

## Aldbury Garden Club AGM

Sunday 1st March 2026 at 4.30pm in the Memorial Hall

### Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of 2025 meeting
3. Matters arising:  
[aldburyvillage.org](http://aldburyvillage.org)  
Bulbs  
Charitable donations  
Gardeners Question Time  
Leaflets for new villagers
4. AGC allotment
5. Adoption of reports  
Chair's report  
Secretary's report  
Treasurer's report
6. Resignation of committee
7. 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	Annie Eggar	Bill Page
Sue Justice	Honorary Secretary	Henry Gervaise-Jones	Jane Brown
Fay Allwood	Honorary Treasurer	Rachael MacRae	Tess Alps
Tess Alps	Committee Member	Barbara Gunter-Jones	Keith Emmerson
Paula Anderson	Committee Member	Clare Juniper	Rachael MacRae
Beth Cole	Committee Member	Rachael MacRae	Annie Eggar
Tania Bird	Committee Member	Rachael MacRae	Sue Justice

8. Any other business  
Open gardens  
RHS discount card

## **Aldbury Garden Club AGM Minutes**

**Sunday 1st March 2026 at 4.30pm in the Memorial Hall**

### **In attendance:**

#### **Club Officers**

Chair – Rachael MacRae

Honorary Treasurer – Fay Allwood

Honorary Secretary – Sue Justice

Committee Member -Tess Alps

Committee Member – Paula Anderson

Committee Member – Ian Brown

### **Members present:**

Chris Fido, Phil Fido, Alex Pearce, Bill Page, Jane Brown, Jackie Dyett, Janet Joynson, Debbie O’Neil, Jean Emmerson, Keith Emmerson, Beth Cole, Tania Bird, Gal Kagan

### **Apologies for Absence were received from:**

Sue Justice, Ted Bianco, Rose Allen, Rod and Ann Allsworth, Claire and Alistair Cromwell, Annie and Duncan Eggar, Clare Juniper, Linda Di Mizio, John Justice, Henry Gervaise-Jones, Peter Moore, Jean Neill, Alison Bateson, Sylvia Wren, Elizabeth Wells, John and Joan Wright, Tim Alps, Barbara Gunter-Jones

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

### **Minutes of 2025 AGM**

The minutes were approved by those present.

### **Matters Arising**

Paula gave an update on the management of the village hub [www.aldburyvillage.org](http://www.aldburyvillage.org) where the AGC web activity is hosted. Having taken it over the whole site last year, she has been the only person contributing to its maintenance and it is need of updates. A website that is

not up to date is no use to anyone and discourages people from using it regularly. The AGC pages are regularly updated.

Paula told members that the village will need to pay for another 3 years of hosting in 2027. At its inception, the AGC paid £ 200 ie about half the cost and rest was donated by individuals in the village. Going forward we could decide to begin our own wholly owned website but this would cost the same as participating in the village hub viz approx. £300 for 3 years.

Rachael asked members for their opinions on the club's web presence: was it necessary; would be better to have our own; how could we improve it; how could we make the village value it more?

Various members voiced their opinions. Some were not even aware of it and had never used it; others had used it at the start when all the AGC content was fresh. It was also possible to navigate directly to other village websites such as the Parish Council and the Mem Hall without going via the hub, but, of course, only if you knew they existed. But other members, particularly those newer to the village did find it useful and it is certainly useful for any visitors to the village and local businesses should be able to get benefit from it.

Paula shared the numbers for traffic to the site and it had received more than 400 visitors, some from overseas. However, the site needs to be managed editorially much like the Outlook. Tess suggested that in due course the Outlook itself could be published on the hub. Rachael said she would pursue discussions with other bodies in the village to gain their views and was hopeful that Angus (MacRae) would be able to devote some time to this. The meeting concluded that we should continue to have a web presence as a club, however it is delivered.

On the subject of using club surpluses, Rachael apologised for not organising more bulb planting around the village last autumn but would do so this coming autumn. Members agreed to make another donation of £200 to Sunnyside.

Rachael updated members on the club allotment; it is in great need of weeding and general maintenance. The committee has agreed to use club reserves to buy plastic sheeting and scaffold boards for the rhubarb bed but help will be needed to lay/install them. Jackie offered 2 scaffold boards. It was proposed to invite all members to come with a hoe/trowel on a couple of afternoons for a 'weed-in'. In due course, we may invest in a polytunnel for overwintering plants to sell at the May Fair and in June and this would reduce weed spread.

