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15th September 2020

Dear Fellow Member

It is with regret, that I have to inform you of the committee's decision taken at the meeting on Thursday 3rd September, to disband the Mid Southern Daffodil Group. This will take effect from 30th September 2020. This decision was not taken lightly but circumstances and events has made this course of action inevitable, and it was taken for the following reasons:

Mrs Tammy Smithers and Mrs Garry Aston-Coe (mother and daughter) have a family member with an immunity deficiency condition and thus have to be ultra careful where they go and who they meet. They are, therefore, unable to attend any function and this includes our group. Their absence is a great loss to us as they willingly gave of their time and effort to provide the catering arrangements on your behalf at our shows and meetings, and being very active committee members

Eric and Kath Salt are relocating to deepest Somerset in late October. Eric and Kath, both have had a long term involvement with us and contributed a great deal. Kath in the kitchen and Eric a first class show steward/exhibitor assisting in the setting up and dismantling of the shows, the selling of bulbs (plus for many years, moss provider)

Mrs Nicky. Cornell announced last month that she is retiring as a committee member, having volunteered back in 2015. Nicky organised the cleaning and engraving of our cups and trophies and was a willing "back room" assistant at the shows, plus being a very competent exhibiter.

All of the above were willing and prepared to do that "extra bit" to ensure a successful and smoothly run show/meeting. Their commitment to our group was outstanding and reliable.

Myself, I will be moving into a new location in Norfolk, (place and date as yet unspecified, as soon as my Son purchases accommodation with an annexe, he hopes to have this sorted by Christmas) this means that I will be unable to carry on as your secretary/treasurer.

That will leave just Graham Thirkettle (show Secretary) and Stafford Salt (chairman) left on the committee to run the group, and organise events and shows. Under such conditions this is an impossible undertaking for them.

The clincher is COVID -19 as we are all getting older and thus becoming more susceptible to this virus. This has to be most seriously considered, especially if there is upsurge in cases next spring resulting in yet more restrictions. We also have to take into consideration the terms and conditions of hiring premises for our events. The venue at Windsor, Gardeners Hall, has 13 conditions to which we must agree before we may book the hall, ranging from staggered single entry, full 2 metre abservance at all times to sanitising the hall, kitchen, toilets etc before departure. (I can picture the number prepared to stay behind and do this!!) and I suspect that other halls and like venues too, will have similar conditions of hire. A sad reflection on the situation today

Another factor is the distinct lack of members prepared to join the committee and help run the group, this despite our repeated requests in newsletters and at meetings for members to come forward and join the committee

I wish to place on record my grateful thanks to my fellow committee members, both past and present, for their dedication and hard work which they put in over these many years to keep the group viable and successful, and importantly, their friendship and camaraderie, my appreciation too, of the work and commitment of both Graham and Stafford. Graham for his boundless enthusiasm and the efforts which he put into arranging and collection of bulbs for our October meetings and Stafford for accepting the post of chairman following Vic's death, picking up the reins, and calmly and steadily giving his support and guidance.

The meetings, for me, were a joy to attend, banter yes, but no animosity or 'big I am' We all had a similar aim, what is best for the group and that was reflected in the organising and operation of our meetings and shows. Thank you again everyone.

I can reassure all members that any personal data regarding members address, telephone etc. held by myself on computer will be permanently deleted once this letter and address labels are completed. Any paper records held will be completely shredded before disposal.

My association with our group goes back to when we came into being, and I have plenty of great memories of events and also personalities I met along the years to take with me and I thank you for them and I am sure that fellow committee members will have similar memories

Your chairman, Stafford and committee also wish to place on record their appreciation of your support as exhibitors. and to those who gave their services as judges at our events and it would not go amiss if we mentioned Geoff Smithers and Bill Fulton, both have given reliable assistance and support without hesitation in the stewarding, setting up and closing down of our shows and meetings.

We hope that you are able to continue your association with the cultivation and exhibiting of daffodils, and if you have a horticultural society in your area check them to ascertain if they hold Spring shows and give them your support

It just leaves us to wish you the very best in your future endeavours and of course the best of health and as they say "Keep Safe"

(Secretary)

