

Aldbury Garden Club AGM
Sunday 3rd March 2023 at 4pm in the Memorial Hall

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of 2023 meeting
3. Matters arising:
Tring Station refurbishment
RHS Discount Card
4. Village projects:
Snowdrops
Orchard noticeboard
5. Adoption of reports
Chair's report
Secretary's report
Treasurer's report
6. Resignation of committee

7. Election of committee (3 officers and 2 committee members)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>
Rachael MacRae	Chair	Juanita Mann	Sylvia Wren
Sue Justice	Honorary Secretary	Henry Gervaise-Jones	Jane Brown
Linda Di Mizio	Honorary Treasurer	Sylvia Wren	Tess Alps
Tess Alps	Committee Member	Barbara Gunter-Jones	Rod Allsworth
Paula Anderson	Committee Member	Annie Eggar	Sue Justice
Ted Bianco	Committee Member	Alistair Cromwell	Rod Allsworth
Ian Brown	Committee Member	Rachael MacRae	Tess Alps

8. Agenda items from members

Use of floral foam in our shows (Jill Timms)
9. Any other business

Aldbury Garden Club AGM Minutes

Sunday 12th March 2023 at 3.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Club Officers

Chair – Tess Alps

Honorary Secretary – Rachael MacRae

Honorary Treasurer – Linda Di Mizio

Committee Member – Chris Fido

Committee Member – Annie Eggar

Chair called the meeting to order, welcomed those present, thanked them for attending and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

Apologies for Absence were received from:

Julia Kent, Barbara Gunter-Jones, Peter and Judi Moore, Elizabeth wells, Natalie Gervaise-Jones, Clare Juniper, Janet Joynson, Dot O’Gorman, Jean and Keith Emmerson, Jackie Dyett, Sylvia Wren, Andy and Di McClarnon, Caroline Ellwood, Jean Neill, John and Joan Wright, Duncan Eggar, Paula Anderson, Jill Timms and Lucy Carmody.

Minutes of 2022 AGM

The minutes were approved by those present.

Matters Arising

1 Novice categories in the Summer show had not proved to be particularly popular, but the tastiest tomato and most fragrant rose were. For the forthcoming Spring show, domestic classes have been simplified as has the Eric Moss Daffodil Challenge Cup.

2 The new school head is interested in gardening projects for the children and we hope to do more with them this year. Annie Eggar is our main school liaison.

3 Tring in Transition has not yet claimed their £200 donation from AGC to help plant up Tring Station. Following the appointment of a new project leader, we are hopeful that this will move forwards.

4 Elizabeth Wells was congratulated on her 40 years of membership and an honorary membership was awarded in her absence; the chair encouraged members to nominate anyone else they knew who had achieved 4 decades of continuous AGC membership.

Officers' reports

The three written reports including final accounts for 2022 had been circulated prior to the meeting and can also be read on the website.

All three reports were unanimously adopted by a show of hands

Resignation of Committee

The Committee all resigned. The Chair warmly thanked Chris Fido for the many years she has tirelessly served the garden club.

Election of committee (3 officers and 4 committee members)

Name	Position	Proposed by	Seconded by
Rachael MacRae	Chair	Tess Alps	Julia Kent
Tess Alps	Hon Secretary	Barbara Gunter-Jones	Keith Emmerson
Linda Di Mizio	Hon Treasurer	Chris Fido	Sylvia Wren
Annie Eggar	Committee Member	Jill Timms	Rachael MacRae
Sue Justice	Committee Member	Natalie Gervaise-Jones	Rachael MacRae
Paula Anderson	Committee Member	Clare Juniper	Annie Eggar
Ted Bianco	Committee Member	Lucy Carmody	Tess Alps

The above volunteers were unanimously voted in by a show of hands and from votes previously submitted by email.

Agenda items from members

None submitted.

Any other business

Alex Pearce was enthusiastic about the RHS discount card. AGC is affiliated to the RHS, and as part of our membership we have been given a discount card which entitles any member (plus 1 guest) to visit any RHS garden in 2023 with a 50% entry fee discount. The card can be used as many times as we like across 2023 so hopefully many AGC members will be able

to take advantage of this.

General opinion was that open gardens were enjoyable days for members and that we should aim to do this again in 2023.

The outgoing secretary issued another plea for blog articles from members. These can be about literally anything gardening related.

