

## **Hanney Gardening Club AGM 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**

As usual I cannot start this report without mentioning the committee. They are an enthusiastic team, fulfilling their particular roles and working as a dedicated team for all the annual events. Without them we would not have a club with so many activities.

This year we welcomed Bill and Chris Watkin as joint treasurers. We were all relieved when they assured us that the clubs bank balance was in good form despite having to miss the plant sale this year. Chris has agreed to take over refreshments when this resumes.

Sue Garner has worked extremely hard as programme secretary planning a full year of talks and events. This requires a lot of time liaising with speakers and establishments which she has done, as well as having to cancel and reschedule many events.

Adrian, despite not officially becoming the new vice chairman has stepped up to the role and has been invaluable to me when I was away in the early part of the year and working through tough decisions in the latter part of the year.

Lorene Ashby is an able secretary and keeps our members informed. We were delighted to welcome her on to zoom this month so she can carry on providing us with excellent minutes of our meetings.

Joy Wilson continues to be a valuable member of the committee with her years of service and knowledge of the club and gardening in general. In particular she has organised the food for the very successful travelling garden party for many years.

Sadly but not unexpectedly people retire and move on.

Helen Mowforth has been on the committee for many years keeping on top of the publicity and many other roles, I am hoping I can still persuade her to help with the flower arrangements when we are next able to have a party.

Julia Haynes has likewise served on the committee for several years but can be relied on to have the facts at her fingertips with her excellent filing system. She also has turned her hand to support every activity including clearing the overgrowth from round the village hall, no small job, and reporting back from the village hall committee.

Pat Jay joined the committee in 2017 and was always in a double act with Chris her husband moving tables and chairs, popping up in the kitchen when numbers are short and wherever else she is needed. She has assured us they will still help whenever present.

I am not leaving the committee but hand over to Adrian the chairmanship if approved at the AGM.

We are delighted to have two new nominations for the committee who will be formally approved at the AGM. I thank all the committee for everything they have done.

During the last few months Penny Iles and Shelia Wilkinson have passed away. They were enthusiastic and helpful members of the club for several decades. We will miss them and have sent our condolences to the families.

The club has had another interesting year if somewhat truncated, its 45th. The membership stands at 85, and with new people joining the village hopefully this will grow even higher. The list has been updated this year.

I will give a short resume of the year which started with the AGM and a talk on cacti and succulents by John Watmough. I think we were all amazed by the varieties available and on display.

The October meeting was cancelled at short notice but Robert Longstaff ably filled the spot and talked on the Oxford gardening Project. It inspired me to try the no dig system which sounded like a very good idea..

The November meeting presented by Andy McIndoe on shrubs for situations inspired Sue to book a visit to his garden which sadly was cancelled but will be on the agenda for next year.

The Christmas party in December was enjoyed by all, as ever. Thanks to everyone for their delicious food contributions and to the people who set the quizzes.

The New Year brought talks on "forest schools" by Sarah Walker thrilled us all to hear that the natural environment was becoming more and readily available to our youngsters. And encouraging socializing, risk taking and confidence.

I was pleased to hear the talk on "growing the best roses" by Michael Marriott of David Austin's roses a man with a passion and photos that sent many of us to try new roses and new combinations of planting.

Rosie Bee stepped into the March slot and talked about wildlife Gardening. She always reminds me how lucky we are to have her in the village with her knowledge, amazing peat and excellent range of bee friendly plants for sale.

Sadly coronavirus put paid to further plans but I am proud that we have been able to come back to the hall for our AGM and the first speaker of the year.

Jo Brettell Sept20