

**FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS  
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2024 AT 11.30AM – The Stables**

**DRAFT**

The meeting commenced at 11.35am.

**PRESENT**

Malcolm Penny, Keith Barnard, Linda Furnell, Sue Smales, Liz Gambier, Tony Swan, Catherine Dann, Mike Holms, Audrey Newell, Irene Groom, Jo Oliver, Denise Read, Chris Groom, Margaret Ray, Mike Paddy, Andy Weller, Sue Francis, Christine Gregory, Richard Doughty, Becky Haggard, Sue Place, Paul Lake, Christine Lake, Susan Toms, Philip Toms, Joan Butfield.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Gerry Edwards, Emma Hornal, Kay Rowlands, Charmain Baker, Tony Bucksey, Rosemary Bucksey, Val Elliott, Christine Wallace, David Payne, Steve Place, Gill Peters.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Approved

**TREASURER'S REPORT - KB**

Copies of the audited Income and Expenditure account for the year 2023/24 have been given out prior to the start of the meeting so I hope everyone has had an opportunity to see one.

I would like to explain further what you have in front of you. Firstly, our financial year is from 1st May to the 30th April so this audited account does not include this year's Summer Picnic or Heritage Day which will be presented at next year's AGM.

Secondly, I would like to explain expenditure in more detail. Planting relates to the purchase of plants, bulbs, shrubs, trees etc. Tools and equipment and Publications are self-explanatory.

Groundworks is a bit of a catch all covering the cost of sand, ballast, weed killer, grass seed leaf sacks, Everedge, etc. and also under this heading this year matched funding for the Defibrillator as it is fixed to a wall which stands on the ground.

Under the heading Other which covers such things as Tea and Biscuits, Insurance, London in Bloom costs, maintenance of the website, engraving, etc. This year's account also includes the purchase of the fridge for the Gardeners cabin.,

Within the Other heading I budget every year £300-00 for Teas/Coffee and biscuits and wine for our Christmas lunch. Also, we have a fixed cost for Insurance which is budgeted at £250.

Plant, book and craft sales continue to provide an excellent income with less work than the Summer Picnic and Heritage Day.

As you can see at the end of our financial year the current account balance was £13,991. a very good position to be in.

Currently on the 1st October this year the current account balance was £18,135. no doubt reflects the good returns from this year's Summer Picnic and Heritage Day.

For your information but not strictly relevant to this report we have purchased a Sum-up card reader which hopefully will be operational for the Tree Dressing Event. The purchase and setting up is being undertaken by our Assistant Treasurer Malcolm Penny which I am very grateful for.

MP gave a short demonstration on how the Sum-up worked. He stated that the cost was £168. for the machine and printer. The machine can work from the Wi-Fi or Data, anywhere.

RD asked if it was possible to change the dates of the financial year and hold the AGM in May. CG and KB said it would be investigated.

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2024 -KB**

See attachment

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - CG**

In May we said our final goodbyes to Lesley by holding a special ceremony, where we formally renamed the walled garden, The Lesley Crowcroft Walled Garden. The unveiling of the plaque was carried out by the Mayor of Hillingdon and witnessed by some of Lesley's family and many Friends. The ceremony was followed by tea and cakes in the Stables

We have a large number of speakers to get through this morning (probably, plus, perhaps, this afternoon) so I will keep my report short.

I could never have managed over the last year without your fantastic Committee and the many members of the Friends who have worked so hard throughout the year to make The Gardens such a resounding success. Some of you will not realize how much work goes on behind the scenes to keep Eastcote House Gardens at such a high standard. To all your excellent Committee and wonderful volunteers, we cannot thank you enough for the exceptional work you have all carried out during the last year; and for many years.

We must not forget that throughout the year we have also received great support from our local Councilors' Becky Haggart and Nick Denys.