Feedback from the recent Cottage Gardens talk in Wigginton was not favourable, but the outgoing chair thought that maybe the Sustainable Community committee and the AGC could combine to hire a speaker on sustainable gardening.

Plant sales are likely to remain cash only as a card reader and associated costs are thought to be prohibitive. Since the meeting, the treasurer has investigated and confirmed this.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

In attendance:

Tess Alps, Annie Eggar, Rachael MacRae, Linda Di Mizio, Chris Fido, Alex Pearce, Shirley Chamney, Fay Allwood, Rose Allen, Ann and Rod Allsworth, Ted Bianco, Sue Justice, Alison Bateson and Rosemary Hollinghurst.

Chair: Tess Alps

Signed:

Treasurer: Linda Di Mizio

Signed:

Secretary: Rachael MacRae

Signed:

Aldbury Garden Club AGM

Memorial Hall, Aldbury March 3rd 2024 at 4pm

Chair's Report

My first year as Chair seems to have flown by in a flurry of activity. Despite a freezing Winter during which many plants were lost, and a cold wet Spring putting everything on the back foot and behind schedule we enjoyed two super shows in early April and September. Both new and long-standing exhibitors turned out themselves and their talent in force. It was wonderful to see old hands like Mary Whitell and Bill Page winning prizes and trophies again.

Open gardens were a great success and will be repeated this year, hopefully with some new ones to roam around. Huge thanks to Clare, Paula, Alex, Sally, Fay, Janet, the McClarnons, Tess and Pat for letting us see what they have created. I bit the bullet and opened up my own as well about time I hear you say! Wonders and weeds go hand in hand on these occasions and we don't let perfection be the enemy of the good.

We held two extremely successful plant sales, one at the May Fair and the other in June. Not only do they keep our club in the black, but they also provide incredibly good value plants to the community. Thank you to everyone who contributed, both in terms of bringing plants to sell and buying them. The few that were left over raised money for charity either via the shop or the allotment sharing table.

As luck would have it, the Summer BBQ fell on my birthday which was such a treat. Bad weather had postponed it, and we weren't at all sure that nature would be kind to us on the day, but she was, and a great afternoon was had by all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tess and Tim for over a decade of BBQ hosting in their garden. Although they have help this is no mean feat, and we are indebted to them.

This year we are switching to February for a club get together in the form of a quiz/fish and chip night. At the time of writing this hasn't happened but by the AGM it will have done, and I hope to be able to report that it was a rip-roaring success!

2023 was our first year enjoying the RHS Discount Card which entitles any member (plus 1 guest) to visit any RHS garden with a 50% entry fee discount. It has been used multiple times which is heartening to know.

Something that is very important to us as a club is to give back to the community we live in. In previous years we have helped the school, Tring Station, the Millenium Orchard and the village website. This year we are donating £200 to the Sunnyside Rural Trust, planting snowdrops and (APC permission permitting) funding a noticeboard for the orchard. More details on all this will be reported during the AGM.

Nothing the AGC does happens without considerable effort both from the committee and our general membership. The shows and plant sales in particular would not be possible without an army of volunteers who do anything from moving extremely heavy tables to taking photographs to nurturing plants. Thank you all!

Rachael MacRae
AGC Chair

Aldbury Garden Club

AGM 2024

Hon Secretary's report

Our final totals in 2023 were 105 members, across 79 households. Of these, 7 were Honorary members and we welcomed 6 new members. This compares to 2022 when we had 118 members in 84 households.

Sadly, a couple of our members passed away last year and a couple of others have given up their membership because they have given up their allotments. We thank them all for their loyal membership for many years. This is why it is so crucial to keep the spirit of happy gardening alive in the village, especially among younger people. If you get to know any new residents do please tell them about the club and encourage them to join.

As I write this in mid-February, we have 96 paid up members across 70 households, with the possibility of some late-payers coming through and of course more new members before the year ends.

Tess Alps

AGC Hon Secretary

Aldbury Garden Club

AGM 2024

Treasurer's report on final accounts for 2023

Another busy year for the club which ended with a profit of £398.39, although that sum includes advance takings and a deposit on food costs for the Quiz night to take place in early 2024. (Without those amounts the overall profit would have been £193.39).

Overall both income and expenditure were slightly down over the year in comparison with 2022. Subscriptions were down a little. While BBQ expenses slightly exceeded takings, income from plant sales was up on the previous year by nearly £200. Two successful shows produced an increase both in income and expenses, with more money spent on prizes, engraving and repair of cups, and the purchase of two new cups for the children's classes. Other expenses included a donation to purchase trees for the millenium orchard.

