

Hanney Gardening Club (HGC) AGM 4th September 2023

Chairman's Report

The highlights of the year were undoubtedly the talk by Chris Beardshaw in February and reaching the milestone of 100 members

Thanks to the **committee** for a great team effort over the last year. Special thanks to Barbara Donovan who is leaving the committee this year. We had six committee meetings during the year.

We had six **talks** during the year. Inviting Chris Beardshaw (the nationally famous gardener) represented an ambitious project for the club. It was originally booked several years ago but delayed by the pandemic. To cover the costs an extensive publicity campaign was run to encourage guests, friends, family and local clubs to attend. The Hall was full and the event was regarded by all as a huge success. Lessons were learnt and a loss was made but hopefully similar events will be organised in the future

Of the other talks I would make a special mention of Andie McDowell's (Dahlia Beach) excellent, non power-point, talk. At the January meeting a film on famous English gardens was shown instead of a talk-this was generally well received. This was necessary due the difficulty of finding a speaker on 2 January

The **Christmas party** was a success as usual, attended this year by 75 members and guests. The club supply the drinks and members supply the food which was varied and excellent as usual. There is, as usual, no charge for this event

The annual **Plant Sale** (our main fund raising event) was another great success although it did not make quite as much money as in recent years. The weather leading up the sale was not conducive to growing. The queues were longer than ever and everything sold out with some people disappointed. This event has a very strong reputation in the village and surrounding area and this should be built on in the future

The **Travelling Gardening Party**, based this year in East Hanney, was very successful held on one of the few glorious summer evenings. 72 members and guests attended. This year The Plough provided the BBQ, the club the drinks and the members the salads etc. There is, as usual, a charge for the event

The **visit** to Malvern Show in May was enjoyed by 36 members and guests. It was unfortunate that the coach was not full resulting in a loss. Consideration will have to be given in future to arranging and funding coach trips. A further local visit to a quirky garden in Abingdon took place in June. This was enjoyed by 20 members and guests on another glorious summer evening!

Work to improve the club **website** is progressing in an effort to encourage more members to join, especially those new to the village. We thank Tom Bradshaw for his continued support of this project

Financially the club is in a healthy position thanks mainly to the thorough work of Bill Watkin as treasurer – refer to the official accounts

The committee always welcome ideas for talks, visits and other activities. We are also always seeking new committee members to refresh the group and inject new ideas

I am retiring from the committee after ten years as committee member, secretary, programme co-ordinator and, for the last three years, Chairman. **(We are still searching for a replacement Chairman!)** This last period included the challenging period of the pandemic which the committee navigated successfully, with the help of zoom. I would like to say a special thank you to all committee members involved during this period

I have enjoyed this roll and would like to thank the committee and the members for their support and involvement to maintaining and developing this excellent village club

Happy gardening.

Adrian Bodimeade
September 2023
HGC (Retiring) Chairman