Our three main events of the year will be covered separately, but I must make some special mentions. Starting with the Tree Dressing, which had record attendance and was so well organized by Paul and Christine. The Summer Fair made record profits and then there was the Heritage Day and Classic Car Show, where again there were record profits and a record numbers of classic cars on display. Well done, Joan, Susan T and Keith. There were also record scores in London in Bloom but more of that later.

Now for some more general matters possibly not covered in other reports

Thanks to Paul Lake for his organization of the 2025 calendars and to FEHG members who submitted some excellent photos. Don't forget we will need photos for the 2026 edition which will soon be on the drawing board. Please be out and about the gardens with your cameras.

We held our Volunteers Lunch in the Stables in October, and our thanks go to Sue Place and her team for their excellent organization.

As mentioned in previous years, the serving of treats at break times is an important task and these are much appreciated by us all, a good cuppa, biscuits and gossip are enjoyed by everybody. To our 'Tea ladies' Margaret and Audrey, we greatly appreciate you both.

Just to let you know some of projects being planned.

1. Footpaths – we are planning to add a footpath from the Gardeners Compound alongside the west wall bed down to the wisteria arch, plus, another path from the Dovecote down to the central path; there is already a worn mud path there.
2. Improvements to the outdoor classroom area alongside the boardwalk to the River Pinn bridge.
3. Linking up with Forest Schools to provide teaching for local schoolteachers. More on this later.

We always welcome new ideas/projects for consideration. These may be of any scale large or small. You will be pleased to know that I will now finish but I must again thank everyone for their support throughout the year to keep our wonderful gardens at a standard of which we can all be proud.

## **SUMMER FAIR - CG**

Luckily, we had a fine day for this year's Summer Fair in June.

What a great day, the numbers were amazing, all the stalls were packed, the unbelievable mountain of cakes on our refreshment stall all sold out as did the fantastic tombola and in the end we achieved record profits and afterwards we received many thankyou's from stall holders.

The usual early morning chaos as the large number of stallholders arrived was mostly organised chaos this year, well done Malcolm and Keith and your team of marshals. The large numbers of stall holders is great but it does mean a large amount of booking-in paperwork, thanks Joan.

The band Simply Gray was a great success with visitors venturing onto the dance floor and everyone else rocking to the beat.

The reintroduced Morris Dancers were a big hit, and our regular dog show had more happy doggies than ever before.

It was wonderful to see so many volunteers working setting-up early in the morning and then still being there to efficiently clear up at the end of the day, under control of quartermaster Tony, leaving a spotless site. Well done to all involved, it was a great day.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - CD**

Our AGM is about looking back over the past year on the role of the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens Volunteer Gardeners.

I hope you will all do that and reflect on your achievements and involvement over the past year.

You should be pleased with the work and results you have carried out. Your commitment has made Eastcote House Gardens an enjoyable place for people to visit.

Congratulations on the many Awards you have received for your gardening achievements this year. The several large events that you have organised have given so many people an interesting time here.

The various groups that are part of FEHG have enabled many of you to meet and share your interests with other Volunteer Gardeners.

Thank you to all of you for your volunteering here during the past year.

### **HERITAGE DAY and CLASSIC CAR EVENT 15 SEPTEMBER 2024 - ST**

We were fortunate with the weather, which encouraged a good turnout of visitors for a very successful day. We were treated to a great display of seventy classic cars ranging from sleek American Cadillacs to more modest British Austins. We also enjoyed two sessions of live music from 'Simply Gray', refreshments from the tea tent and treats from the raffle, craft, plants and second handbook stalls. In the afternoon there was storytelling by Pippa in the Old Orchard. An unexpected bonus was an unplanned visit by a London Fire Brigade engine, which proved very popular with children and adults alike.

The historic Grade 11 listed dovecote was busy throughout the day with a stream of visitors. The volunteers logged 260 visitors, but the true number was higher as sometimes it was too hectic to keep an accurate record.