The club's reserves at the end of the year totalled £3267.88, including £1504.65 held in an NS&I savings account.

Linda Di Mizio

Hon Treasurer

ALDBURY GARDEN CLUB FINAL ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

INCOME	2023
Subscriptions	£222.00
NS&I Interest	£11.55
Plant Sales (2)	£940.20
BBQ tickets	£340.00
Shows (raffles, non member admission)	£151.70
Donations (seeds, one judge's fee, s)	£13.14
Quiz night tickets	£255.00
	1933.59

EXPENDITURE	2023
RHS affiliation	£45.00
RHS (AON sports insure) public liability insurance	£75.00
Plant sale pitch hire, hall hire	£80.00
BBQ (food, helper costs)	£382.25
Shows (hall hire, judges' fees, prizes, engraving, 2 new cups)	£666.98
AGM hall hire	£30.00
Donations (millenium orchard trees)	£110.83
Stationery, printing, postage	£95.14
Deposit for quiz night fish/chips	£50.00
	£1,535.20

TOTAL INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURE **£398.39**

OPENING BALANCES AT 1/1/2023	
Metro bank current a/c	£1,210.26
NS&I savings a/c	£1,493.10
Petty Cash	£166.13
Total	£2,869.49

CLOSING BALANCES AT 31/12/2023	
Metro bank current a/c	£1,610.02
NS&I savings a/c	£1,504.65
Petty cash	£153.21
Total	£3,267.88

FINAL TOTAL RESERVES 31 DECEMBER 2023 **£3,267.88**

Aldbury Garden Club AGM Minutes

Sunday 3rd March 2024 at 4pm in the Memorial Hall

In attendance:

Club Officers

Chair – Rachael MacRae

Honorary Treasurer – Linda Di Mizio

Honorary Secretary – Tess Alps

Committee Member – Sue Justice

Committee Member – Ted Bianco

Members:

Alison Bateson, Fay Allwood, Jean and Keith Emmerson, Alex Pearce, Elizabeth Wells, Jean Neill, Janet Joynson, Ann and Rod Allsworth, Shirley Chamney, Bill Page, Jane and Ian Brown, Joan Wright, Juanita Mann, Vim Patel

Chair called the meeting to order, welcomed those present, thanked them for attending and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

Apologies for Absence were received from:

Annie and Duncan Eggar, Paula Anderson, Henry Gervaise-Jones, Barbara Gunter-Jones, Sylvia Wren, Mike Mann, Sue and Rob Gill, Talia and Oli Hull, Kate Carter, Clare and Graham Juniper, Di and Andy McClarnon, Ray Warren, Chris and Phil Fido, Rose Allen, Mark Milner, Jackie Dyett, Alistair and Clare Cromwell, Lucy Carmody, Tony and Lucy Tollinton.

.

Minutes of 2023 AGM

The minutes were approved by those present.

Matters Arising

1. The Chair shared that the £200 the club had set aside for the Tring Station. Project had still not been claimed. AGC members were still involved intermittently, whether maintaining the cultivated areas or providing and planting new plants. But it seems that capital sums are not required to buy other

plants. On that basis, the committee has decided to withdraw the offer of £200 to Tring Station and instead donate it to another local charity, the Sunnyside Rural Trust. This Dacorum based charity, with sites in Northchurch, Berkhamsted and Hemel, works with people who have learning disabilities, training them in all manner of gardening and plant skills, plus bee-keeping and poultry rearing. Ideally, the committee would like to make this an annual donation if finances allow. Going forwards, The Tring Station Project can always apply to the AGC for funds for a specific purpose should it wish to. **The Chair will let the leader of the Tring Station Project know of our decision.**

2. The second matter related to the club's request to members for ideas of how we could use some of our growing reserves for worthwhile projects in the village.

We received a few ideas, a couple of which we have acted upon.

Firstly, Jennie Shaw suggested we plant some bulbs around the new Queen's Tree on the village green. The Parish Council approved this idea and we planted a small number of snowdrops last autumn. However, **we intend to plant more snowdrops in the green soon**, which is a better way to increase the numbers. Alex Pearce, Janet Joynson and Tess Alps offered to donate some from their own gardens.

The second idea that the committee has pursued came from Jackie Dyett who thought that a plan of the Millenium Orchard on a noticeboard at its entrance, listing the varieties of trees and their sponsors, would be a great addition.

