



Hayling Island Horticultural Society

Annual Report 2025

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Chairman's Report

This year has felt like a year of steady consolidation and gentle growth for the Society — a year in which many of the changes introduced over the past few seasons have truly settled, and our teams, volunteers, and members have worked together with real energy and commitment.

We began the year with the delivery of *The Island Gardener* and membership reminders, and once again the support of our volunteers ensured that every member received their magazine and the information they needed. This year we also trialled including reminder letters for unpaid members, which proved successful and will help us maintain a clear and accurate membership base going into 2026.

Across the Society, there has been an enormous amount of activity. Our talks and workshops have been well attended, with subjects ranging from garden design and roses, through to wildlife-friendly gardening and seasonal propagation. The Social Committee also delivered another excellent programme of outings, and we thank Kim for her years of hard work coordinating these before handing over the reins to Sue Allen earlier on this year. It has been wonderful to see so many members out enjoying gardens locally and further afield.

The Trading Centre has continued to provide an invaluable resource for members. Despite rising wholesale costs, stock levels have remained good, and the team has continued to offer seasonal promotions and make improvements to the building, lighting, and storage. Plant sales in aid of the Growing Together Project



also brought many new faces to the centre, increasing footfall and interest. My thanks to all the volunteers, especially those stepping into new team leader and cashier roles during a year of change.

Our community work continues to thrive. The Health Centre containers and rear gardens remain a source of pride and regular compliments, and the Growing Together Project has once again supported all five schools on the island. With vegetables delivered weekly to the Hayling Pantry and community fridge, and even a first prize in the “I Grew It Myself” class at the Show, the impact of this work is clearly felt across the island.

This was our third year holding the Community Fair & Summer Show at Hayling College. Class entries were up by 27% , with many submitted online and around 300 visitors enjoyed the day, along with the many members who exhibited, stewarded, baked cakes, served teas, manned stands, or helped set up and pack away. Although the Show made a small deficit this year due to the purchase of trestle tables, shelving, and hi-viz marshals’ vests, these capital items will serve us for many years to come. My sincere thanks go to the entire Show Sub-Committee

and the huge number of volunteers involved.

Financially, the Society remains strong. Thanks to stable membership numbers, good attendance at events, and continued support for the Show and Trading Centre, we remain on a firm footing going into 2026.

As always, the Society is only possible because of the considerable goodwill, time, and enthusiasm of our volunteers. Our distributors, Trading Centre teams, committee members, workshop leaders, speakers, stewards, administrators, and project volunteers each contribute in their own way, often quietly, often unseen, and I would like to thank every one of you.

We remain affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society and the Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies, and I am pleased to confirm that we continue to comply with the rules governing the Society’s activities.

Thank you all for your support over what has been a productive and inspiring year. I look forward to another year of growing together — in every sense.

Angharad Pike, Chair

Membership

Since taking over the role at the beginning of the year, I can report that as of 1st October 2025 the Society had a total of 626 members. Of these, 489 are currently paid-up, with 137 still outstanding. To encourage prompt payment, reminder letters were enclosed with the latest edition of *The Island Gardener*, and this proved effective. Any members who have not renewed by 31st October 2025 will be removed from the database.

We have welcomed just over 100 new members this year, which is very encouraging. Going forward, we will continue to explore new ideas to retain existing members and attract new ones.

We are also reviewing how we manage membership payments and card distribution to make the process more efficient. Member feedback is always welcome.

Please do continue to inform me of any changes to your personal details so that the database remains accurate.

Finally, my thanks to all volunteers who helped deliver *The Island Gardener* and the reminder letters — your support is invaluable.

Diane Carter, Membership Secretary

Treasurers Report

This year has seen another successful Show. We have invested in new tables and display boards, and while membership income is slightly lower than last year, it still covered its costs and contributed towards the expenses of our volunteers' evening, members' meetings, outings and holiday.

