

Crowhurst & District Horticultural Society

Annual General Meeting – Chairman's Report

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 - Mantel Farm, Henley Down

Hello Everyone

Welcome to you all - on this rainy evening. Sadly Autumn has come in with a vengeance and it hasn't been very pleasant of late at all – just hoping we may see some brighter days before Winter sets in!

Overall we have had a productive year with the two pretty seasonal flower shows; one held back in the Spring in March and the recent Autumn one held just in September. Both were quite well supported with entries; although the Autumn one had lower entries this year, probably due to the inclement weather and poor growing conditions. In Oliver's report he will go into more detail as our Show Secretary later here in his report.

We had lots of visitors who came along to view the shows in the afternoons and enjoy the delicious refreshments that dear Shirley served all afternoon. Thank you so much Shirley and Penny who assisted in the Spring.

Visitors also seemed to get great enjoyment and some fun choosing their "favourite entry" which is great to see as they get very focused on the job! This was a new idea we started awhile back and we will continue at each show.

We would like to still work on ways of encouraging more entries overall and I am particularly keen to increase interest in the honey, photo, and children's entries. I want to say here however that we appreciate greatly the input we have always had from the Brownies, Rainbows and the Pre-school children in the village and thank them sincerely. People love viewing them.

We always hold a plant sale at the May village market and we also held one at the village Fayre this year, both of which did well and we thank those of you who donate to all our events.

During brighter months we arranged two outside visits to local garden centres which all seemed to enjoy very much. The lovely Friary Gardens are great in St Leonards where persons with learning and physical health disabilities attend and grow wonderful plants to sell on to fundraise. (as they did at this year's fayre) and the Fairlight trip later which took us to Stonelynx Gardens where they grow fully organic vegetables primarily and flowers. It was very hot on that last visit which was a bit overwhelming to some sadly but I think we all appreciated the talks we had at both venues. We also had some members of the Bexhill Garden club join us at Fairlight, the last trip, which was great and in return we will be invited to attend any events they may hold during next year. Their chair Yvonne has offered us to help us with our next Jumble, which is to be held at the end of this month, which is very kind of her.

We will be in need of several sorters and sellers at that sale please and these are usually very busy sales but we try to make it fun and are great fundraisers ;so like this year we will be holding one in February next year and one again in October so remember us when you have a sort out We would welcome donations to be taken to the village hall from 8am on the morning but otherwise Alan can collect any Jumble the week before the sale - only as we have little storage space

Phil and Sue Laimbeer kindly took the saleable Jumble left-overs away last year and Phil has very kindly offered to do this again which is great and some we will take to local Charity shops.

We welcome later; after this AGM Jaqueline Aviolet who will talk to us about an unusual topic "Cultivation and History of Nuts around the World " which we hope you will enjoy

In the New year we will be planning more outside trips to places of interest and in-house speakers, and if any of you have ideas /wishes about where we could go please let us know The two Sues went on trip to Sissinghurst Gardens back in the summer using their own cars which people really enjoyed also

Thank you for your supports ongoing and now over to the Alan our Treasurer to offer his detail – thanks Alan