

## **PLANT HERITAGE AGM 2025**

Held at 2pm on Sat. Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 at Shurdington Village Hall with a Zoom link for those who could not attend in person.

There were approximately 25 present, including a few members of the Cotswold Cottage Garden Group and 10 members joining via Zoom.

- 1.** Apologies received from Anne Milner, Ruth Hollingshead, Si & Di Ryley, Henry Robinson and Ursula Evans.
- 2.** Minutes of the 2024 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed.
- 3.** Matters Arising – There were none.
- 4.** Chairman's Report – It's really good to see so many of you here today, although no doubt you are not just here for the AGM!  
2024 proved to be a really busy year with 4 excellent talks, 3 garden visits, 2 e-newsletters and yet another riotous Christmas Quiz.

We also ran a day at Westonbirt Arboretum which brought together National Collection holders, group members and staff from central office and I'd especially thank Margaret for her help with securing the Great oak hall for the event.

Our plant sale over the May bank holiday raised over £1,000 for the group, in spite of pretty lacklustre weather and was followed by the annual Plant Exchange. This involved a lot of committee members travelling round the county distributing plants that had already made their way to and from Stranraer!

On Valentines Day we had a visit to the snowdrops at Colesbourne Gardens with a tour by the owner, Sir Henry Elwes and over the summer we visited the beautiful gardens at the Old Rectory at Naunton and the gardens at HMP Eastwood. We were all incredibly impressed with the work that Head Gardener, Gary Stone had done with the prisoners to curate a National Plant Collection and create such beautiful gardens behind the prison walls. As one of the murals said "I want to be a sunflower so even when it is dark I can grow tall and see the light". Thanks to Stevie Pontifex and Peter Lewis for securing and organizing these visits so well. Also huge thanks to Di and Si Ryley for hosting our

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second evening social in their wonderful garden and barn It was one of those rare balmy summer evenings that make you just feel happy to be alive!

Some more people to thank: -

- Toby Jarvis has added yet another year to his run as Treasurer since the Millennium – he keeps saying he would like to give up and it really isn't a big task, so if anyone is holding back you have only to ask.
- Trish Mullins doubles up as membership secretary and cheerful organizer of teas and cakes – these are so good that I am fast running out of superlatives.
- Mary Manders-Trett continues to take minutes of our committee meetings which is a huge help.
- Ruth Hollingshead has taken on the role of editor of our e-newsletter and is doing a grand job of commissioning and writing articles, supported by David Ross on the technical side.
- Xiahong and Edward generously supplied mulled wine and festive goodies for the Christmas Quiz.
- David Simpson has helped by organizing several events jointly with the CCGC, including today's talk.
- Last but not least, thanks to David R who has to put up with me and works very hard to look after a large number of National Collection Holders in the area with the help of Tom Yerburgh.

Looking forward, we have four excellent talks booked for this year, our plant sale on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Plant Exchange, which will be held in Oxfordshire at Michael Heseltine's Thenford Arboretum, more garden visits and another evening social. Please do keep an eye on the Plant Heritage website for an up-to-date list of events and details.

And finally, thank you all for being such enthusiastic, generous members of the group – now 100 members strong - without you there would be no group!

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5. Treasurer's Report by Toby Jarvis – Accounts as follows.

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Annual Plant Sale	1320.18	1201.78
Donations	189.02	168.00
Events/visits	438.00	300.00
Membership	0.00	644.00
Merchandise	0.00	0.00
Nursery Leaflet Advertising	0.00	0.00
Meetings Income (Plant Sales, teas, raffles, visitors)	726.10	568.66
<u>Sponsorship</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>180.00</u>
	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>3062.44</u>
	2673.30	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Administration (postage, photocopying, stationary)	4.00	13.29
Annual Plant Sale	233.31	197.53
Transfer to Plant Heritage Central Office	1000.00	0.00
Equipment	19.95	24.99
Group Visits	498.37	510.00
Hire of Hall	225.00	149.00
Miscellaneous (Insurance, tokens, projects)	189.92	159.21
Nursery Leaflet costs	0.00	0.00
<u>Speakers Costs</u>	<u>677.50</u>	<u>661.00</u>
	<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>1715.02</u>
	2848.05	

## SUMMARY

Surplus/deficit for year	-174.75	1347.42
<u>Balance from last year</u>	<u>4774.63</u>	<u>3427.21</u>
Balance this year	<u>4599.88</u>	<u>4774.63</u>
<u>Represented by</u>		
Cash in hand	40.00	20.00
<u>Bank Current Account</u>	<u>4559.88</u>	<u>4754.63</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>4599.488</u>	<u>4774.63</u>

Accounts prepared by Toby Jarvis, Group Treasurer. He noted that we had made a small loss this year as the result of a Transfer to Central Office. This should be noted for future reference. Christine Jarvis pointed out that the Group had waived capitation from Central Office this year; had we taken this the Group would have been in profit. The Group may opt to take capitation in future years should funds be needed.

David Simpson commented on the successful Plant Sale at Eastcombe and wondered if there was any chance of losing this venue as it had been beneficial to all parties concerned – a win win situation. He was assured that there was no problem this year and it would go ahead as usual. Toby thanked all those who had helped out in 2024.

### 6.Election of Officers /Committee

The retention of the current Committee was proposed by Chris Jarvis and this was seconded by Gay Chamberlain.

Tom Yerburgh was proposed to join the Committee by Toby Jarvis. This was seconded by Trish Mullins.

**7. A.O B.** David Simpson. asked about the availability and suitability of the Shurdington venue for meetings as there had been some questions previously and another venue had been tried. Penny replied that there was no problem and we should continue to meet in this Hall.