Notes:

1. Trading Centre savings stand at **£13,893.58** (TSB Account 2).
2. Our savings account generated **£653.98** interest, shared 50/50 with the Trading Centre as agreed.

Overall, the Society remains in a healthy financial position going forward.

Chrissi Knights, Treasurer

HIHS – General Account – Balance Sheet – As At 30th September 2025

ASSETS	2024	2025
Cash		
Treasurer	91.53	85.88
Membership Secretary	20.00	20.00
Social Secretary	20.00	20.00
Total Cash Float	131.53	125.88
Deposits		
Current Account	3,297.17	2,504.61
Savings Account	44,746.71	43,701.65
Total Deposits	48,043.88	46,206.26
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>48,175.41</u>	<u>46,332.14</u>
LIABILITIES		
Trading A/C Share	13,696.58	13,893.58
Trading A/C Share of Interest	197.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>13,893.58</u>	19893.58
NET TOTAL	<u>34,281.83</u>	<u>32,438.56</u>

Signed:  _____

Dated: 19/11/2024

Name: C S Knights
Treasurer

Signed:  _____

Dated: 19/11/2024

Name: A Pike
Chairman

HIHS - Income and Expenditure Account - For the year ended 30th September 2025

	2024	2025
INCOME		
Interest Main Account	625.59	326.99
Interest Trading Centre		326.99
Outings and Holidays	7,061.00	5,295.50
Subscriptions	3,784.21	3,116.96
Year Book	1,190.00	1,300.00
Meetings	1,577.27	1,616.58
Show	3,292.55	2,627.59
TOTAL INCOME	17,530.62	14,610.61
EXPENDITURE		
Administration		
Affiliations and RHS Tickets	10.00	57.00
AGM	379.79	508.39
Committee Administration	35.92	5.10
Insurance	190.00	190.00
Trading Centre Interest	-	115.79
Membership	1,075.88	930.46
Year Book	1,124.00	949.00
Publicity	155.00	26.58
Website	612.00	687.60
Total Administration	3,582.59	3,469.92
Other Expenditure		
Club Meetings	1,619.23	2,212.18
Donations/Flowers	75.00	100.00
Show	2,969.75	3,606.42
Outings and Holidays	6,239.81	5,831.09
Volunteers' Party	-	204.63
Newsletters	1,374.00	942.00
Other	-	84.99
Total Other Expenditure	12,277.79	12,978.31
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	15,860.38	16,448.23
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance Sheet at Start of Period	32,611.59	34,281.83
Surplus/Deficit	1,670.25	1,843.27
BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD	<u>34,281.83</u>	<u>32,438.56</u>

Trading Centre and Trading Finances

The Trading Centre has had a relatively good year, maintaining strong stock levels thanks to our suppliers. Some price increases have been necessary in order to keep pace with rising replacement costs.

Spring bulbs have been ordered, and delivery dates will be confirmed shortly. Seed potatoes and onion sets have also been ordered and are due at the end of January, ready for sale at the start of February. Only a limited supply of extras will be available.

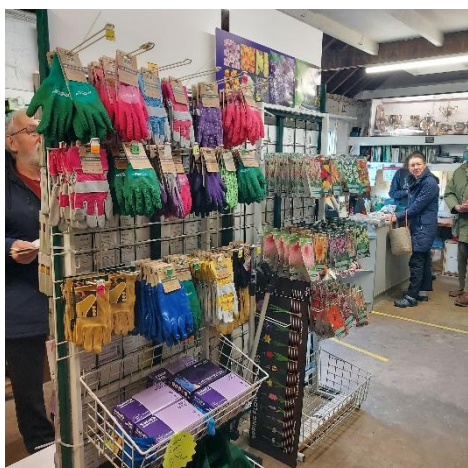
We will continue to offer seasonal and monthly promotions, and we welcome member suggestions for new items to stock. Plant sales in aid of the Growing Together Project brought new customers into the centre and helped raise the profile of this important initiative.

Maintenance this year included improved lighting in the shop, repainting of shutters and doors, and essential repairs to the wooden shed.