Inside the Grade 11 listed Stables, there was a display by the Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society on the development of local shopping centres. Local history publications and cards were also on sale from the Society and the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens. Hillingdon Borough Museum Service provided a display of archaeological finds from earlier digs at Eastcote House Gardens.

During the day there was a presentation of the Community Shield by Deputy Mayor Philip Corthorne to this year's winners Margaret and Keith Archer in recognition of all their work in maintaining the gardens at Eastcote Station.

As with all our events, it could not have been successful without the hard work of the many volunteers who were busy all day preparing the site in the morning, stewarding the car park, helping on the stalls and tables and clearing the site at the end of the day.

### **Tree-Dressing Report – PL - 2023 – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

It may have been cold, but the sun shone down on us all afternoon. This year we hosted children from four local schools – Warrender Primary, Coteford Infants, Field End Infants and Lady Bankes Primary School. Each school brought a choir and entertained us with festive songs. Our guests of honour – the Worshipful the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana, and the President of the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens, Catherine Dann – led the dressing of the tree.

In the Stables, there were crafts and also tea and cakes for sale. In addition, activities including a raffle, a Teddy Bear Hunt and a "Name the Elf" competition made sure there was plenty for everyone to do. We owe an enormous thank you to everyone who helped before, during and after the event to make it such a success: our tea stall helpers, our very talented craft team, raffle sellers, Teddy Hunt organisers, outdoor stewards and Audrey on the baubles and table decorations!

Each year we present the Hinman Shield – named for George and Margaret Hinman, who saved Eastcote House Gardens and Long Meadow from development in the 1930s - to celebrate young people's involvement in community work. This year, the award went to Warrender Primary School.

### **2024 – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Arrangements for this year's event are in hand: we currently have 3 schools taking part – Warrender Primary, Coteford Infants and Lady Bankes Primary. Field End Infants are hoping to take part; however, their music teacher has left, and they are unsure if they can manage a choir this year. Grangewood School will not be able to take part – they are still on another site in Hayes while their school is rebuilt. Newnham Infants were very keen to join us this year (as indeed they were last year), but they are unable to do so – last year, the teacher in charge of the choir was recovering from surgery, and this year we clash with the school's winter fair.

As last year, we are asking each school choir to sing just one Christmas song (traditional or modern); then we will ask all the schools to return to centre stage to lead our community singing – *Away In A Manger*, *Jingle Bells* and *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*.

I have once again invited the schools taking part to submit a bid for the Hinman Shield by listing the charitable and/or community work they have done over the past year. I currently have one submission, though the other schools have said they will be sending a bid.

### **Website report - PL**

As far as I am aware (i.e., judging by the absence of complaints!), the website is functioning well. I endeavour to keep the content up to date, and Dave Kidner (gxcomputers.co.uk) continues to offer prompt support in removing obsolete messages and uploading new content.

As you are all aware, Dave offers his time and effort free of charge. I await an invoice for our annual expenses this year, but last year's was just £67.00 – £27.00 to renew our domain name and £40.00 towards Dave's annual hosting fees. I regularly assure Dave of the Committee's gratitude, but I would like the Committee's approval to spend £30.00 on wine as a thank you from us all. Vote taken – spend agreed.

### Monthly numbers

Web traffic is healthy, but naturally fluctuates throughout the year:

- 2 months recorded over 1000 clicks – May (1310) and September (1190)
- December recorded the fewest clicks – 380
- Other months fall in the 400-800 range
- NB: all these figures are higher than the previous 12 months

### Pages:

- The vast majority of clicks (about 80%) are for the *Homepage*
  - The *Diary Dates* tab generally scores second highest
  - Next comes the *Contacting Us* tab in the *Information* section
- NB: last year we reworded the *Contacting Us* page, making it clear that any booking requests should go straight to Hillingdon Council – this has significantly reduced the number of requests to hire the Stables
- These 3 pages score the highest totals every month – this means that none of the other content on the site achieves more than the occasional click

### Overseas interest:

Over the year, the website has had visits from the following:

USA - 22  
France - 7  
Australia – 6  
Canada - 4  
Germany - 3  
Spain - 2  
Italy - 1

## **GARDENING - JO**

I know you have heard this many times before but without the help of all the volunteers the gardens would not be recognised as award-winning.