Keith raised the issue of the poor state of many of the village allotments and wondered whether the club could complain on behalf of members to the Parish Council. Rachael explained that this was tricky given the state of the club's own allotment and that allotment holders should make representation individually. Bill commented that the state of Aldbury allotments was no different from most allotments and that the rules the APC applied were in lie with national guidelines.

## Officers' Reports

The three written reports, from the Chair, the Hon Sec and The Hon Treasurer, including final accounts for 2025, had been circulated prior to the meeting and can also be read on the AGC website.

Matters raised in these reports were discussed as separate agenda items, as shown below under their headings.

All three reports were unanimously adopted by a show of hands and one member complimented them as 'super' and 'very informative'.

## Club Funding

Not all subs are in yet for 2026 but there is no evidence that the raising of the annual fee to £5 from 2026 has resulted in drop-outs.

## Resignation of the Committee

The Committee all resigned: Chair Rachael MacRae, Honorary Treasurer Fay Allwood, Honorary Secretary Sue Justice, committee members Tess Alps, Paula Anderson, Ted Bianco, and Ian Brown.

Ted and Ian have decided not to stand for re-election. Rachael thanked them for their contributions, in particular, the major task of erecting the shed on the allotment.

## Election of the 2026/7 Committee (3 officers and 4 committee members)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>
Rachael MacRae	Chair	Annie Eggar	Bill Page
Sue Justice	Honorary Secretary	Henry Gervaise-Jones	Jane Brown
Fay Allwood	Honorary Treasurer	Rachael MacRae	Tess Alps
Tess Alps	Committee Member	Barbara Gunter-Jones	Keith Emmerson
Paula Anderson	Committee Member	Clare Juniper	Rachael MacRae
Beth Cole	Committee Member	Rachael MacRae	Annie Eggar
Tania Bird	Committee Member	Rachael MacRae	Sue Justice

The above volunteers were unanimously voted in by a show of hands.

## **Agenda Items from Members**

### **Sustainable Flowers**

Member Jill Timms had asked for this issue to be raised. Aldbury Church has been a pioneer in this endeavour which involves using local sources and buying as few flowers as possible. AGC members can help by donating flowers and foliage whenever they have a surplus. There is always a bucket in the church porch for donations; Thursdays and Fridays mornings are the best days to do this before arranging takes place.

### **Any other Business**

#### **Open Gardens**

Only the Alps had opened in 2025 and Rachael proposed that we pause the scheme for 2026, hoping that, by 2027 there would be more of an appetite, from both openers and visitors. Members had also been able to visit the Pearces' garden in 2025 for tea and cake which Rachael thanked them for. In 2026, the Eggars will be the host for this event, date yet to be finalised.

#### **RHS Discount Card**

The Chair reminded members that we have this as it was only used once in 2025. It can be used for any RHS garden in the country and entitles the holder to a 50% discount. The Chair keeps it and needs to be given advance notice when a member wishes to borrow it. Discussion followed about whether the club's membership of the RHS entitles us to free entry for a coach trip (which it does). However, it is believed there is little call for coach trips these days, but if anyone wants to arrange one, Rachael encouraged them to do so. Jackie said that Mason's Coaches sometimes are prepared to sell spare seats for garden visits directly which limits the obligation of the club to fill up a coach.

#### **Propagation of Plants**

There was a request for members to grow spare plants for the sales. Also, if anyone has spare greenhouse space for plants/ seedlings grown by others that would be very useful. The club has spare pots and can reimburse growers for cost of compost, etc. The club's 2

plant sales were a vital source of funds and Fay confirmed that even with the increase in the annual subs, the club would run at a deficit without that income.

### **Suttons Seeds**

Tess raised a concern over the quality of Suttons Seeds with both poor germination rates and decreasing numbers of seeds in packets. Fay agreed. Chris wondered whether the quality of compost these days is a factor but there were no issues with other seed sellers such as Chiltern Seeds or Mr Fothergills. Rachael explained that the club has researched the possibility of getting group discounts from other seed companies but the only ones available (Thompson and Morgan and Dobies) are all part of the same parent company with Suttons, so little point.

### **Other**

Alex had brought snowdrops in the green and Fay had brought the club's RHS magazines for members to help themselves to.

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

Chair: Rachael MacRae

Signed:

Date:

Hon. Secretary: Sue Justice

Signed:

Date:

## Aldbury Garden Club AGM

Memorial Hall, Aldbury March 1st 2026 at 4.30pm

### Chair Report

I have come to measure time around AGC events and the life cycles of plants and vegetables so to me the annual AGM and writing this report feels like the proper start to a new year!

2025 seemed to run from one garden club event to another. At the AGM in early March, we lost Linda as our treasurer but gained a new treasure (sorry!) in Fay who has fitted in like she was born to it. Members voted to raise the annual club subscription from £3 to £5 which will help to cover our baseline costs.

