

**Minutes of the NNHS Annual General Meeting 13 January 2024**  
**Jubilee Hall East Tuddenham at 2pm**

Chairperson Len Finch opened the meeting and welcomed the 26 members who were in attendance.

**Apologies.**

Gloria Goodley, Simon White, Sarah Hammond, Jo Borrett, Shirley Cross, Virginia Valentine, Carol Green, Susie Thomson, Pauline & Don Kinmond, Jacquie Aldous, Trish & Norman Kemp, Paul Payne, Hazel Smith & Ian Braid, Kristopher Harper, Roisin Murray.

**Minutes of the previous AGM.**

The minutes of the AGM of 4 December 2022 had been published in the Spring edition and Autumn/Winter editions of the 2023 Norfolk Gardener. There were no matters arising and the minutes were agreed.

**Chairperson's report and review of the year.**

Len Finch said that the year had started with sad news regarding the closure of Norfolk Chrysanthemum Association. This led to our purchase of their tables and tiering and a big sort out of our own equipment, plus we had gained Susan Cranmer as a trustee. The spring show was early due to Easter and we had new exhibitors. The summer show had more entries and Malcolm Stelfox had settled into his new role as Summer Show Co-ordinator. People were getting back to normal post covid and were more used to our new location and arrangements, which has improved footfall. Len had attended the Sandringham Flower Show and recruited six new members. The President's Evening at Julia's home at Castle Acre was lovely, with the garden at its peak just before opening for the National Garden Scheme and some excellent catering. It had also given an opportunity to present Lesley Webdale with the RHS Certificate of Recognition for all her good work on behalf of the society. The early and late autumn shows had been good. We had decided to remain with the second weekend in November after discussion with Chrysanthemum exhibitors. The talk by Christine Walkden at Dereham Memorial Hall in October was well attended – an entertaining evening with a very determined lady. Len expressed his thanks to everyone who works so hard on a voluntary basis to make the society successful. The review of royal patronages is still underway, and we continue to use the phrase "HRH the former Prince of Wales" as our patron, until advised otherwise. Our Archive group is continuing to look at our records and interview long-serving members – they are happy to receive additional material around the history of the society.

**Treasurer's Report, including receipt and consideration of the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2023.**

Frances Howard had resigned as treasurer just before the AGM. The accounts had been completed and were distributed to those present and an email from Frances read out, confirming an excess of income over expenditure of £1,566 and total reserves of £38,102 on 30 September 2023. The accounts were accepted without question. A new treasurer is required.

**General and Events Secretary's Report**

Lesley Webdale reported on another full year, with administration ever increasing. Thanks to Susan Cranmer for her support with this. Membership numbers were stable, and subscriptions being kept at the same rate with more Direct Debits in payment and less cheques. Two affiliated society meetings had been held and visits to affiliated societies had resumed, with a visit to Breckland Flower & Garden Club on 11 January. A new webmaster was still required to make the improvements required. Committee meetings were held mainly by Zoom, with more frequent, shorter meetings helping with the decision making and reducing travel costs. Thanks to Shirley Cross for helping with events. It had been a full programme in 2023 with four shows, President's Evening,

coach trip to RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show and a holiday to Scotland, Zoom talk by Rosemary Legrand in January, Show & Exhibitors meeting in February, snowdrop visit to Chestnut Farm, West Beckham in March, plus talks by Joe Sharman, Barry Gayton and Christine Walkden. We had an entry in the National Garden Scheme booklet in 2023, to be repeated in 2024. Lesley had attended the Papillon Project anniversary event at Houghton Hall with Len Finch. We were so pleased to see project lead and founder Matt Willer being recognised in the New Years Honours list with the British Empire Medal. Lesley said she was about to start her ninth year in the role and, although a lot of things had been modernised, there was still a lot to do. A show schedule review was ongoing. There was still a need for someone to take on the Events Co-ordinator role. Organising the Christine Walkden talk had been a big undertaking – many thanks to Susan Cranmer for her support with this. It was a big job, and a lot had been learnt in the process. There was no plan to do something similar in 2024 but maybe in the future. A big thank you to everyone who supports the society in any way – a Volunteers day had been organised for February 2024 to thank all our volunteers in 2023.

#### **Election of Trustees and other Posts for 2024**

The following were elected as Trustees for 2024

Chairperson: Len Finch

Vice Chair: Simon White

General Secretary & Membership: Lesley Webdale

Treasurer: vacant

Events Co-ordinator: vacant

Show Co-ordinator (Spring & Autumn): Tricia Loades

Summer Show Co-ordinator: Malcolm Stelfox

Floral Art Co-ordinator: Gloria Goodley

Large Gardens Co-ordinator: Simon Gaches

Committee member: Susan Cranmer

Sarah Barley has stood down and therefore the non-trustee role of Show Entry Secretary is unfilled for all four shows. Len Finch agreed to take on the Trophy Manager role from Sarah.

#### **President's Award for 2023.**

The medal is awarded for outstanding service to the Society over several years. It was presented by Julia Stafford Allen to Martyn Davey for his many years on committee and over 10 years as chairperson.

#### **Closing Remarks.**

The AGM closed at 15:00, followed by presentation of the All shows awards for 2023 and light refreshments.