

Hanney Gardening Club

Chairman's report 2014 – 2015

We have had another varied and interesting programme this year. Some examples of the stimulating and informative talks that have been on offer this year were; Close up to small trees, a Christmas wreath demonstration, preparing a hanging basket and a talk on fuchsias with good quality plants to buy. I don't know about other members but even without green fingers my Fuchsias have done very well.

Again two visits were planned and the visit to Faringdon House was wonderful. We were greeted by Sofka Zinovieff who unexpectedly invited us into the house and gave us a short talk about its colourful history during the time of her grandfather. We then toured the delightful gardens and soaked up the early summer sunshine – a dim memory now! Unfortunately the planned visit to Green and Gorgeous was postponed for lack of numbers, many of you were on holiday and the guide set quite a high minimum visitor number. Thank you Keith for all your hard work in organising and planning our programme for the year.

The extra and special visit to Highgrove was a great success, thanks to Adrian for organising this one off visit. What many of us really enjoyed was that lots of the plantings seemed doable on a smaller scale in, with many plants familiar to our gardens. In fact De spotted so many that she has in her garden that she has renamed it 'mini highgrove!' We also spotted familiar weeds which our guide told us Prince Charles is happy to leave if they aren't causing any problems – we felt so at home!

Our functions and events were again successful – the Christmas Party was the usual social event with fun and games, the summer party was blessed with pleasant weather between days of gloom and rain. Our thanks go to all who attended for the delicious food provided for these events and especially the three hosts in West Hanney Keith and Julie, Jeff and Fiona and Julia and Paul. At both events the raffles were organised by Joy and De, thank you. The plant sale had such good quality plants that almost nothing was left, thank you to all growers and helpers it couldn't be done without you.

And what else have the committee done this year? We have kept our eyes on the two trees planted two years ago giving them mulch and water and so far they seem to be doing well. We have had four gardening sessions to tidy the beds around the village hall. As new people arrive in the village we have put fliers advertising the club through doors and have tried hard to ensure new members are made welcome at meetings. If you are new to the club we hope this has been your experience and that the new committee will continue this commitment as hopefully new members join us from those new to the village. Adrian took the lead in putting in a bid for gardeners's question time to come to the Hanneys – it may be year or more before we hear anything.

Last September we celebrated Wenda's 100th birthday. It seems incredible that she is now soon to be 101 and as a footnote to her 100th year we would like to give her honorary membership of the club. For those of you who have yet to reach that milestone you will be pleased to hear that membership for the year 2015 – 2016 will be unchanged at £8 or £15 for a couple.

Dot and I are very grateful for the support of members and the committee over the past two years. You have all made the role of joint chair enjoyable for us – thank you. Although we are stepping down we will continue to be regular members and willing to lend a hand when needed.

MG and DH