



Hayling Island Horticultural Society

www.hihs.org.uk

AGM

Held on 27th November 2024

at the URC Hall, Hollow Lane, Hayling Island

Apologies:

Meg Green, Ron & Maisie Duffield, Joy Farrow

Chair's opening remarks:

Angharad welcomed everyone and advised that the reports were available on the tables. The officers would not be reading out their reports but members would have the opportunity for questions during the meeting.

She also welcomed Ray Jones, our President, who as well as being a very active figurehead for the society continues to coordinate the Growing Together Project.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM:

The minutes have been available on our website and at the Trading Centre.

Proposed: Tim Speller, seconded by Paul Cockcroft-Oliver

All agreed

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Chairmans Address:

We have had a lot of new members join us this year, some great talks, propagation workshops, seed swaps and fantastic outings.

The society year began with the delivery of our Winter Newsletter and Year Book by the 3rd Hayling Scouts. A thank you to them for their support—this initiative ensures all our members stay informed while also supporting a local charity.

Our annual show, now in its third year at Hayling College, was a resounding success, with a footfall of over 750 attendees. The addition of stalls, charity stands, and performances by local youth groups made it a true community celebration. A special "shout out" to all the first-time exhibitors, many of whom walked away with well-deserved prizes, we look forward to welcoming them back next year. We raised over £800 through the gate, with additional contributions from the plant sale, tombola, and refreshments. The show managed to balance their budget this year, running at no additional cost to society which is quite an achievement, well done to Tim and the team. An immense amount of work

goes in to the show and preparations for our 2025 show are already well underway, and she encouraged anyone interested in contributing to join the show sub. Tim's details can be found in the annual report on page 11.

Membership remains strong, with over 600 members, including an increase in standing orders and BACS renewals. A handful of members are yet to renew, and we will be cleaning up and updating the database for the coming year, with all unpaid members being removed from the database.

The facebook page continues to thrive, and our thanks to Richard Goodrick for his job as moderator.

The Trading Centre has had an excellent year, Martin's report can be found on page 6 of the Annual report and she added her thanks to the team for their commitment to the trading centre, providing a pleasant and welcoming environment for members and volunteers, and allowing us to try out some new ideas such as the open morning and plant sales which have been a great success.

The Social Committee organised a variety of talks, workshops, and outings, from garden design to wildlife-friendly planting. Ben Pope's talk was inspiring with ideas for winter gardens, using planting for structure and movement and lots of great plant recommendations (not so good for her bank balance!) Elizabeth Sawday from Appledrum talked to us about all aspects of rose care, there was an audible gasp when she demonstrated how they cut back the roots for potting up, and then cut back the top growth, we all learnt to be a little bit braver when cutting back our roses. Martin Hampton, who gave an enlightening talk on gardening for wildlife, has kindly agreed to write for our Winter Newsletter and we hope to have him back to talk about designing for, and showcasing wildlife friendly planting.

The trips to Hever Castle and Hampton Court Flower Show, among others, were both very enjoyable and we were lucky with the weather. Hyde Hall made for a good day out, it was a long trip, however Kim kept everyone occupied with a quiz she had prepared and the borders and planting schemes were worth the distance. Kim has decided to step down from the role of Outings Organiser this year. Our thanks to Kim for all the outings and holidays organised over the last 3 years (and next year) we have visited some fantastic places, and they have been great days out.

If you have not yet booked, there are details of the 2025 holiday on the tables, it should be a really fabulous 4 days of beautiful gardens. Kim will be happy to give you all the details.

The Society took part in the donkey derby, and Alan Mak's Community Fair alongside the Growing Together Project. Thanks to Carole, Ray, Chris and Tony as we were short on people to staff the stand and they kindly helped out on the day.

