



Chairman's review of 2017

Another year is well underway with some colder weather than we have had of late. But let's look back at the Society over the previous year.....

What of the past year? The Society had mixed fortunes in 2016 with several long standing committee members deciding to move on, but as usual we did enjoy a very good and interesting range of speakers, with insights into the local orchids of Hampshire but also the wild forests of Northern India. We were serenaded by a vegetable- growing Neapolitan from London and showered with watercress from Andover

Chris Bird who delighted us with the sight and taste of Hampshire apples, to Mark Porter with his tales of Chelsea, Royalty and all! We also had an inspirational talk on growing and showing Sweet Peas, hints on growing vegetables in a modest plot, a wonderful slide shows of travels in Yunnan in China and Richard Norris of the Long Barn shared his passion for the wonderfully

Trips and visits in 2017 were to Wisley, Dean House in Kilmeston and Waddesdon Manor

:-Barbara Steane has done a great job over the years organising these trips, but is leaving the committee as she is not getting any younger! Our thanks go to her. We also dodged exploding cars at the Boomtown festival to pay a repeat visit to Anne and Ted Winfield's garden in Chilcomb to enjoy a sunny summer garden party.

In September we again staged our "Show within a show" in the Horticultural tent at the Alresford Show, and thanks are due to Anne Winfield Margaret Barton and the rest of the team who made this event such a success.

The committee has already produced an excellent programme for 2018/19 which looks to be another entertaining and informative year. We also have some success in encouraging some fresh blood to the committee (subject to your approval at this meeting) so we are well set up for another year. I look forward to welcoming members old and new to our meetings, trips and social events in the next 12 months.

Stephen Morley
Chairman, Alresford and District Horticultural Society