We welcomed new volunteers this year and encouragingly several old volunteers have returned. So hopefully we will do the same next year.

What have we achieved gardening wise this year

- a) We have replanted the Platinum Jubilee bed with more suitable plants i.e. azaleas and rhododendrons under planted with bulbs. Once this has matured it will be a riot of spring colour.
- b) The roses from this bed have been re planted near the Gardener's yard, where hopefully they will thrive.
- c) 2 small beds have been given a makeover, the 1st near the topiary and the 2<sup>nd</sup> as you walk into the walled garden.
- d) Most importantly we have maintained a high standard of our jewel in the crown the Walled Garden. Our team effort has led to us receiving a number of awards from London in Bloom. We should all be proud of our 3 golds, 2 overall winners 1<sup>st</sup> time ever for the park and again for the walled garden. We also achieved a level of outstanding for our contribution to the community. The judges were extremely complimentary about how we maintain EHG
- e) Through the year we have also won several places at Eastcote Horticultural Society. We have to thank Sue Place and her team for organising the entries.  
Just as important as London in Bloom is the daily praise we get from our visitors.
- e) On a sadder note, our box hedging has been under attack from the dreaded box caterpillar. The council is now spraying x2 a year (April/Sept). We have seen some re growth but during the winter we will replace the dead plants.
- f) Our 4 plant sales have been successful and raised over a £1,000, these will be repeated next year. Special thanks to Sue Francis and Denise Read for helping. Denise can be very persuasive with her selling techniques of spider plants  
Lastly, I should like to thank Audrey and Margret for providing our weekly cuppa.  
They say a gardener's job is never done, so roll on 2025 and let it be as award winning.  
Thank you again to all the volunteers and happy gardening.

## **PUBLICATIONS - AW**

This is probably my last detailed publications activity report. Not because I am running away but as follows.

Under the banner of the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens Community Archive, I wrote 8 publications about Eastcote, 7 of which remain available.

I reported in 2021 that from sales of the first edition of An Eastcote WWII Commentary, we made a small profit, yet the main thing is that more than £500 was donated to Help for Heroes. Sales of the revised second edition now go to our benefit alone, as has and will continue to be the case with all publications sales, after meeting printing costs.

The first publication that issued in 2015 was Eastcote House and Gardens: The People and the Place. With the third print run the contents were adjusted to reflect developments since 2015.

My final Community Archive publication Eastcote House Uncovered: Including Long Meadow issued in the spring. This publication includes the outcomes of the community archaeological digs supervised by professional archaeologists from AOC Archaeology.

This means that publications about the old house form bookends of 2015 and 2024 to the Community Archive publications activity.

A stocktake was taken towards the end of February. Since then, we sold 73 publications. Over the past nine years we have sold more than 1,600 publications.

**We have ample stocks and I do not envisage a need for any reprints in the foreseeable future.**

Regarding archive documents and records kept in the gallery above, a catalogue is shown on the Friends website under Community Archive.

## **BOOK AND CRAFT REPORT - SS**

We held seven book and craft sales, one each month starting in April and ending in October.

### **Book sales report**

The local community continues to support us. We have received several donations of books in excellent condition and on a wide variety of subjects; we have regular visitors, and we are still being 'discovered' by local residents.

**Book sales in 2024 raised £839.20** towards the maintenance of the gardens. We started off taking around £100 in April, May and June, increased to £147 in August, topped that by our best ever result - £230 on Heritage Day in September – then perhaps our worst £41.50 in October.