We continue to care for the Stead and Richie Memorial garden and the Health Centre outdoor areas. The Stead and Richie has had many new plants and shrubs added this year, and the team has received

many compliments. Thanks to Lesley and Jenny Docherty for this. Kim and Judy have been working hard caring for the containers, atrium planting and staff garden at the Health Centre. The borders at the rear, now in their second and third years, have filled out nicely, and the team is in the fortunate position of being able to thin out, such a change from when they first started. Next weekend they will begin work along the long privet hedge, as always both Lesley and Kim would welcome new volunteers.

Hazel continues to do a good job administering our 100 plus club. For anyone not aware this is our society lottery that raises money for our annual show. This year the club transferred £650 to the show account. With over 100 members the prizes were £26.50 for 1st prize, £15.50 for second and £10.50 for third, as Hazel writes – more players, better prizes so do consider joining. Its only £3 to join for the rest of the 2024/25 season.

The Growing Together Project, continues to foster a love of gardening and the outdoors in our younger generations with their work at all of the Hayling Schools. Through the productive season the project takes all the gardens surplus produce to the community pantry and fridge. They had another great year, and despite being one of the newest projects Mill Rythe Juniors took 1st prize for their tray of vegetables and flowers grown at the school, congratulations to them and the pupils involved, and well done to all the schools for managing to put together a tray. The weather has been against us and I know the schools have been busy so it's not always easy getting them to commit pupil time to the gardens. Ray would also like to thank the Lions and Positive Pathways for all their help and support.

As we look to the coming year we continue to look to enhancing the inclusivity and appeal of our activities, encouraging more members, offering further horticultural instruction, encouraging more volunteers, and ensuring financial stability. With plans for new workshops, and another exciting show in 2025, the future continues to be bright for the Society. Financially, the Society is thriving, thanks to membership dues and event participation. Our end-of-year balance stands at a healthy £32,611.59.

Before Angharad ended her report she made a plea to everyone regarding volunteering. We are currently a number of officers short, newsletter editor, website editor, advertising and sponsorship officer and finally yearbook editor. At the moment these roles are spread across existing committee members but it really is too much to ask them to carry on fulfilling these roles as well as those they are elected to. A questionnaire was on the tables for input into our future plans. If these positions are not filled, we may need to consider if we continue to produce the newsletters as frequently, and whether or not we continue with the yearbook. She suggested that perhaps two members together could share these roles and if you think you can help please get in touch.

Finally she personally thanked the committee and membership for their support. This is her third AGM and the end of her first term as chair. She said she does not feel a natural fit for the role of chair, with an awful fear of public speaking, and preferring to be beaver away behind the scenes rather than

fronting up the organisation. But she said she really couldn't do without the team of people around her and specifically mentioned Hazel Phillips, our secretary for keeping her sane, reminding her what should be done when, ensuring we follow the rules and keeping an excellent record of all our meetings not to mention the Yearbook, Advertising and Sponsorship, Chief Steward and Show Sub Secretary, she said we have made a pretty good team over the last three years – Thank you!

Trading Centre

Martin thanked everyone who works at the Trading Centre on Thursdays and the other days, enabling us to keep it open, also to all our members who use it. He is standing down as acting manager and acting treasurer this year.

The Trading Centre report can be found on page 6 of the Annual reports.

Proposed: Maureen Byrne

Seconded: Chris King

Financial Statements.

The Treasurer's report and statements can be found on pages 3, 4 & 5 of the Annual Reports.

Proposed: Kim Gardener

Seconded: Paul Cockcroft-Oliver

Election of Officers.

As Angharad's position as Chair was up for election she passed this part to Tim Speller

The following roles become vacant by rotation.

Chairman

Trading Manager

Membership Secretary

Trading treasurer is also vacant.

Chairman –

Angharad Pike has agreed to continue

Proposed: Maggie Martin, Seconded: Tony Atthill

All agreed.

