CHort FCIHort  
Vice-President (Branches):  
Gareth Manning FCIHort  
Hon Treasurer: John Whetman FCIHort  
Hon Secretary: Vacant  
Immediate Past-President:  
Andrew Gill FCIHort

### Chairpersons of Standing Committees

Communications Committee:  
Jonathan Ward CHort MCIHort  
Education Committee:  
Dr David Elphinstone MCIHort  
Membership Committee:  
Gareth Manning FCIHort

### Sector Representatives

Advisory and Research:  
Dr Caroline Kingston-Elliott CHort MCIHort

### Branch Representatives

Scotland: Matt Lowe MCIHort  
Ireland: Claire Woods CHort FCIHort  
North West & North Wales:  
Susan Nicholas FCIHort  
Northern: Graham Porter FCIHort  
West Midlands & South Wales:  
Lynn Stevens CHort FCIHort  
Eastern: Jason Daff MCIHort  
South West: Penny Hammond FCIHort  
South East: David Richardson CHort FCIHort

### Secretariat Manager

Stacey Drinkell, British Growers Association

### Independent Financial Examiner

David Wortham, WorthamJaques, Crediton, Devon

### Bankers

HSBC Bank Plc

## CONTACT DETAILS

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