Our yearly shows were superb once again. Lots of you, both young and old, exhibited your creative and cooking skills, flowers and vegetables. Thank you!

The May Fair and mid-June plant sales yet again surpassed all previous records. The absolute mountain of rhubarb at the May Fair had to be seen to be believed, but it all sold. As always, thank you so much to everyone who brought us things to sell or who purchased from us. It keeps our club going.

Later in May we enjoyed a talk in the Memorial Hall about Horatio's Garden at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. It's one of many gardens around the country which help spinal injury patients rehabilitate, and we were delighted to support them. Sunnyside Rural Trust again received a donation from us, and it is a privilege to be able to help two such local charities.

July saw us celebrating 25 years of Millennium Orchard. We donated a noticeboard detailing all the trees and their sponsors, along with a plan of the planting and a little bit of orchard history. Dozens came to our wine and nibbles festivities, both current and former villagers alike. A lovely evening.

In August we enjoyed another super afternoon of tea and cake in the Pearce's garden. Huge thanks to them for their hospitality over the past couple of years.

There has been no word back from the BBC about hosting Gardeners' Question Time yet, but we live in hope.

Open gardens were not too popular with members last year as only Tess and Tim invited us to visit theirs in 2025. Thanks, you two!

And thank you to our committee and every member of this club. It's all a team effort 😊

Rachael MacRae  
AGC Chair

**Aldbury Garden Club**  
**Annual General Meeting 2026**  
**Secretary's Report**

Membership numbers have stayed approximately the same in 2025, with a few new arrivals making up for those who left. At the end of 2025 we had 115 members in 78 households compared to 116 members in 80 households in 2024. We had 105 members in 2023 and 118 members in 2022. This includes 5 honorary members all of whom have had 40 years of unbroken membership.

It is too early to give final numbers for 2026 because we are waiting, as at the middle of February, for some subscriptions to come in still. Final reminders to individuals will be sent out late February.

At our plant sales and shows we continue to look out for potential new members. We prepared a publicity leaflet in 2025. Copies will be available at the AGM for people to take away and give out to likely new members. Please take a few if you could use them.

Sue Justice

Hon. Secretary

## **AGC TREASURERS REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL**

Aldbury Garden Club subscriptions were paid from 64 households in the year, totalling £192. However, 9 subscriptions had been paid during 2025 were paid in 2024 and there are 5 non-paying honorary members. This makes the total number of households that were members of the Garden Club in 2025 78, a reduction of 2 on 2024.

On the deficit side, costs of £483 for the two shows were offset by the two raffles, leaving a loss of £308.

We also ran 2 events; a talk from the Horatio's Garden team and a celebration to mark 25 years of the Millennium Orchard. The cost for these 2 events was £105.

Donations totalling £300 were given to the following; Sunnyside Rural Trust (£200) and Horatio's Garden (£100).

One-off purchases were made for the notice board (£47) and a gift for Steve Welling (£15).

Our usual running costs included insurance, RHS affiliation, the two shows and the rental of the allotment.

The club held reserves of £3253 at the end of December 2025 which is an increase of £405 over 2024. This can be explained by a reduction in capital spending in comparison to 2024 and increased income from plant sales.

As in all recent years, income from subscriptions did not cover the club's essential operating costs. In line with the decision made at the 2025 AGM subscriptions for 2026 have been increased to £5 per household. This would still not have covered costs and would have required a subscription of £7 to break even.

**ALDBURY GARDEN CLUB****FINAL ACCCOUNTS**

31 December 2025

**INCOME****2025****2024****OPENING BAIANCES @ 1/1/25**

Subscriptions

198

225

MetroBank

1,102

NS&amp;I Interest

15

15

NS&amp;I Savings

1,520

Quiz Night Tickets

0

435

Plant Sales

1560

1360

Petty Cash

226

Other

86

Show Raffles

175

164

Total

2,848

Subs Paid in Advance

27

**TOTAL****2034****2226****EXPENDITURE****2025****2024****CLOSING BALANCES @ 31/12/25**

RHS Affiliation

47

45

MetroBank

1,495

RHS Insurance

155

80

NS&amp;I Savings

1,535

Quiz Night

601

Petty Cash

223

Donations

300

307

Total

3,253

AGM Hire of Hall

30

30

Plant Sales

243

246

Stationery/Print

7

21

Shows

483

475

Allotment Hire

17

15

Sub Refunds

6

One-Off Purchases

341

826

**TOTAL****1629****2646**

Income minus Expenditure

405

-420