

Wellow & District Horticultural Society

Annual General Meeting

To celebrate the year

Thursday 16th November 2025

2.00pm, Wellow Village Hall

MINUTES

1. Apologies : Victoria and Gordon Westwood, Tracy and Dolf Darnton, Judith and Roger Wetherall, Audrey Timm

2. Present : Alex and Janet Martin, Avril and Rob Grieg, Sophie Hart, Alice Lancaster, Duncan and Vicky Hammerton, Oli Watkinson, Jill Lambert, Maria Simpson

Louise Nicolai – Chair, Rick Halle – Treasurer, Hugh Prentice – Secretary, and Committee members Mari Bartholomew, Pam Pyke, Lynne Williams, Marchelle Farrell, Jill Tremellen

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 14th November 2024 Approved

4. Minutes of the Special General Meeting 23rd January 2025 Approved

5. Matters arising from the November 2024 AGM and January 2025 SGM None

6. Appointment of President
Alex Martin had retired from being President during the year. Louise thanked him for his many years of service to the Society, especially for being President since 2018.

The Committee had invited Duncan Hammerton to become President for a three year term, pending approval at the AGM.

Elected
unanimously

7. Report from Chair
See separate presentation

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8. Report from The Treasurer
See the continuation of the Chair's presentation

Accounts for approval :

For the year ended 30 th September 2024	Approved
For the year ended 30 th September 2025	Approved

9. Proposed changes to the Constitution for approval Approved
The proposed changes had been circulated previously.

10. Discussions on:
a) Village Show

This agenda item specifically had been widely publicised prior to the meeting.

The Village Show is run by the "Village Show Team", and the Flower Show (ie everything inside the marquee) is run by the Hort Soc. All are volunteers.

The Show has existed in various forms since before the 2nd World War, and has been held annually every year except during the war and Covid year. It used to be a Farmer's show, and changed over the years to become what it is now.

The issues to discuss :

- Change to a Sunday
- Change to late July
- Change the format to reduce the number of volunteers needed
- Change to a biennial Show

There was a lengthy discussion, led by Sophie Hart who leads the Village Show Team.

Moving the day to Sunday was proposed :

- To gain more engagement with the Flower Show element – to enable people, and especially working parents, to use the Saturday to prepare their entries. This should generate more engagement.
- To give the organisers more time (ie all Saturday)

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to set up the marquee and ground generally. In the past some volunteers have taken a day's leave from work on the Friday to do this.

- From gardening perspective, it doesn't matter whether the Show is on a Saturday or Sunday

Most people were happy for the change. Some reservations were expressed - about not getting a day of rest before going back to work on Monday, and from some church-goers.

Changing the date to a weekend in July, before the end of the school terms

- It was felt that it would be easier for volunteers and more efficient for the show to run before the summer holiday period rather than after.
- This will engage the school entrants much more – with the immediacy of competing in the Show (and winning prizes!) once the entries have been completed.
- From a gardening perspective, there would need to be a change in some of the vegetables, fruit and flowers classes in the Show – not a problem – but the later in July the Show is, the wider the range of vegetables, fruit and flowers there will be.

The consensus was to :

Move the Show to July, towards the end of the school term

Agreed

Move the day to a Sunday

In 2026, this would mean a date of 12th July 2026.

Agreed

Change the format to reduce the number of volunteers needed

The meeting agreed this was up to the Village Show Team and the Flower Show Secretaries to organise

Agreed

Change to a biennial Show

The meeting agreed to keep the Show an annual event.

Agreed

b) Membership fees

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The membership fees have been unchanged for over 10 years.

We discussed increasing the membership fee and offering more – free events, free entry to the Village Show etc, and leaving the fees unchanged in 2026 while offering more to justify an increase in 2027.

