Following the last AGM at which no new committee members were appointed Margaret Clay was adopted as secretary for 2018, a post she had held previously. I thank her for all the work she has done together with the continuing support I have had from Sarah and the rest of the 7 strong committee.

There has been a full and varied programme starting in January when 60 members attended. Our speaker spoke about Hatfield Forest. The only other meeting when attendance exceeded 40 was the flower arranging demonstration in May. There was a last minute change of speaker in September. The quality of most of our meetings has been good although one was well below the standard we had expected. The fees of two meetings were donated to charity. There will be a full programme again in 2019 and we hope attendances will improve.

The outing to Wisley only attracted 30 members. No more coach outings are planned for the time being but we may have one or two evening self-drive visits. Margaret has more information on that.

Our annual summer show was very much affected by the dry weather. The vegetable section had fewer entries but we also noted a reduction in the cookery classes. We are always open to suggestions for the type of food to bake or preserves to make. It is by far our most expensive event. We receive a grant from the Parish Council each year and it helps to defray our cost. We are reviewing the prizes for each section.

Thanks go to Jean Baldwin for letting us use her garden for our informal gathering in August. She and her family worked hard to set up the event which was not spoiled by the first day of rain for a long time; it stopped raining just before 7 pm.

Three of our members; Sue Reed, Andy Window and Brian Flowerdew have helped the Infant school with their gardening projects over the year with our President’s support and ever guiding hand. It is very much appreciated by everyone. We had an opportunity to hear about and see the results of everyone’s efforts in June.

Two of our committee are standing down: Jill Bellamy who has been a member for a very long time and Andy Window who has been a constant support, especially in arranging various aspects of the show. I thank them both on behalf of all of us for their commitment and hard work.

Next year will be my last as Chairman. Our secretary will also be standing down. New officers need to be identified as soon as possible