

# **Hanney Gardening Club – AGM 2017**

## **Chairman's Report**

I am pleased to report that The Club has had yet another very successful and busy year, and we are delighted that our membership has increased to a record 70 this year.

We started off our year with a very interesting talk and slide show by John Tyler on “The World Of Insects”, followed by Helen Smith from the village on “Flower Arranging”, then Timothy Walker who entertained us with “Scent In the Garden” at the November meeting. As always the Christmas Party was well attended and enjoyed by all. We introduced a Wreath Competition, which proved popular. This was kindly judged by Helen Smith, with Chris Watkins, a relatively new member, winning the first prize.

We kicked off the New Year with “Wild Flowers Of Britain” by Chris Chadwell, followed by “Searching For Unusual Edibles” by Paul Barney. The March speaker was Philip Aubury on “Pond and Water Features”, encouraging us to introduce some water into our gardens, whatever the size. We closed our indoor talks with Bob Brown, all the way from Pershore, on the subject of, “Propagation”.

Our Annual Plant Sale was yet again very successful. Despite having fewer plants than previous years, we still took £860 and not one plant was left. Many thanks to all the contributors, without whom we would not have anything to sell!

In May, we visited Friars Court at Clanfield, which was an interesting and different garden, run by Charles Wilmer, the owner, and his partner. We thoroughly enjoyed a homemade cream tea afterwards.

Barnes Coaches took 50 members and friends to Gardner's World at the NEC, in June. I was very sorry to miss this as it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who went.

63 members and friends attended the Travelling Garden Party, whose turn was West Hanney this year. It was hosted by Hilary and Stuart Cakebread, for the opening drinks and a look at his model railway. This was followed by the main course at Julia and Paul Haines. Thomas Calnan did an excellent job on the barbeque, and delicious salads were provided by the members. The evening was rounded off at Pat and Chris Jay's house for the desserts, admiring all their hard work on their newly laid out garden. Again, I was most sorry to miss this.

We were all shocked and saddened by the loss of one of our members, Liz Houldrey, who had only recently joined the committee. She died suddenly and is greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Dennis and his family.

I would like to thank the wonderful committee who have helped and supported me throughout this difficult year. Gwyn is retiring from the committee, as both she and Bob are moving away to Kent. Thank you Gwyn for all your hard work over the years, and the excellent labels you provide for the plant sale. We will also miss your piano playing at the Christmas Parties in the future.

Finally, I would just like to add that I have enjoyed my time on the committee, especially my stints as chairman, but the time has come for me to retire and hand over to Joanna.... (if she is elected!).

I wish Hanney Gardening Club every success in the future.

Delia Blomley