

Alresford and District Horticultural Society 79th Annual General Meeting 2025

The Chairman, Mrs Janet Pooley, was in the chair.

Apologies were received from Clare Read, Peter Kidman, Valerie Powell and Magda Pitkin.

AGENDA

1. Welcome address.

The Chairman welcomed the Members and told them what form the evening would take.

2. To approve the Minutes of the 2024 AGM.

All the Members had previously received a copy of the 2024 Minutes. Their adoption was proposed by Anne Ward, seconded by Ralph Pointer and adopted unanimously.

3. To receive the Chairman's Report.

Since all Members had previously received a copy of this, Janet Pooley announced that she would just select relevant items for comment.

She began by thanking the Committee for their support over the last year, which had been a difficult one for her owing to health issues. She shared with the Membership that these had been resolved and she was looking forward to resuming her role.

i) Speakers.

We have had a variety of speakers, have had mostly positive feedback and hope to replicate this in the coming year.

ii) Alresford Horticultural Show.

The Chairman said how amazed she is that a small Society can put on an event such as this. She thanked Ann Winfield for her organisation of this event and the 55 Members who had contributed to making it a success.

iii) Wisley Outing.

This had been opened up to other Alresford Societies this year, resulting in a full coach and a small profit being made. We shall repeat this next time.

iv) Social Events.

Val Ramshaw had organised and hosted an enjoyable Summer Garden Party and organised the Christmas Supper at The Swan Hotel for which the Chairman thanked her.

v) Membership.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of recruiting more members so that we can pay our way. We need to target younger people through advertising on Social Media platforms. Re the proposal to change the Society's name to Alresford Garden Club to make it sound more inclusive (2024 AGM Minutes, 8. AOB), the Members were informed that this would cause a number of difficulties, not least with our bank accounts, so the name would remain the same but we could informally call ourselves Alresford Garden Club.

4. Adoption of the Financial Statement and Examined Balance Sheet to 31.12.24

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer, Vivienne Isemann, for all her hard work with the finances, including changes to the banking arrangements.

Members were provided with a Financial Report and an audited Income and Expenditure Statement, showing there was an overall profit of £576.13. Ralph Pointer asked about the profit of £451.30 from Fund Raising and the Treasurer explained that profit from fundraising was recorded under several headings, including the Show which was recorded separately.

The £451.30 would have come from a number of sources, especially the plant sale which was particularly successful in 2024.

Janet Symons commented that plants donated to the Plant Sale should be labelled to encourage purchasers and because it looks more professional.

Sarah McKenzie suggested having a plant sale at meetings where plants unsold at the end of the tea/coffee break would be returned to the donors.

5. To elect Officers and Committee.

Members had previously received a list of Proposed Officers and Committee Members for 2025/2026, with names of Proposers and Seconders already inserted.

Stephen Morley temporarily took the chair while members were asked to approve the appointment of Janet Pooley as Chairman. This was unanimously approved and the Chairman resumed the chair. The post of Vice Chairman is currently vacant. Vivienne Isemann was proposed as Treasurer by Janet Pooley and seconded by Shireen Coghlan. Shireen Coghlan was proposed as Secretary by Janet Pooley, seconded by Peter Tudor. The remaining Committee Members, Stephen Morley, Benny Brundish, Ann Winfield, Janet Symons and Val Ramshaw were proposed en bloc by Janet Pooley and seconded by Stephen Morley. There being no objections, the Officers and Committee were duly elected.

6. To appoint the Honorary Examiner of Accounts.

The Chairman thanked Keith Brundish for acting as Honorary Examiner of Accounts for many years and welcomed Colin Scott-Morton as the new Examiner of Accounts. The Members were asked to indicate their approval and all were happy to do so.

7. Presentation of Flower of the Month Award.

The cup for Flower of the Month Award was presented to Ralph Pointer, with Ann Winfield coming a very close second.

8. AOB.

Sarah Crawford suggested that we could sell gardening books and magazines at the monthly meetings with the proviso that items unsold after the tea/coffee break must, like the plants, be removed.

9. Votes of Thanks.

The Chairman said that everyone deserved a vote of thanks but listed Committee Members, viz Stephen Morley for arranging the Programme, Ann Winfield for organising the Horticultural Show, Vivienne Isemann for the Finances, Val Ramshaw for Outings and Hospitality, Benny Brundish for services to the membership and Shireen Coghlan for her communication skills.

This concluded the formal part of the evening. It was followed by an interesting talk by Jon Cranfield about the Biodiversity of St John's Churchyard, after which Members shared a buffet supper.