

Petersfield Gardeners' Club AGM 12th December 2024

Chairmans Report for the year 2023/24

Welcome everyone. I would like to introduce your Committee. Jane - Secretary, Mel - Treasurer, Denise - Membership Secretary, Angela - Holiday Organiser, Jenny - Day Visits Organiser, Gordon - local visits Organiser and I am Chairman and Speaker Organiser.

During the party this evening we will be making presentations to the three retiring Committee members: Alan, Sonia and Carol, in appreciation for all the hard work they have done for the Club over many years.

A Chairman's role is to give an upbeat report on the past year and I am happy to report that again this year we have 102 members. Attendance at our speaker meetings is a very impressive 60 plus members and visitors, with a well appreciated selection of topics. Both the annual holiday (thank you Angela) and day visits (thank you Carol) were well attended and very much enjoyed. All this demonstrates just how much the Gardeners' Club is valued by you all.

However, keeping up our high standards is demanding on a small Committee. I think you can all appreciate that if too much of a burden is put on too few people, then Committee members will not feel able to continue standing for re-election in the demanding roles they occupy. This year I have made repeated calls for new Committee members to share the burden, whether in a specific role or not, but disappointingly without any success. Both Jane and I stated that we plan to only serve a three-year term in our current roles, and this is the beginning of our second year. The Club cannot operate without a Chairman and Secretary, and we need people in place on the Committee now to prepare to take on these roles from the AGM in 2026. Surely none of us wants the Club to close down?

On a more positive note, five of the fairly recently appointed Committee members are willing to stand for re-election this year so we feel confident that we can go ahead and begin to book speakers from October 2025 through to July 2026. We already have great speakers booked until September 2025 as you will see from your membership cards. Angela will be telling you all about the next holidays and a day visit to Exbury Gardens in May is being planned.

So, on behalf of you all can I say a big thank you to every Committee member for all the hard work they do to keep the Club running.

Rosie Gaskell-Taylor

December 2024