My thanks to everyone who supports us by donating or buying books, to Sue Francis who helps with the sorting, and to Margaret Ray and Dave Plummer for the sales.

### **Craft Group report**

We welcomed 2 new members this year, taking our membership to 19. General attendance during the summer is 8 or so, lately it has been 12 or 13.

Introduced last year, the tote bags with the FEHG logo in different colours have sold well at £5 each and more are being produced.

At the monthly sales, alongside craft items, photocards of the gardens, publications, and calendars have catered to those with wider interests. Honey from our beekeeping crafter sold well at the plant sale in June, thanks to some excellent marketing by the ladies concerned. Jo, Denise and Sue Francis

Steady sales of craft items and haberdashery have raised over £100 each month, rising to more than £300 on Heritage Day, then falling back to £77 in October. Possibly 3 weeks after Heritage Day was too soon so we might look at moving the date back for next year.

**So far this year we've banked £953.** Of the £350 I'm holding; some will be needed for materials but by the end of the year the group will have banked over £1,000 in total purely from craft sales.

We took £146 at last year's tree dressing and we are hoping to raise a similar amount this year. Children will be offered the chance to guess the names of the snow people; cards, toys and tree ornaments will be on sale.

A big 'thank you' to everyone who has helped – by donating materials, or buying, and especially to the talented group of crafters who have created so many beautiful items and helped with the sales.

Poppies - craft group members made the poppies, animals and vertical banner by the gate to the walled garden. Congratulations and thanks to Paul and Christine for making the large display and putting everything in place.

## **BOOK GROUP -AB**

Please accept our apologies for not being able to attend the AGM however, we trust this written report will suffice.

We are pleased to report that the FEHG Book Group continues to meet, usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month, and our 8 members share their opinions on the book we have read during the previous month, which can range from "really enjoyable page turner" to "wasn't worth the trouble reading!". However, that is what makes the afternoon so interesting – hearing someone else's viewpoint.

And of course, we always find time to discuss world or local news, provide our opinions on recent TV and film viewings, as well as enjoy the excellent refreshments provided by each member at their respective home.

The staff at Eastcote Library continue to provide us with an excellent service, and usually manage to ensure we have our next book available when needed.

## **RAC - AB**

Once again, I must apologise for not being able to attend the AGM due to another engagement, but I am pleased to present this report on our activities over the last year.

I am happy to report that after 7 years the Real Ale Club is still thriving and throughout the last year has again attracted some new members. Our format has not changed, and we continue to meet at a pre-agreed local venue on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month.

Also, our primary objective has remained unchanged, and we continue to provide the Eastcote House Gardens Volunteers, their partners and other supporters with the opportunity to socialize away from the gardening sessions and fund-raising events.

Just a reminder that the evenings are very relaxed and informal. There is no expectation for members to attend every meeting, and you are certainly not expected to buy large rounds, contribute to 'whips'. You don't even have to arrive at a set time or stay all evening.

Throughout the last year we have enjoyed the hospitality of various venues in the local area including The Woodman, The Case is Altered, The Ascott, The Coach & Horses, The Hop & Vine, Oddfellow Arms, Eastcote Cricket Club and Lowlands Tennis Club. Without exception, every meeting has provided the opportunity for a pleasant evening of laughter, conversation and discussion whilst enjoying some liquid refreshment. And whilst we endeavour to meet at a local venue that serves Real Ale, there is no requirement for you to drink Real Ale and several members regularly partake of their own favourite tipple.

I am confident the RAC will continue to flourish, and we are happy to welcome new members.

Our next meeting will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> November, and at the time of writing the potential venue is Lowlands Tennis Club.

