

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016

The Annual General Meeting which closed the gardening calendar for 2015 once again attracted a lively audience. Our new President June Heathcote conducted the official business of the evening as Sue Whatman retired from the Committee and Rebecca Ashton was elected in her place. All the other Committee members were voted back into office. Besides the opportunity to tease the brain in the gentle quiz, to admire the photographs, enjoy delicious fish and chips and get a peek at the outline plans for next year's agenda it provided a unique opportunity to reflect on the health of our Society. It is clear that trips to gardens which combine plant sales (Great Comp and Great Dixter) are very popular so your Committee will endeavour to provide more of these in 2016 if possible. Wandering in local gardens with a glass of wine on summer evenings is also a firm fixture so check the calendar of events which accompanies the Schedule and note dates in your diaries.

In a very quiet way, history was made at the 2015 AGM. After decades of going it alone after breaking away from Little Chart Gardening Society it was decided to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by members from Egerton by changing the name to 'Pluckley with Egerton' Gardening Society. A bit of a mouthful perhaps but also a sprat to catch a mackerel. Fostering and nurturing the love of gardening in the children of our villages should be one of the key aims of our society and by officially joining with Egerton we can approach the primary school there and invite entries from them in the children's classes in the Shows.

We have had a very mild spell for several months now and who knows what the weather will bring in 2016. What we do know is that your Committee hopes to provide something for everyone with a range of events. We eagerly look forward to seeing you there.