

Gardening Club report for 1st December 2016
Annual General Meeting

26 members attended the AGM, slightly higher than the average of 24 for the monthly meetings.

The chairpersons', secretarys' and treasurers' reports were read out, the following are extracts from those reports.

The income is down by almost £1000 but with expenditure also reduced a profit of £98.05 was achieved, overall funds are in a very healthy state at £1892.36. Subscriptions remain at £6 per annum. Membership is circa 45.

Speakers fees have been reasonably priced, discounts on items purchased at Dundry Nurseries are available on production of members' cards and old pots can also be recycled there.

Congratulations to Dorothy and the team to who have helped to maintain the Shrubbery over the road on behalf of the Parish Council in all weathers. Third time lucky in the Community Garden in Cheltenham in Bloom Annual Competition, you received a Gold Award and Shield, Well Done.

Sadly, Jacky, Gerald and Ron all passed away within several weeks of each other, all very supportive of the club.

The following elected at the meeting,

President	June Knight
Chairperson	Chris Ryder
Vice Chairperson	Sue Brown
Treasurer	Dorothy Baker
Secretary	Barbara Tarren

General members

John Ford, Angela Ford, Val Codling, Rob Brown, Janet Young

2017 programme January to March

January 26th Quiz night

February 23rd Permaculture with Alison Ensor

What is Permaculture? Permaculture supports you in changing your life and work to become more sustainable, in connection with nature and caring for yourself and others. Permaculture is about observing how nature works and using these principles as our guidelines in our gardens, our home, for sustainable land management, for businesses and organisations, in our communities and even for personal development.

March 30th Spring Show

And finally.....

Do you know Santa's reindeer by name?

Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph.

Quite a few male names amongst them but it seems that they must all be female as male reindeer shed their antlers November to mid - December and the females shed theirs in the Spring. And, apparently, because they are female they are able to pull a sleigh full of presents around the world with a fat old man in a red suit and never get lost!

I hope you have all had a good Christmas and that 2017 will be prosperous for you.

Best wishes

Shaun

The full version of the chairpersons report at the 2016 AGM

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, thank you coming out on a cold evening to hear reports and updates of our thriving Garden Club.

Members Spring 'In House' competition was once again a pleasant evening, with many members participating, some super specimens of colourful Hellebore on display and dainty narcissi, it's great that we are the judges.

Many thanks to Barbara for arranging the variety of speakers throughout the past year, I will have to learn to call time on a few in the future, we have recently had a few speakers who were so enthusiastic about their hobbies/work that they forget to wind up in time for a welcome cup of tea or coffee. The outings to visit an Open Garden were very popular; I know that Barbara and the committee are looking to arrange these for 2017.

The Annual Show, once again committee members worked well together to ensure the day ran as smooth as possible. Thank you to all members who assisted on the Friday evening and supported us on the day, I know that Barbara was pleased that Rob and committee members assisted her greatly this year for the Show to go on when Barbara was unable to be with us. By working as a team another successful show was had by all, but we could do with even more entries to give Shaun and Brenda a run for their money, well pennies really! Well done to Shaun and Brenda on your winning entries.

Congratulations to Dorothy and team to who have helped to maintain the Shrubbery over the road on behalf of the Parish Council, I applaud your energy in all weathers. Third time lucky when you entered The Community Garden in Cheltenham in Bloom Annual Competition, you received a Gold Award and Shield, Well Done.

Thank you to all members who make this Club a pleasure to part of, the many helpers who assist in setting up the room, the tea ladies and dish washer fillers and the washers up folk, thank you.

Thank you to Vice Chair Sue who has stood in for me on several occasions this year due to my 'other' duties! Thank you to all committee members who bring new ideas to the table to keep the Club up and running, that said, the 'Old Suggestion Box' has been

resurrected, this is for Club Members who may wish to suggest new ideas for the Club, can we improve on what we offer on Show Day, suggestions for speakers, outings, please write ideas on a note and drop into box or please speak to a committee member.

June we thank you for being here, we appreciate that you offer to stand down annually, but the Club would not be the same without you, please will you continue to be our President?

We have had to say Good bye to several past members, Gerald, Jacky and more recently Ron, Barbara's husband, our sincere condolences Barbara. Pauline Butler has been very poorly, she had a fall and broke her hip, has been in hospital for quite a number of weeks, we shall send her our good wishes for a speedy recovery.

We were fortunate to glean a grant from the local Parish Council to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday. It was suggested by the Council that two standard rose trees may be purchased, Queens Elizabeth Rose Bushes are available but not in standard, Dorothy has suggested two very similar coloured Standard trees which could be planted in the Shrubbery, this will be left to Club Members to decide which they would prefer. We have been given a cheque for £130.00. The Council would have liked a small plaque to say that these Roses were planted in Her Majesty's 90th Birthday year, wording to be decided, hoping for a similar, reasonable priced plaque as we had made for 'our tree' to commemorate our 50th Anniversary year of the Club in 2012. Once planted, a picture opportunity with Club Members and Parish Councillors could be co-ordinated.

Thank you ladies and Gentlemen for your attendance and making this club a pleasant and happy one.

Chris Ryder - Chair of St Christopher's Club.

1st December 2016