If any volunteers or supporters of Eastcote House Gardens and/or their partners would like to join us then please get in touch and ask to be included in the email distribution list

## **First Aid Report - CL**

- In December 2023 FEHG took part in a matched funding scheme and purchased a defibrillator. With LBH support it was mounted on the outside wall of The Stables Café. It is checked every 3 months, and The Circuit record (Ambulance Service register of defib sites) is updated.
- Chris Groom has attended (Oct 2024) a one day First Aid course at the Civic Centre and it is hoped that more members of FEHG will attend future courses. Courses are free for FEHG members. It was confirmed that we would still need to have our own fully qualified First Aider at our events.
- Oct 24 – All 3 First Aid boxes in the Gardener's Cabin have been checked, updated and replenished

## **Forest Schools Initiative - CL**

On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, a Forest Schools Education trainer will spend a day at EHG training local teachers and practitioners in how to encourage children to appreciate the outdoor environment.

We will be contacting schools in early January and have 20 places available. The aim is to give teachers ideas for easily organised and accessible nature-based activities for them to use outdoors. Each participant will receive a booklet of the activities and will be encouraged to pass their knowledge on to the rest of the staff in their school.

The day will be free for schools to attend and will include tea, coffee and a light lunch. The event will cost approximately £2000, which has been very generously paid for by FEHG. It was felt by the committee that this was an excellent way to give back to the community who do so much to support us in our fund-raising activities.

Education is a key element of our philosophy and FEHG, LBH and Deputy Mayor Cllr Philip Corthorne are all supportive of this initiative.

The day we have chosen is entitled "Outdoors and Up For It" and a brief outline of the day can be read below.

### **Outdoors And Up For It Activity Days**

*This course is highly practical, enabling participants to quickly learn a wide range of outdoor activities to use with children whilst utilising natural resources.*

*Each participant will also receive a "recipe book" of all the activities learned on the day that contains all the instructions, outcomes and resources needed to run these activities. This will be an invaluable reminder to staff when it is time to go outdoors again or try something different with the children.*

*This is a particularly good Inset to consider if you are wanting general ideas for outdoor activities and how to use your available outdoor space.*

*The course takes place over one day and will cover a variety of activities that range in time from 30 seconds to 15 minutes. Each can be developed and expanded to meet relevant needs. The concept of the course is simply to present ideas, try them out and have a fun-filled day with other people who also want to play, now!*

*The course is aimed at nursery practitioners and primary staff as well as those offering after school or extended school provision. The activities can also be applied to older children – this can be discussed with the trainer on the day.*

*Once the course is completed, the learner will:*

- *Be introduced to and take part in between 25 to 50 outdoor learning activity ideas*
- *Receive the instructional course booklet outlining all the activities covered in the day and details on how to deliver them*
- *Work with a qualified and experienced outdoor play professional*
- *Be creative and imaginative using a range of approaches in the outdoors*
- *Develop confidence in incorporating outdoor play and learning into their setting or school's ethos*
- *Meet with and share a fun filled, action packed day with like-minded practitioners*

### **DOVECOTE OPENING REPORT 2024 - ST**

This has been the second year of opening the dovecote once a month from April to October to coincide with the craft and secondhand book sales plus occasional plant sales. The visitor numbers have been more every month than the same month in 2023. The figures are as follows:

April 87 visitors  
May 91 visitors  
July 56 visitors  
August 83 visitors  
October 49 visitors

These numbers more than justify our decision to continue with the Saturday opening as well as the positive comments we have received from many of our visitors.

The dovecote also opened for the two main events organised by the Friends: the Picnic in June and the Classic Car/Heritage Day in September. We were very busy for both events and the stewards on duty had their hands full coping with all the visitors. In fact, it was difficult to keep an accurate record of the numbers so the figures of 269 for the Picnic and 260 for Heritage Day must be regarded as underestimates.

As with all our activities we would not be able to open the dovecote as often as we do without the hard work of the small group of nine volunteers, who give up their time to help. But it is a very rewarding experience, and I would like to record my thanks to them. We are grateful that two new volunteers joined us this year, but we would welcome more.



