

Tettenhall Gardening Club
Annual General Meeting
7:30pm, Friday 28th February 2025
United Reformed Church, Wood Road, Tettenhall Wood, WV6 8JA.

1. Welcome and introduction by Chair, Eimert de Graaff

Eimert extended a warm welcome to all.

2. Attendance: Members 48 Non-members 3

3. Apologies received: Robert Billing, Kate Gilbert, Wendy Thomson, Sue Coombs.

4. Minutes of last AGM, 27/02/2024 –

- a. Accepted as a true and accurate record.
- b. No matters arising

5. Chair's report:

Eimert reported that 2024 was a good year for the club.

2024 Accounts

For most of last year, TGC did not have a treasurer. The summary for all of 2024 has been completed by an independent bookkeeper, who balanced the accounts to the penny. There may however have been some anomalies of the allocations of some of the items. The Committee has scrutinised these accounts and are happy to recommend that these are adopted by the membership today.

Accounts in summary:

- The **current cash position** is **£11,447** (£450 in the current account and £11,000 in the deposit account). Hut Stock at retail price **£ 4,617** (around £3,000 at cost).
- **Lottery Funding** enabled us to subsidise trips to the tune of £1,000 and 'Socials' to the tune of £250 as well as most of the speaker fees.
- There was a **trading margin** for the year of **£1,228**: **Hut & Plant Sales margins of £1,420**, **Annual Show margin of £50**, supported by the **sponsorship** of the hall-hire by 'Home Instead'.
- **Lottery Funding** paid for the new projector and screen in 2023 and in 2024 paid for the P/A System, the painting of our trading hut & shed, card payment machine & tablet and the TGC printer.
- **£209.45** was collected for the 2024 chosen charity - **The MS Therapy Centre**, Newbridge. A cheque was presented to Mandy Tyler who represents the Centre.
- There was a warm reception to the news that this year's chosen charity will be **Penn Hall School's Garden Project**.
- **Show Report**

The Annual Show 2024 was very successful in terms of increased entries with a total of 279 entries from 41 exhibitors – almost 3 times the number in 2023.

The **team of 24 volunteers** did a great job of decorating the hall, and helping things run smoothly on the day. The **WI** supplied tea and cake throughout the afternoon, **raising over £300** for the MS Therapy Centre.

Eimert's popular **auction of exhibits** raised £122 for Club funds.

We were very happy to have the support of the **Mayor and her Consort** on Show day and very grateful to '**Home Instead**' for sponsoring the hire of the Hall.

Photos of the day are on the website, with thanks to Club member **Kate Gilbert**, photographer for the day.

- **Speakers, Trips & Events**

2024 was a great year for all events, partly funded by the Lottery grant.

A complete program is in place for 2025 (thanks to Shobha and Polly for the planning) with 7 evening talks, 3 trips, (including the Malvern Spring Show, John's Garden and the Ryton Organic Veg Garden), as well as 2 'Socials', one in early summer and one 'end of season', in November. Details on the website.

- **Membership**

Still doing very well with membership standing at 105 and more younger members joining. TGC is still one the cheapest local gardening clubs and the regular digital newsletters are well received.

6. The Trading Hut

Eimert welcomed **Liz Pearce** as the new manager of the Trading Hut and announced the Hut would re-open for the season on Saturday 1st March. Subsequent **opening times** remain as 2024:

Wednesday: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Saturday/Sunday; 10:30am – 11:00am

7. Election of Officers (Committee)

7 committee members happy to put themselves forward for re-election:

- Eimert de Graaff - Chair
- Liz Pearce – Hut Manager
- Louise Lawrie – Secretary
- Martin Lawrie – Membership/
Publicity/IT
- Polly Cook – Talks etc.
- Richard Newham
- Tony Cuthbert

They were elected en-block:

Proposed by David Hall

Seconded by Mary Evans

Motion carried

- **Bookkeeper**

Eimert explained the situation regarding the keeping of the financial records:

"We are deliberately **not asking for a treasurer**, but someone who can keep the books up to date - record sales and expenditure and to reconcile the monthly bank statements. The committee as a whole, is responsible for the financial decisions for the club - capital expenditure, sponsorship of events, proposed membership fees, trading hut margins etc. Current committee members are doing the (cash) banking and organising the floats for meetings and events, so the job is not especially onerous. It would be unfair to ask one of our existing committee members to take on this task so I am appealing to anyone who would be able to help us out."

Eimert also appealed for more 'Committee Support' members.

- **RHS Recognition Award**

This was awarded to Liz Pearce for her dedication and commitment to Tettenhall Gardening Club.

8. Membership Subscriptions

Proposal:

...that the annual membership fee 2025 remains at last year's level of £15.00 with a 20% (£3) discount if subscribing online, via the website. Members will receive automatic notification when renewal is imminent and subscriptions can be cancelled at any time.

Proposed by Elayne Jackson

Seconded by David Hall

Motion carried

9. AOB

None

10. Proposed date for next AGM:

27th February 2026

Committee Meeting dates coming up:

5th March

2nd April

7th May

The meeting closed at 7:58pm and was followed by refreshments and a very interesting talk by Tony Cuthbert on how to produce exhibition sweet peas. Members were given and sowed 6 sweet pea seeds to nurture and enter in the Annual Show on Saturday 6th September.