

Chair's AGM report November 2023

I think we have had an excellent year in 2023 with the November and December meetings to come as I write this.

This year our summer show included our first ever plant sale, run by Committee member Susan Drummond, who grew most of the plants from seed. This was very successful and we would like to do this again next year.

Susan was co-opted on to the committee at the May meeting.

The 2024 show has a change of date and venue. It will take place on Saturday 20th July at St Michaels and All Angels Church on the Common.

Do you have any spare plants which you can donate to the society for next year's plant sale? We would be grateful for any you can spare. There is plenty of time now to sow seeds for next year's show or perhaps, propagate your plants from cuttings.

Our year started in January with a very talented speaker by the name of Deb Hart who gave us a demonstration of Wicker Art. Deb is responsible for the tank which is on the roundabout in front of the multi storey carpark in Chelmsford City Centre.

In February the GHS team once again won the Inter society quiz. We are hosting next year's quiz on Friday 16 February at the Heritage Centre on the common. We are on the lookout for a second team. Please speak to any member of the Committee if you would like to join us.

In March, Foggy Hau from Abercorn Garden Centre created a hanging basket, which was raffled at the end of the evening.

In May unfortunately our speaker Jane Ponton was unable to visit at the last minute. Instead Matthew Oliver gave us an interesting talk on Ulting Wick gardens near Maldon, where he is Head Gardener.

Jane will be visiting us in March 2024 for the talk on Compost and composting for an inter-active meeting with the audience.

In June and September visits were arranged to Lathcoats for a tour of the Fruit Farm, and Buckhatch Nursery and Garden Centre, both fascinating trips.

Tom Cole returned in October and gave us an interesting talk on how to propagate plants.

And finally none of the above could be done without your committee who have my grateful thanks for the past year.

Finally, I must not forget two society members who also deserve my thanks, Peggy Brignell, who has sold raffle tickets at our monthly meetings and at the Summer Show.

The other member is Brenda Woodcock who runs and updates our website. Many thanks to both of you.

We are working on producing a new programme for 2024, which is nearly complete.

Thank you for attending this evening. Do you have any questions?