

Titchfield Gardeners' Club

Chairman's Report

1st March 2023

For the past year I am very pleased that the Titchfield Gardeners' Club have managed a full programme of seven monthly meetings as well as two Shows, a spring sale and three visits. Only one of the meetings was on Zoom when we started the year with a talk from William Rallison, who lives in the village, about Community Gardening and its challenges in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

One of the many highlights of the Programme was to visit Exbury Gardens with Marco Bartolini and to plant a Japanese Elm tree there for the Queen's Green Canopy and Arbor Day. Marco was accompanied by Tom Clarke, the Head Gardener, and we were treated to an excellent and unexpected guided tour by Tom providing us with his inside knowledge of the planning of the Gardens. I would encourage our Members to return and check how our tree is growing!

We wanted to celebrate together for our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and decided to do this in the centre of the village on the Village Green and organise a joint picnic for our members. We were delighted with the response and spent a very enjoyable afternoon celebrating the event with our Members and other villagers. Thank you to all those who supported this and to those who helped to tidy the Green in advance of the picnic and plant the many plants donated by local nurseries. This was an excellent example of the club being able to improve our community spaces for the benefit of the village.

Our annual visit to Wisley was well supported as well as our visit to Hambledon House, an NGS Garden, on a balmy summer evening in August when we were shown round by Diana Hart-Dyke who described with such enthusiasm all the unusual plants she has collected over the years. Our talks during the year ranged from Plants for Beekeeping, Greenhouse Plants, gardening in Climate Change, Ponds and Water Plants as well as Plants of Bhutan and also a Pruning Demonstration with Apple Identification by Chris Bird who returned to us in October.

We celebrated the busy year with our Christmas Skittles at the Crofton Pub, hotly contested with the winning team organised by Sue Edgington. In February we finished the year with helping the Earl of Southampton Trust to clear the space and plant 58 trees in the top part of Barry's Meadow. Thanks to all the members who helped with this event. We hope that we will be rewarded with a beautiful display of trees in the years to come and we expect to be asked to help again next year for the lower section of the Meadow.

Thanks to our Committee who have helped to organise our Programme for the year and to our members for supporting the talks and events that we offer. The club has grown in the past few years despite lockdowns and changes in the way we run the Club. Our website is now in full use and thanks to Kate Davis and Annette DeVoil for helping with that. Also thanks to Steve Nash for running our two shows of the year, which were a great success, as well as our Facebook Page open to the wider community.

Also special thanks to our Treasurer, Duncan Williams, who is retiring this year after seven years on our Committee. Duncan has helped to smoothly run our accounts, which are now in a very good state, as well as computerising the running of our Autumn Show so that we can now dispense with lengthy spreadsheets! A lot has changed in that time and Duncan has been instrumental in helping us with many things. We wish him well on his retirement from the club.

Finally I wish you all a productive and enjoyable gardening year!

Sarah Green
Chairman