

Brimpsfield and Mid Cotswold Garden Society

Chairman's Report 2023 -2024.

The year started with a realisation that the Garden Society's expenditure was greater than its income. After some discussion at the AGM it was agreed to increase the annual membership fee to £8 per person or £12 per couple. A nominal increase of tea/coffee and cake was also agreed. It was hoped that these increases would cover the ever-rising costs of speakers and catering.

The talks throughout the year started with our own Angela Lerwill describing growing up on a Sussex farm. We then had speakers covering "Garden friends and foes", "Garden Folklore", "the Stroud Seed Bank" and "Medicinal garden plants". All were very interesting and well received. The garden visit to Trench Hill in June was very interesting and enlightening.. The garden had evolved, without planning, to a fantastic array of garden rooms, verging on the exotic. The highlight of the year was the Open Gardens Day in Birdlip. The weather was excellent and extremely well attended. (I had at one point 37 visitors in my small garden). The day also raised us over £400. The Annual Show in September was its usual success. The standard of garden produce was very high, as was the level of judging. The money made from the raffle and auction at the Show also increased.

The end of the year sees our finances in a better shape thanks to increase in membership subscriptions and a very successful Open Day and Annual show.

Finally, I would like to thank my Committee and Catering Volunteers for their hard work and support throughout the year which culminated in our success.

Harvey Mattinson Chairman BMCGS