Various options have been researched and currently we are proposing to have this printed directly onto an aluminium sign at a cost of a couple of hundred pounds. In addition to the plan, the list of trees and list of sponsors, we propose to include a short history of how the orchard came into existence. We are getting invaluable help from David Cobb, Ian Gunter-Jones and Steve Welling in this project and we will shortly be putting the proposal to the Parish Council to gain their approval. There was some discussion from members about how accurate the information would be and Keith Emmerson suggested that the proposed wording be displayed publicly before the sign was made. In the end, it was agreed that **the club would share all the proposed text with members** in case they could spot errors before it went to print.

inbox on the hub which was a generic one for the entire site. However, we have suggested that any member with queries, looking for advice on any topic, should email aldburygc@gmail.com and we will do our best to answer the query ourselves or we will try and pass it to someone who we think has special knowledge/experience of the problem.

The Secretary said that on the club's webpages there are guides to every calendar month with links to authoritative websites, and, in addition, there are a couple of blogs on a few specialist topics. The Chair urged all members to add to these blogs so that our pool of advice could grow. Any topic, any time, was welcome.

2. Fay Allwood proposed a vote of thanks to the chair and the committee which was much appreciated.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Chair: Rachael MacRae

Signed:

Treasurer: Linda Di Mizio

Signed:

Secretary: Tess Alps

Signed:

Agenda items from members

Two items had been submitted.

1. Jill Timms has suggested that the club ban the use of floral foam (Oasis) on account of its negative impact on the environment; it is a single use plastic and does not biodegrade. Even the product that Oasis produces that it labels biodegradable is very carbon heavy in production and also very expensive. The RHS banned the use of floral foam 3 years ago.

There are many traditional alternatives which can be used: chicken wire, twigs, sand, gravel, 'frogs' or pins etc. Jill has offered to write an article for the AGC webpages giving advice to members. This was welcomed.

The chair proposed that the club ban floral foam for the summer show onwards as many people will already have Oasis they wish to use up at this spring show. This was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

Other issues around sustainable cut flowers were discussed. Our show rules allow floral art exhibitors to buy flowers (even though most only use flowers from their own gardens) but some bought flowers are not grown sustainably. Fay Allwood mentioned that there is a local grower of flowers at Hill Farm and she will try to find the details to pass on to us.

2. Lucy Carmody is selling her home and probably moving away from the village. She wondered whether anyone in the AGC would like to take over responsibility for the village website www.aldburyvillage.org as she will be unable to do this any longer. The task could be divided into various components eg editorial, technology and finances. As the club uses the hub to host its own webpages and helped finance the launch of the site, it has a strong interest in its ongoing health, so please come forward if you think you can help.

Any other business

1. Ian Brown asked whether the club was able to provide an advice service for members. The Chair explained that we had originally hoped to have a forum/inbox on our webpages where members could submit questions and other members could answer, but the particular web format that had been chosen only allowed for one

Officers' reports

The three written reports, including final accounts for 2023, had been circulated prior to the meeting and can also be read on the website.

The Chair gave a verbal update to her report. The Quiz/Fish and Chip Night had been a great success, even making a small profit of about £18, thanks to a few late bookings. If the Quiz night is repeated in 2025, the club will consider the practicality of having the Fish and Chips van; inevitably, it takes some time to cook fish and chips well for 46 people and an alternative like a Curry night might be a better bet. The Chair also said that because there would be no summer BBQ in the Alps's garden this year, the club was considering maybe beefing up some of the Open Gardens Days, with maybe tea and cake or picnics. Please share your views on this topic.

All three reports were unanimously adopted by a show of hands.

Resignation of Committee

The Committee all resigned.

Election of committee (3 officers and 4 committee members)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>
Rachael MacRae	Chair	Juanita Mann	Sylvia Wren
Sue Justice	Honorary Secretary	Henry Gervaise-Jones	Jane Brown
Linda Di Mizio	Honorary Treasurer	Sylvia Wren	Tess Alps
Tess Alps	Committee Member	Barbara Gunter-Jones	Rod Allsworth
Paula Anderson	Committee Member	Annie Eggar	Sue Justice
Ted Bianco	Committee Member	Alistair Cromwell	Rod Allsworth
Ian Brown	Committee Member	Rachael MacRae	Tess Alps

The above volunteers were unanimously voted in by a show of hands and from votes previously submitted by email.