We agreed to better promote the benefits of being a member, while increasing the amount of events and activities in 2026 and leaving the fee unchanged, and review again in a year's time. Agreed

The Society has changed its bank – and the new bank details should be promoted by the Committee now. Agreed

c) Garden Party style

The garden party – a picnic - in June this year was in a new format – courtesy of the Wylde and their lovely garden, with swimming pool. We had children for the first time, which brought a new dimension, and a paid-for BBQ and drinks for those who didn't bring their own picnic.

Going forward, we agreed that the host and the layout of their garden would dictate the style and character of the party. Agreed

d) Ideas for events and activities in 2026

A list of options was displayed and discussed, and left with the Committee to act on. Agreed

The plan is for the Plant Sale, Garden Party, Village/Flower Show and Apple day to be annual fixtures, with at least one event/activity offered to members each month.

11. Election of committee members

Louise Nicolai and Jill Tremellen stood down at the AGM.

Rick Halle, Hugh Prentice, Mari Bartholomew, Pam

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Pyke, Lynne Williams, Marchelle Farrell, and Oli Watkinson put their names forward to be committee members.

As the constitution allows for up to 12 members, the 7 people listed above are elected for a term of up to three years. All elected unanimously.

12. Presentation of awards

The meeting paused for several minutes while children, some of whom are prize-winners, joined the meeting, with some of their families.

The list of awards is attached below. The awards were presented to those who were present.

13. Any other business

None

The meeting closed.

The meeting was followed by food and drinks, which were enjoyed by all.

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Flower Show Prizes 2025

Recipient

NEWCOMER'S PRIZE

Flossy & Adam King

This certificate is awarded for the most points across the Vegetables and Fruit Sections, to a newcomer to the parish of Wellow. The exhibitor must have moved in **after** 1st September 2024

The Wellow and District Challenge Cup

Hugh Prentice

Awarded for the most points in the Vegetables Section (Hort Soc Members only)

The Farmers cup

Hugh Prentice

Awarded for best entry in class 1 - Collection of 5 varieties of vegetables.

The Patrick Hartley Memorial Salver

Hugh Prentice

Awarded for the best entry in class 10 - Collection of 5 salad vegetables.

The Ted Welch Memorial Cup

Alex Martin

Awarded for the most points in the Fruit Section.

The Ken Manning's Shield

Clara Elliot

Awarded for the most points in the Novelty Garden Section.

The Late Joane Rittner Cup

Judith Wetherall

Awarded to the winner of class 72 - A collection of wild/ garden flowers in a vase.

A Certificate

Judith Wetherall

Awarded for best in the Flowers Section

The RHS Banksian medal

Hugh Prentice

Awarded for the most points in the horticultural classes in the Vegetables, Fruit and Flowers Sections.

Competitors who have won the Banksian medal in the last two years are not eligible to win this medal. The previous winners are Judith Wetherall in 2023 and Duncan Hammerton in

The Sarah Moore Trophy

Lyn Doman

Awarded for the best display in the Floral Art Section

The Colin Tremellen Cup

Louise Nicolai

Awarded for the highest points in the Art and Photography Section

The Combe Hay Cup

Vicky Hammerton

Awarded to the overall points winner in the Cookery and Preserves Section

Prizes for those aged under 17 years

The Emma Rose Cup

Clara Elliot

Awarded to the entrant aged under 17 for the most points across all classes

Junior cash prizes

Aged 12-16 Winner	£ 25	Tacita Burtor
Aged 12-16 Runner-up	£ 15	Eden Ball
Aged 12-16 Third place	£ 10	Rufus Meigh
Aged under 12 Winner	£ 10	Will Hart
Aged under 12 Runner-up	£ 5	Elizabeth wh

The Junior Gardener's Cup

Eden Ball

Awarded for the most points in Section B – Vegetables for those aged under 17 years.

The Sue Rodford Cup

Lucas Roberts-Wray

Awarded to the child in pre-school with the most points in classes 136- 138.

The St. Julian's Cup

Will Hart

Awarded to the St. Julian's pupil with the most points