There is still uncertainty around the peat compost ban, with previously announced deadlines not yet enforced. Until such time as stock becomes unavailable, we will continue to offer peat-based composts alongside the three peat-free multipurpose composts we already carry.

I would like to thank all volunteers for their time and patience during my first year as manager. Looking ahead to 2026, we greatly need additional team leaders, cashiers, and compost shed helpers. Please do consider joining the team.

Chris King, Trading Manager



Hayling Island Horticultural Society – Trading Centre

Balance Sheet

As at 30th September 2025

ASSETS

	£2,906.81	
Bank - Community Account at 30th September 2025		
- Savings Account at 30th September 2024	£13,832.37	
- Savings Acc. interest to 30th Sept 2025	£388.20	
- Community Account - transfer to Savings	£0.00	
Cash - Trading Centre - Float (2 x £60.00)	£120.00	
- Petty Cash	£100.00	
Income not credited to Community Account - 30 Sept 2025	£187.47	
Stock held at 30th September 2025	£14,667.10	
Creditors	£0.00	
Refunds & Donations not included in Community Acc.	£0.00	
Compost Shed - Depreciated Value	£600.00	
Total Assets	£32,801.95	£32,801.95

LIABILITIES

Stock received but not paid for 2023/24	£518.55	
Monies issued but not presented	£97.49	
Membership Payments to HIHS – 17 members	£119.00	
Stock received by not paid for 2024/25	£0.00	
Total Liabilities	£735.04	£735.04

Total Members Assets at 30th September 2024

£32,066.91

NOTES

- 1 Stock was checked on 2nd October 2025.
- 2 The Trading Centre Savings Account is held within the HIHS Savings Account.
- 3 The TC also took £1,162.00 for 166 Memberships and transferred to HIHS



Chris King
Trading Manager



Trading Treasurer

HIHS – Trading Centre - Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 30th September 2024

Year to 30th Sept 2024			Year to 30th Sept 2025
	Income		
£9,897.98	Stock held at 30th September 2024	£12,504.79	
£21,118.35	Stock Purchased	£19,781.38	
£518.55	Stock received but not paid for 2024/25	£0.00	
£0.00	Less stock received but not paid for 2023/24	-£518.55	
£31,534.88	Sub-Total	£31,767.62	
£12,504.79	Stock held at 30th September 2025	£14,667.10	
£19,030.09	Value of stock sold	£17,100.52	£17,100.52
£22,030.01	Trading Centre Sales	£21,482.48	
£22,030.01	Total sales	£21,482.48	£21,482.48
£2,999.92	Total sales less value of stock sold		
	Bank Interest - Community Acc	£0.00	
	- Saving Acc	£388.20	
	Refunds - Kings Seeds	£0.00	
	Donations	£0.00	
	Liabilities from previous year	£0.00	
	Creditors	£0.00	
£700.37	Income	£388.20	£388.20
£3,700.29	Total Income		£4,770.16
	Expenditure		
	Account balancing sum	£34.45	
	Repayment Of Savings Overpayment to HIHS	£80.00	
	SumUp charges	£266.65	
	Printing, post & stationery	£11.60	
	Telephone	£60.00	
	Electric	£628.34	
	Travel	£0.00	
	Rent	£600.00	
	Insurance	£905.73	
	Repairs & renewals (Computer £320.80)	£459.55	
	Gratuities	£0.00	
	Miscellaneous	£66.34	
	Bank charges	£0.00	
£3,267.12	Total Expenses	£3,112.66	£3,112.66
£433.17	Excess (Income – Expenditure)		£1,657.50
£30,409.41	Members Assets at 30th September 2024		£30,409.41
£30,842.58	Total Members Assets at 30th September 2024		£32,066.91

Social Committee Report

The Social Committee has once again had a wonderfully busy and successful year, offering a rich mix of talks, workshops, outings, and community events. Our aim is always to bring people together, share horticultural knowledge, and create opportunities to enjoy gardens near and far — and this year certainly delivered on all fronts.

