

PLANT HERITAGE AGM 2024

The meeting was held on Saturday, 13 January 2024 at Shurdington Village Hall with a Zoom link available for members who could not attend in person.

There were approximately 24 members present in the Hall, with 3 attending via Zoom.

1. Apologies were received from Tom Yerburgh and Julie Ritchie.
2. Minutes of AGM 2023 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed.
3. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report – Penny Ross reported that it had been a busy year with several outstanding talks, a plant sale, a lovely evening social (at Stevie and Simon's to celebrate PH's Sapphire Anniversary), two garden visits (to Jackie Healy's Garden (kindly arranged by Peter Lewis) and Asthall Manor, Oxfordshire), a visit to Melcourt Industries (kindly arranged by David Simpson) and a successful Christmas quiz.

In April we held our first National Collection Holders Day for many years at Batsford Arboretum. Thanks were given to Margaret Headen for generously sponsoring Dr Julian Sutton's talk.

The Group also welcomed several new collections – a Buddleja collection in North Gloucestershire, a new Crocosmia collection in a pub on the outskirts of Bristol and a Tulbaghia collection in a women's prison. Charles Martell was awarded a new collection of Gloucestershire plums and Richard Marshall was awarded a new collection of Ceratostigma. It was noted that Tom Yerburgh will be joining David Ross in coordinating the National Collection Holders.

Sadly, we also said goodbye to four of our members – Jeremy Hicks and Roger Oates and two National Collection Holders, Sydney Reed and Hamish Cathie.

Looking forward to 2024, there will be another plant sale on 5/6 May, the annual Plant Exchange and several garden visits (including Barbara and Angus's snowdrop collection in January; a group visit to Colesbourne), and a photography workshop. There will also be another

social evening (at Di and Si Ryley's). Members were encouraged to keep up to date via the [Gloucestershire Group Pages](#) on the PH website.

5. Treasurer's Report - The 2023 accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. A full breakdown of the accounts is filed with the minutes. In summary:

(£)	2023	2022
Income	3,062.44	1,157.32
Expenditure	1,715.02	1,555.94
Surplus/deficit for year	1,347.42	-398.62
Balance from last year	3,427.21	3,825.83
Balance carried forward	4,774.63	3,427.21

Toby Jarvis, Treasurer, reported that, for the first time in many years, there had been a financial surplus mainly due to the income from the Eastcombe plant sale. It was highlighted that there had also been an increase in income due to meeting plant sales, teas and raffles and those who contributed to these were thanked. The cost of the hire of the hall was lower than anticipated but this may be the result of late invoicing by the hall and would be explored. All in all, it had been a good year financially.

The Chairman thanked Toby for his report and for the accounts. A small triumph was noted – the name of the bank account has changed from NCCPG to Gloucestershire Plant Heritage.

6. Election of Officers/Committee

Retiring Committee Member: Julie Ritchie, retiring Vice-Chair and former Chair.

The following Committee members stood down and offered themselves for re-election:

- Penny Ross (Chair & Plant Exchange);
- Toby Jarvis – Treasurer;
- Mary Manders-Trett (Secretary);
- Trish Mullins (Membership) – standing as joint Vice-Chair;
- Stevie Pontifex (Events/Visits) - standing as joint Vice-Chair;

- Margaret Headen;

The following member stood for the committee for the first time:

- Ruth Hollingshead (proposed by Di Ryley; seconded by David Ross)

The Committee were elected en bloc, proposed by Anne Milner and seconded by Edward Trickett.

7. Julie Ritchie will be standing down at this AGM. Julie has been a steadfast committee member for many years (from very early days), having been both Chair and more recently Vice-Chair. Over the years, Julie has carried out most committee tasks. The Group is immensely grateful to her for all her contributions, including excellent talks, plants and more. A card and gift from the group will be given to her.
8. Any Other Business. There was no other business. The AGM was closed by the Chairman and followed by a talk given by Mandy Bradshaw entitled 'Cotswold Gardens through the Four Seasons'.