Harlton Gardening Club; Chairman's report December 2024

Harlton Gardening Club has had another successful year. We have enjoyed a selection of interesting talks, ranging from bees to walled gardens to art and allotments; and two summer outings to Churchill College Gardens and Ramsey Abbey Walled Garden. We also held two extra events, a tour of Will Garfitt's local nature reserve followed by a delightful pub supper in The Hare and Hounds, and the Christmas wreath making workshop at the end of November; both were very much enjoyed by all attendees.

During the year, we have continued to try to maintain good publicity for meetings and events and this has borne fruit; meetings and summer outings have been well attended and we have welcomed new members to the club as well.

Our annual HGC plant sale in May was a great success, with a wonderful selection of plants donated by members and their friends. The event was very well supported, and we raised a record amount of money.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making this year such a success for HGC; all the committee members who have been so hardworking, effective and reliable throughout the year, Anne England for making teas and coffees for us at meetings, Mavis who organises the raffles, and Anne and Peter England for a wonderfully hosted summer lunch in their beautiful garden in August.

Due to a very positive year, our finances are in good shape; membership fees increased in October due to rising costs all round, but particularly the cost of booking good speakers. Penny will explain more about the finances in her Treasurer's report.

Looking ahead, we hope to continue our success into 2025; the events planned are a similar format to this year, with a range of speakers, the plant sale booked for mid May and summer outings to come – lots to look forward to.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as chairperson of HGC and would be happy to continue in the role, but that will be decided by the committee in our first meeting of the new year in January 2025.

Sarah Phelan

7th December 2024