The Committee — Gill Swift, Sue Allen, Liese Holden, and Caroline Jackman, with Kim Gardner supporting for the first half of the year — have all brought their own skills and enthusiasm, and together they have achieved an enormous amount.

Talks & Workshops

Gill has continued to curate a varied and inspiring programme of speakers.

We usually aim for three or four talks a year, covering different areas of horticulture, and the feedback is always positive. Workshops follow the same ethos — hands-on learning, run by experienced members of the Society, and always very popular. If you ever have ideas for topics or speakers, Gill would be delighted to hear from you.

Outings & Holidays

Sue has excelled this year with a packed and very well-organised programme of trips.

We enjoyed:

- Wisley Glow, always magical
- Hilliers
- Leonardslee
- Wisley Autumn Fair
- and a self-drive trip too

All were well attended, sociable, and full of ideas to take home.



The Gardens of the North holiday organised by Kim was a particular highlight, the coach quizzes were enjoyed by all — and many members have already booked for next year's trip. Sue has stepped confidently and capably into the role of Outings Organiser, and we are extremely grateful for the care and detail she brings to every event.



Publicity, Posters, and... the Quiz Night!

Liese continues to be our design and publicity powerhouse — producing all our posters, flyers, and advertising material.

She is also the organising genius behind our annual Quiz Night, one of the most popular and light-hearted events in our calendar. Her input across the year helps to keep everything running smoothly and looking professional.

A Fond Thank You to Kim

Kim supported the Social Committee for the first half of the year and brought structure and momentum during a busy period. She also handled the planning and logistics for our Open Gardens, from safety notes to bunting and signage. Her contribution was invaluable, and we thank her warmly.

Welcome to Caroline

We're delighted to welcome Caroline Jackman, who has already become a much-loved member of the team. If you've attended a talk recently, you've probably sampled one of her delicious homemade cakes, her bakes alone are fast becoming a reason to attend events!

Open Gardens

This year's Open Gardens were a real triumph.

Beautiful gardens, generous hosts, perfect weather, and excellent organisation all combined to make it one of the standout events of the summer.

We already have two members volunteering to open next year: Angharad Pike, and Judy and David Clarke — and we would love to add more. If you are thinking of opening your garden, please do speak to the team. It's a wonderfully rewarding day and a lovely way to share inspiration.

Looking Ahead

Next year's programme is already shaping up beautifully, with details appearing on the flyer and in your Yearbook at Christmas. Early highlights include:

- Talks from Martin Hampton and Geoff Hawkins
- Propagation workshop with Angharad
- Seed swaps at the Repair Café
- Coach trip to Exbury Gardens with a steam railway ride
- Holiday to the Gardens of North Wales and Portmeirion
- Open Gardens returning in July
- And of course — our Show & Community Fair in June

Volunteers Needed

One message remains constant: we really do need more help. At talks, open gardens, the show, and outings, even small tasks like raffle tickets or pouring tea make a big difference. If you can help as a one-off or would like your name on our "happy to be asked" list, please do get in touch: social@hihs.org.uk

The Social Committee is the heart of our "getting together" side of Society life, and they have once again made this year full, lively, friendly, and fun.

Gill Swift – Social Manager

Publicity



As Publicity Officer for the Society it is my responsibility to promote everything we do and raise the profile of the Society within the community. I am also involved in the Annual Show, Talks and events, work a shift at the Trading Centre and organise an annual quiz. This enables me to have a good oversight of what is going on what we can do to increase awareness of what we do.

Articles continue to appear monthly in the Hayling Herald, PO9 PO11 publications, and the Hayling Trader. These articles aim to give advice on gardening and to discuss themes relevant to the horticultural world and promote all our activities.

We also produce posters and banners for all our events which are put in strategic positions around the island by volunteers, and flyers which we locate in the library and other places where people are able to pick them up.

