

# Weston Village Gardening Club

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7 September 2024

**Attendance** - There were 43 members in attendance

**Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting held 7 September 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**Chair's Report** - The Chair welcomed members to the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Gardening Club and went on to say that the report covers the club's activities since the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. We started the year with another talk from our own hardy perennial John Tucker. On this occasion John talked about making plans for the upcoming gardening year. In February Hilary Little took us on a trip to Patagonia in South America. Mervyn Reed was our speaker in March, and his topic was David Austin Roses. We had a talk from Higgy Higgins in April on Wildlife Gardening.

In May we had the first of our summer outings when a party of almost 30 paid a visit to the Rhododendron Gardens at Bowood. In June, 34 of us ventured over the Irish Sea for the club holiday in Ireland. In July we had a coach trip to Abbotsbury. Our final outing of the summer was a guided walk around Bath's Park's and Gardens. In September we held the Weston Village Flower Show was well-supported with over 400 entries and nearly 300 people attending.

September saw a return to our indoor programme when Dominic Hamilton told us about the Rococo Garden in Painswick. In October, following the 'getting ready for' theme from earlier in the year, we had a talk from Caroline Pakenham entitled 'Getting Ready for Winter'. Our final talk of the year was in November when Nicola Hope told us some Tales from the Potting Shed. We ended the year on 8 December when we held our Christmas Social and Wreath Making event in the Moravian Church.

**Community Activities** - We continued to maintain the roundabout at the bottom of Lansdown Lane and the planters in the High Street, these make a huge difference to the village and are much appreciated by the community. Many thanks go to Steve and Christine Brook for their hard work and dedication in looking after the roundabout and planters. Special thanks go to Ruth Wareham who has kindly stepped forward and been doing much of the watering and maintenance of the planters this summer.

**Club Membership** - The club membership year runs from 1 March to the last day of February. At the end of February 2024 club membership stood at 148. Special thanks go to Helen Morgan for all the work she does maintaining our membership records and doing much of the work preparing the events programme and keeping the website up to date

**Committee Membership** - I would like to extend my thanks to the club committee – Jane Rymer – Treasurer, Helen Morgan – Membership Secretary, Carol Rust, and Caroline Dyer, Miranda Rossiter-Doel, and Peter Redfern.

**Upcoming Events** - In October Timothy Walker, who was the Head of the Oxford Botanic Gardening, will be making a return visit with a talk entitled 'Bordering on the Insanity'. In November Joff Elphick will give a talk entitled Crayfish on the Lawn. In December we plan to have a Christmas themed gardening talk. Next year's holiday will be based in Cambridge. The programme still needs to be finalised. We expect, amongst others, to visit Burghley House, Sandringham, Anglesey Abbey. There will be a guided tour of Cambridge with a visit to King's College and the Botanical Garden. More details about the holiday will be available in October.

## **Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Jane Ryme, presented the Financial Report for the year

**Community Fund** - The Treasurer reported that the income into the Community fund was 578.50 and that expenditure on the planters, the roundabout and the Christmas Tree amounted to £759.96. At the end of the year the balance on the Community Fund was £1,696.45.

**Flower Show** - Spending on administering the Flower Show amounted to £1,711.53 and the income was £1,699.99. The balance on the account at the year-end was ££1,598.92.

**Gardening Club Account** - Overall spending on the Gardening Club account amounted to £26,426.33 with most of this sum relating to the club holiday to Ireland. The cost of engaging speakers was £679.80, Club Administration and hire of the Church amounted to £1276.75. Income from the Ireland holiday was £23,900 and £2,245 came from subscription. At the year end the balance on the Gardening Club account amounted £9,557.24.

The Chair concluded by putting out an appeal for more members to join the Committee and finished the meeting thanking the members of their continued support.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7:40pm.