

Titchfield Gardeners' Club

Chairman's Report

6th March 2024

I am delighted that this past year we have managed to provide a full programme of monthly meetings, a Spring and Autumn Show as well as three outings for our members, who have supported our club throughout.

Our talks ranged from learning about Plants Drugs and Medicines from Jonathan Newell to renewing our interest in the New Forest with a talk by Gerald Ponting giving us inside knowledge about where to visit there. Janet Merilion treated us to her talk on A Calendar Year of Colour and we learnt a lot from Simon Moore later in the year about Fungi and how to identify them. We then listened to Gillian Taylor speaking about her Roses as well as other shrubs she grows as well and Pauline Weeks about keeping Wildlife in your garden. Thanks to Sue Edgington for arranging such a wide variety of talks for us.

One of the highlights of the year was the Coronation celebration in early May in Barry's Meadow when we were able to put up a club marquee and show a beautiful floral arrangement put together by some of our members. We were delighted as a club to be part of the village event, the plants sold well thanks to the efforts of our Committee especially Katrien Burrows and we all enjoyed a good day out. Thank you to all those who helped to make the day a success.

June came round quickly and on a balmy summer evening we had a picnic at Titchfield Abbey. We were treated to a talk by Marilyn Wilton-Smith on the unusual history of the Abbey. Our annual visit to Wisley was also in June and then in August we visited Manor Lodge in Botley, an NGS garden. This was really interesting and informative thanks to Janine Stone, the owner, who was very knowledgeable about her plants, a real treat, as well as the cakes of course!

We celebrated the busy year with our Christmas Skittles at the Crofton Pub in late November, hotly contested with the winning team organised by Ann Fulton.

Some of our members helped to put together an incredible display in St Peter's Church in December for the Angel Festival. We were able to show off our skills at preparing two angels and using ferns, grasses, ivy and whatever we could lay our hands on to create a garden in a small part of the church. Thank you to all those who took part, it was a very good way to combine ideas and work towards a common goal, as well as being a lot of fun.

Our Christmas table workshop given by Val Hockley was well attended in December and we managed to put together some excellent table decorations in preparation for Christmas as well as enjoying the festive cheer.

The New Year began with a new format quiz arranged by Brian and Dawne Dunton, which went down very well, many thanks for all their hard work in putting that together.

In February we finished the year with helping the Titchfield Village Trust again to continue with the planting scheme and plant an orchard as well as other trees in the middle section of Barry's Meadow. Thanks to all the members who helped with this event and especially to those who braved the rain to carry heavy compost up the hill!

I would like to thank all of our Committee for the hard work they have put in for the past year in helping to keep the club thriving. Steve Nash arranges our two Shows and Dawne Dunton helps with all our Minutes and documentation as our Secretary. Annette DeVoil sorts out our Membership, Simon Edgington is our Treasurer and Sue Edgington our programme organiser. Katrien Burrows organises the flower competition and has now become one of our Newsletter writers, Ann Fulton with our raffles, Jan Davies with the skittles and Caroline McGrath with anything we ask her to do! I would also like to thank two people who are not Committee members but help us on a regular basis, one of whom is Kate Davis who helps with our website and the other is Lindy Blake who writes her topical tips for us on a monthly basis for the Newsletter. As a sign of our appreciation please accept these gifts on behalf of the Committee.

I am really pleased that our membership is still growing and we now have over 90 members, which is a reflection that we all love our gardens, no matter how big or small they are and are keen to learn about them.

Thank you for listening and for your strong support this year in our club activities, we wish you all the best for the new gardening year!

Sarah Green
Chairman