

Weston Village Gardening Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at the All Saints Church Weston Bath

on Thursday 13 November 2025

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 12 September 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

Chair's Report

The Chair summarised the club's activities in 2024. In January James Cross gave a most interesting talk on the gardens at the Bishop's Palace in Wells. This was followed in February by a talk entitled an Introduction to Forest gardening from Rob Handy. Richard Cripps was our guest speaker in March when he told us about Gardening for Wildlife. In April Jonny Hartnell took us to Madeira for a talk about the gardens of that delightful island. In May, we finished our Winter programme with a talk from Sally Morgan on Climate Friendly Gardening.

Our summer programme of garden visits took us in May to Kelston to visit Edward Weston's wonderful garden. In July we visited the Rococo Garden, and in August we had a coach trip to RHS Rosemoor. Our 2024 club holiday was in the Lake District when we had an excellent programme of garden visits interspersed with a sightseeing tour of the Western Lakes and a surprise boat trip on Lake Windermere. We held our Flower Show in September when entries were disappointing, but a good time was had by all who attended.

Our talks programme recommenced in September when Abigail Ballinger gave an interesting talk about plant hunting and how Dr Ward's case was used to protect the plants in transit. Timothy Walker made a return visit in October to give an entertaining talk on border planting. In November Joff Elphick gave a talk about crayfish on the lawn. We ended the year with our Christmas social and a talk on holly and ivy. The Chair thanked Josie Harding for serving the refreshments at club meetings.

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 and Anne Hazell who looked after the planters on Trafalgar Road.

Club Membership - The club membership year runs from 1 March to the last day of February. At the end of February 2025 club membership stood at 148. At the same date in previous year's membership numbers were: 2019-20: 183, 2020-21: 155, 2021-22: 162, 2022-23: 146 2023-24: 132. 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 - **The Chair thanked** the committee members – Jane Rymer – Treasurer, Helen Morgan – Membership Secretary, Carol Rust, and Caroline Dyer, Miranda Rossiter-Doel, and Peter Redfern – were thanked for their work during the year.

Financial Report

Jane Rymer gave the financial report stating that the main areas of expenditure of Gardening Club activities were the Lakes holiday £30,356, Trips £1,576, Speakers £1,309 and administration costs (web site fees, insurance, and catering) £650, Hire of the Church £560 and the Christmas Social £217. Expenditure for the year totalled £34,685.

The main areas of income were the Lakes holiday £29,258, Subscriptions £1,930, and Trips £1,070. Income for the year totalled £32,261. At the year end the balance on the Gardening Club account stood at £7,133.

Spending on the Flower Show totalled £1,633. Items purchased included posters, schedules, judges' expenses, prize money, engraving and a donation to the All Saints Centre. Income from the Show was £1,612 and this came from the raffle, refreshments, schedule sales and entry fees. The Committee decided to transfer £200 to the Community fund to leave a balance at the year-end of £1,378.

Community Fund spending amounted £412 and this went on plants, compost and the Christmas Tree. After allowing for the income of £200 from the Flower Show account the balance carried forward on 31 December 2024 amounted to £1,484.

Upcoming Events - Next year's holiday will be based in Chester with outings into Cheshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire. Our Christmas Social will see us taking a coach trip to Stourhead to see the Christmas lights. The trip has proved to be very popular with seats selling out in less than 3 weeks. The summer coach trip will be to the RHS Flower Show at Badminton.

Election Of Committee Members

Bernard Rymer, Jane Rymer, Helen Morgan Peter Redfern, Carol Rust and Miranda Rossiter Doel were unanimously re-elected to the Committee to serve for two years to the AGM in 2027.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting and thanked those present for their continued support of the club.