

RCHS AGM 2023 CHAIRMANS REPORT

2022 was another extraordinary and challenging year for gardening. We endured record temperatures, followed in November by more rain than we knew what to do with. My roses flowered for the third time.

Your society offered a pared down programme of 9 events as we emerged from Covid with much reduced availability of speakers and several cancellations of talks.

MARCH	The SPRING SHOW was a great success with many of us meeting in person for the first Time. Prizes were presented by Mark the manager of Hilliers our new garden centre. Hilliers will continue to sponsor our shows.
MAY	A welcome return of John Amand, who gave a LIVE TALK on Summer Bulbs. He brought a wonderful array of bulbs for sale, always a welcome move.
JUNE	The SUMMER SHOW was very quiet with many members on holiday or busy at other events. There is no summer show this year as we rotate.
JUNE	The COACH TRIP to Merriments Gardens for morning coffee and GREAT DIXTER house and gardens after lunch. A packed and very enjoyable day out.
SEPTEMBER	Our second COACH TRIP took us to RHS GARDEN WISLEY for their Flower Show. A fabulous display of Dahlias and an opportunity to visit the newly opened areas in the north of the gardens. There were many exhibitors selling plants and accessories.
OCTOBER	LIVE TALK by George Lockwood advice on Bulbs from January, was well attended.
DECEMBER	DEMONSTRATION by Zoe Bulkely with a Christmas Floral arrangement. This included mince pies and mulled wine. A seasonal end to the year.
JANUARY	Our annual QUIZ with the return of FISH & CHIP SUPPER. The previous 2 quizzes were cancelled through lack of support. Changing from October to January resulted in a much bigger uptake. Terry and Warren delivered a very successful evening. This worked so well we plan to repeat.

We continue to keep our membership stable with new members joining throughout the year. This is essential in adding new blood and fresh ideas for moving forward.

Two key members of the committee are retiring tonight.

Unfortunately, both Graham and I are unable to continue.

Members have been notified and nominations requested for anyone willing to stand as secretary and chair. Sadly despite our best efforts no one has offered to help. Our warning has been in vain and your society is now at risk. Please help.

My report would not be complete without a sincere thank you to all our committee members past and present for their hard work and support over my 7 years as chair.