The facebook page has continued to grow its membership (currently an impressive 841 members and growing daily) and is an important vehicle for getting information out to our members and also to the local community by links with other pages. More and more of our members are now receiving a monthly e-newsletter by email with all our news and events.

Information about events is also promoted through the Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Society website and around other local societies. Our annual Yearbook and quarterly newsletters also keep our membership up to date with everything going on and are an excellent source of news and information. This year we supported Alan Mak's Community Event alongside other local businesses and groups.

Our largest event is our Community Fair and Horticultural Show held in June each year and this year's event was a huge success attracting a large number of visitors, raising awareness of the Society. Alongside our impressive horticultural show, local organisations, charities and businesses who supported the event have all expressed an interest in being involved again next year.



Liese Holden, Publicity Officer

Show Report



This was our third Show at the Hayling College, so three years since the Society took the decision to move location from the Community Centre, and to change the format from a Spring, a Summer, and then an Autumn Show, to one big Community Fair and Summer Show.

We are now comfortable in the space and happy with how things have developed over time, helped by the team at the College.

This year Class entries were up by 27%, and all on-line. And credit card machines have replaced the old bags of coins.

The Show continues to offer incredible value for money, and for £2 per person (under 16's free) some 300 visitors, and many HIHS Members, spent the afternoon looking round, and enjoying a cup of tea and cake for £3.00. There was a plant stall run by the Growing Together Project and many craft and community stands to provide interest but also importantly to bring in income to offset our running costs.

Total income this year was £3014.89, and total expenditure £3630.39. The aim each year is to break even on the budget, so to run the Show at no cost to the Society. However, due to the purchase of three capital items, namely 10 more trestle tables (we now have 66!), some shelving for the storage container, and finally some Hi-Viz waistcoats for the marshals, we just missed that target.

The Show takes a year-round effort from the amazing Show-sub-Committee, that is Liese, Kim, Jane, Hazel, Gill, and Chris, with support from Chrissi as Treasurer, and of course from Angharad. In addition, on the run up to the event itself we need a small army of helpers without whom there would be no Show!

So, a huge thankyou to all those involved, as well as those of you who picked a rose, cooked a cake or took a photo, and then entered it....

For next year, we have some exciting new developments which will be announced soon, and then when the Yearbook is printed it will contain everything else you need to know for 2026.



Tim Speller, Show Manager

100 Plus Club

The 100plus Club has 101 members this year which is slightly more than the 100 which I always hope to achieve. The monthly prize money is currently £25.50 for the first number drawn out and £15.00 and £10.00 for second and third respectively.

£600 was transferred to the Society's main account in July, which all helps to wards the cost of running the show.

The renewal letters are mostly sent out by email which saves on printing and postage costs. If you did not get an email but you are happy to receive your renewal letter this way, or have changed your email address recently, please let me know by emailing - 100.club@hihs.org.uk

It costs just £12 a year. The club year starts in March but new members can start at any point during the year, paying £1 for each month remaining. The more members we have the better the prizes! Membership forms and the rules can be found on our web site, at the Trading Centre or by contacting me.

Hazel Phillips, 100plus Club organiser

Growing Together Project

*Compiled from reports by **Tony Athill (Mengham Junior School), Cliff Piper (Mill Rythe Junior School) and Maggie Martin (Mill Rythe Infants)***

The Growing Together Project continues to flourish across the Island's schools thanks to the dedication of our volunteer teams and the enthusiasm of the children. This year has seen a wonderful mix of gardening, growing, creating and learning, and each school has achieved something to be proud of.

Mengham Junior School

Report by Tony Athill

The after-school gardening club at Mengham Junior School continues to thrive. Running every Wednesday from March to the end of October, with occasional lunchtime sessions in between, the club supports up to 20 children and is incredibly grateful for the help of up to six volunteers each week.