Trading Manager:

Chris King - Proposed: Martin Clark, Seconded: Kim Gardner

All agreed

Membership Secretary

Diane Carter – Proposed: Lesley Tyrrell, Seconded: Gill Swift

All agreed

Trading Treasurer

Meg Green – Proposed: Martin Clark, Seconded: Pat Burden

All agreed.

Presidents Award.

Ray Jones thanked Angharad and all the committee members and all the volunteers for keeping all the activities going.

The Growing Together project started in 2009 and Tony Atthill has been beavering away in the background at Mengham Junior school and also helping out at the college. Tony was awarded a certificate in recognition of his hard work.

The President's award was presented to Chris King for all his hard work for the society.

A.O.B.

Hazel Phillips has proposed an amendment to the rules of the society; our aims are currently as follows:

- (i) Holding regular Horticultural Shows.
- (ii) Arranging Horticultural Instruction: Lectures, Discussions, Competitions, Newsletters and Social Activities.
- (iii) Operating a Trading Centre.
- (iv) Guarding the interests of Allotment Holders.
- (v) Affiliating to such organisations as may be appropriate

Hazel proposed the removal of 'Guarding the interests of allotment holders'. This was an ambition that the society had a number of years ago, and as we quite possibly started from a group of allotment holders in 1886 it seemed a good aim. Unfortunately with the handover of the allotments to Norse this isn't something we are really able to make any headway with. It would also need a volunteer to take on this role and as we are so stretched for officers we think it better to remove this from our aims (for now).

Seconded: Tim Speller

All agreed.

Angharad said a few words about leaving officers.

Martin Clark has been with the society since 2007 when he was elected to the role of Trading Treasurer. In June 2018, Peter Jackson resigned from the role of Trading Manager, and Martin agreed to take on Acting Manager until a replacement could be found. A replacement was finally found in 2022 with Vanessa James taking on the role, unfortunately Vanessa was unable to continue and Martin found himself back in the role of Acting Trading Manager and Trading Treasurer. That makes 17 years

with the Society. We want to Thank Martin for his sterling work as treasurer and manager, producing the accounts and reporting to the main committee regularly, as well as the important day to day running of the Trading Centre, almost a full time role with invoices, stock takes, orders, managing volunteers and most importantly making the tea. I know you won't be going too far and will still be supporting the Trading Centre Sub Committee, nevertheless you will be missed at the main committee meetings, there was always something that has made us all laugh. I am so pleased that we have found Chris King and Meg Green to take over, and thanks to your training and support we know that you are leaving the Trading Centre in good hands. Thank you.

Martin was presented with a thank you gift.

In 2017, Lesley Tyrell took over Membership Secretary from Janet and John Lark. Since then she has worked to sign-up new members, move more people to standing orders and BACS (reducing the admin burden of the role), managed the distributors and ensured members get their newsletters and yearbooks. I remember getting my membership card, personally delivered by Lesley many years ago, and I know it has always been important to her to welcome new members personally when she can, a lovely thing to do and appreciated by many I know. Thank you Lesley.

Lesley was presented with a thank you gift

Her last thank you went to Kim Gardner. Kim took over as Outings Organiser initially as part of a duo. Unfortunately, she found herself having to manage on her own just a few months after taking over, and hasn't she managed well? Kim's organisational skills are fantastic, putting on not just one or two but numerous outings each year, and a holiday in 2023. I know that it has not been an easy ride, as I said earlier, I find plants easier than people and I don't know how you managed with the numerous phone calls, enquiries, and 30 plus guests to herd for each trip. I know that you will continue to be a member of the Social Sub Committee, thank goodness as I know that Liese and Gill value your contribution immensely. Thank you.

Kim was presented with a thank you gift.

Angharad also extended a personal thanks to everyone involved in keeping this society running smoothly. From those on the management committee to the quiet contributors working behind the scenes—your dedication is what makes the society what it is and keeps it going. Here's to another fantastic year and I hope together, we continue to make the Hayling Island Horticultural Society a vibrant and welcoming place for all.