

Marlborough Gardening Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Marlborough Gardening Association on Wednesday 14 February 2024 at 7.30pm

Chair Report for the Year March 2023 to February 2024

The MGA has continued with another successful year with a full programme of speakers and visits. We had speakers each month, except for June and July – when we assume that our members will be too busy gardening! - and December, where the meeting was a bring and share supper and quiz, as befits the festive season. There were day trips in April (Ford Abbey), June (Ilford Manor and Downside Nurseries) and October (Stourhead), and also our ever popular weekend away in June (Norfolk). The monthly meetings included a raffle, and also some changes were made this year, to include free teas and coffees; a display table with different topics each month; and a seed swap.

The plant sale in May was as well attended in usual, and brings funds to the Association that help cover the costs of visits and speakers, along with your subscriptions. Members' other events included the annual lunch at the Marlborough Golf Club in April, and a social event for new members in July – this was a catchup, that included members who joined since covid.

Subscriptions were held at £10; members' benefits included not only the events noted above, but also an emailed monthly newsletter, including information on meetings and trips, as well as articles of interest. The website also provided information, not only on Association events, pictures of trips and forms for trips, but also useful external links. Another innovation in the year was the introduction of Garden Link – a means by which members can both offer and seek help on gardening problems and inspiration. Members also received a 10% discount from TH White on production of their card. Membership numbers increased slightly to 147 in February 2024.

The Committee revolved the Chair role among 4 members, in the absence of a candidate for Chair for the whole year. The Treasurer has continued in her role. Our new Membership Secretary has mastered the database and maintains our records. Other Committee members covered roles such as the Speakers' programme; day trips; newsletter; raffle; display table. Other support roles, such as the weekend away, the plant sale and the website are covered by non Committee members. 4 Committee members are standing down at the AGM; Jan Lillywhite, Jane Tilbrook, Deirdre Watson and Bev Luxford. Also two longstanding helpers are to stand down; Heather Bridgeman (plant sale) and Sue Jackson (tea and coffee roster).

We would like to thank all our Committee members, and other helpers and supporters, for all their hard work in helping to make the Association successful.

Deirdre Watson
Acting Chair
February 2024