This year brought plenty of success at the Society Show. Ava Hawkins produced the best marigold and won the Miller Mug for the most points in all the Junior classes. Close behind was Alana Murphy, who gained two firsts. In total, MJS children achieved **7 firsts, 2 seconds, and 3 thirds**, and *Team MJS* also contributed impressively in the adult classes with **1 first, 4 seconds, and 3 thirds**.

One of the highlights was creating miniature seaside gardens — a great deal of fun — and discovering the giant, wonderfully wonky beetroot, which also won a first prize.

The children grew cosmos, marigolds, and snapdragons to sell at plant sales, and surplus vegetables — mainly courgettes and runner beans — were donated to the Food Bank at the library. Year 3 pupils planted and harvested potatoes, gladly donating them too.

As part of their Design & Technology curriculum, Year 5 designed, made, tasted, and improved *thirteen different soups*, all from vegetables the gardening club had grown.

It has also been a long season for the Year 3 sunflowers, each grown from seed and planted around the school. Tony and his brother built a new greenhouse this year. Although some tomatoes struggled in the summer heat and with irregular watering, the Dragon's Egg cucumbers were plentiful and hugely popular — often eaten straight from the plant, just to prove there wasn't *really* a baby dragon inside!

Mill Rythe Junior School

Report by Cliff Piper

The Mill Rythe Junior School Gardening Club meets every Thursday lunchtime from February half term until the October half term, supported by four HHS members: Cliff Piper, Joy Forrow, Joan Sinden, and, more recently, Simon Grose. The Club may move to an after-school format next year and is usually attended by up to 15 enthusiastic children.

Over the past year, the school garden has expanded to around 25 raised beds, all built from second-hand frames and salvaged materials. This winter we hope to replace some of the smaller beds before the children return.

2025 was another excellent year for the school. At the Annual Show, Mill Rythe Juniors won:

- 4 first prizes (including the *Diana Gifford Memorial Cup* for the best tray of produce grown in the school garden)
- 5 seconds
- 7 thirds

A record to be proud of and still plenty of scope for improvement!

In September/October the children planted sweet Williams and wallflowers above last year's daffodils. They love cutting flowers to make posies for teachers and family members, so anemones are being added to next year's spring beds. Produce is usually taken home by the children and staff, and during the summer holidays surplus goes either to The Pantry or is sold to raise funds for seeds and compost.

The club is fortunate to have strong support from Headteacher Donna Maxwell and her team. Everyone is looking forward to another productive year with the ever-enthusiastic children.

Mill Rythe Infants

Report by Maggie Martin

Lesley and Maggie began the year by helping the children plant seed potatoes and French marigold seeds. The children also planted radish, lettuce, peas, and beans in the raised beds, and enjoyed watching their crops develop throughout the season.

Zinnias and African marigolds grown at home by Lesley and Maggie thrived once transplanted, and the echium plants are doing well too and should flower next year. Tomato and cucumber plants grown by the children were particularly successful. One sizeable pumpkin was harvested and gifted to the Reception class for a project, which they were delighted with.

Strawberry beds have been refreshed and will be replanted in the spring to give the children an even better crop next year. Harvesting the potatoes, with each child taking at least four home, proved one of the most

popular sessions of the whole year. The children also enjoyed growing mustard and cress on damp kitchen roll in takeaway boxes, proudly taking them home to care for and taste.

Each week the children went home with a small bag of something they had grown, and they particularly enjoyed helping to water the garden (and sometimes themselves!).

Mick has repaired one of the raised beds and tirelessly dug out troublesome tree roots. He also acted as gate monitor to keep numbers safe. Enormous thanks also go to Jenny, who regularly came along with her loppers and secateurs to help bring in more light for the plants. “She’s worth her weight in gold!”

“It works because we make a great team,” Maggie says — and everyone is looking forward to welcoming the new Reception class in the spring and greeting all the returning young gardeners for another year of fun and growth.

Local Community Projects

Members of the Society continue to volunteer at several local sites including the Stead & Richie Memorial Garden, Hayling Health Centre and of course the Growing Together Project. These efforts help keep community spaces attractive and provide valuable gardening opportunities for children.

We are always keen to welcome new helpers — whether you’d like to support a school gardening club, maintain a community space or simply share your gardening knowledge. If you’d like to get involved, please speak to a team leader or ask at the Trading Centre.

Chris King on behalf of Ray Jones, GTP Coordinator

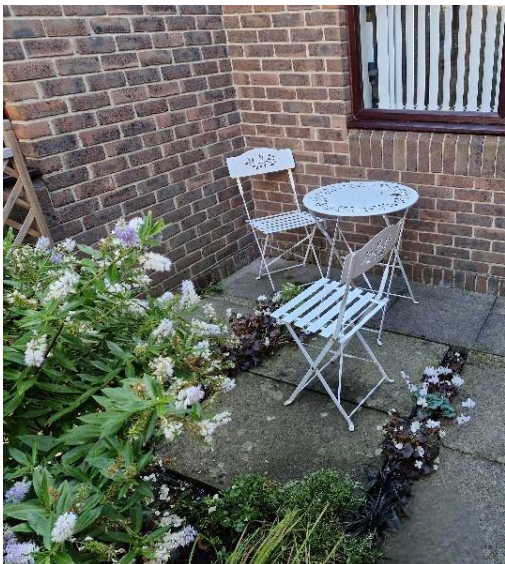
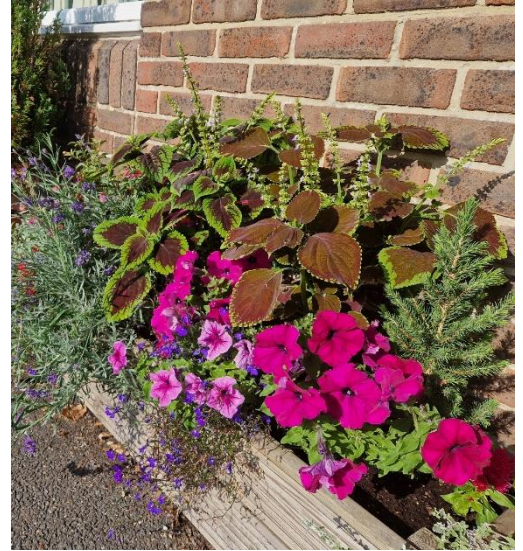


Community Projects

The Health Centre borders continue to mature and most plants survived the long dry season, with the echeveria bursting into flower in September. Unfortunately for the eastern border, a local vixen decided to raise her cubs in a neighbouring garden and they used this long border as their playground and digging-practise area. Needless to say, there are now plenty of gaps to fill!

If you have visited the Centre recently, you may have noticed one of two large terracotta-coloured pots that were donated by a local resident; now planted with a *Osmanthus heterophyllus goshiki* placed at the front of the building. The other was used to repot a euonymous on the staff patio.

It has been a challenging year for watering the pots and containers, with such long dry spells we have been visiting the Centre daily to keep the pots from drying out, so the recent rain and cooler temperatures has been most welcome.



You may also have noticed the odd gap between the planting thanks to the arrival of vine weevil larvae in at least two of the containers, resulting in the loss of several new plants. We have treated these containers with nematodes and now hope that they can survive this cold snap to continue to do their work, ridding the containers of the larvae.

The open air atriums inside the building also survived the long dry summer with several visits with watering cans, and the white begonias planted this spring seemed to thrive.

Recently, we have welcomed two new volunteers, to whom we are so grateful to help us catch up with some of the more neglected areas around the site.

Even after all the trials and tribulations this year of dry weather, foxcubs and vine weevils, we still feel a tremendous sense of satisfaction when we receive lovely comments from both passing visitors and staff. It is good to know that our hard work makes a small difference to someone's day.

If you would like to join us one weekend, then do please get in touch.

Judy Taylor, Kim Gardner, Jane Hickson, Jane Baker

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Annual Report, and to all the officers, volunteers and Growing Together Coordinators for their contribution to the society throughout 2025.