Looking forward to next year we are hoping to welcome more visitors as we will have the added attraction of more archaeological finds from the digs at Eastcote House Gardens being on display in the dovecote.

### **LONG MEADOW BUTTERFLY SURVEY REPORT 2024 - PT**

PT said that the greeting cards have sold quite well. 108 greeting cards with FEHG details inside at £2.50 each. Profit made for FEHG £137.

This year's survey was undertaken on a weekly basis from May to September but several weeks were missed because of bad weather. Recording would normally also take place in April but as with last year the weather was unfavourable for recording purposes.

You may be aware that the charity Butterfly Conservation runs a Big Butterfly Count every year. Following this year's results, they announced that this Summer has been very poor for butterflies: a third of the species had their worst year on record and no species had their best.

This has been borne out by our own results. Last year we recorded 891 butterflies but this year only 541. Four species previously present were totally missing from this year's count – Small Copper, Brown Argus, Common Blue and Peacock – and we must hope that they reappear in 2025. The numbers of all the other species recorded were down, in some cases dramatically. For example, 117 Speckled Woods were recorded last year but only 33 this year, but even so they were still the fifth most abundant species in this year's count after Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Ringlets, and assorted Whites. Full details will be placed on the Friends website.

The grass was cut towards the end of July and unfortunately the area that is very good for our grassland butterflies had not been roped off to stop it being cut: ideally cutting of this area could have been two or three weeks later. This affected the numbers of some species as their habitat had been destroyed.

Some years ago encroachment from a strip of woodland adjacent to Eastcote High Road was brush cut and this may need to be repeated next year. There is also encroachment of oak seedlings in another area which may need attention.

This year's survey was undertaken by Christine Wallace and myself. I hope that a few other people may join us to do the recording next year.

JO said as requested by PL we should investigate with the council to encourage more butterflies whether they would be prepared to sow wildflowers in Long Meadow, as they have done opposite the Jubilee bed. I am not sure of the time scales for sowing so it may be too late for this year.

### **Eastcote Horticultural Society Show report for 2024 -SP**

The spring show with its dazzling array of yellow daffodils and a heady scent was a great start to the year. The Friends of Eastcote House Gardens team entered 54 exhibits which was good given all the rain during the previous week and were awarded the following:

12 x 1<sup>st</sup>

12 x 2<sup>nd</sup>

13 x 3<sup>rd</sup>

1 x 4<sup>th</sup>

We were also awarded the J S Ranger cup for the highest points in Section A – daffodils and a Gold medal diploma for the highest points in the horticultural classes Section B - other plants. The show was also attended by the Mayor of Hillingdon Cllr Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana who took a great interest in all the exhibits. At the spring show trophies are awarded for points accumulated over the previous year i.e. 2023. We were awarded the T G Cross Memorial cup for the highest points in horticulture. This is a combination of all entries such as flowering shrubs, ferns, heathers, herbs.

Sue Place was away for the summer show, so Jane Neave led the team who were also assisted by Linda Furnell. The Friends of Eastcote House Gardens team entered 33 exhibits and were awarded the following:

4 x 1<sup>st</sup>

9 x 2<sup>nd</sup>

9 x 3<sup>rd</sup>

1 x Highly commended

The Autumn show this year followed a week of mixed weather. The Friends of Eastcote House Gardens team managed 36 entries and were able to include apples from the Jubilee orchard. 5 varieties were entered Spartan, Ellison's Orange, Lord Lambourne, Egremont Russet and Bramley seedlings. We also entered for the first time some medlars.

We were awarded the following :

12 x 1<sup>st</sup>

13 x 2<sup>nd</sup>

7 x 3<sup>rd</sup>

We won the Tingay cup for the "highest points in Section A – fruit". We last won this cup in 2019. We were also awarded a Gold medal diploma certificate for "highest points in apples" and a Gold medal diploma certificate for the "highest points in other flowers section B (excluding chrysanthemums and dahlias).

So overall the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens team had a very successful year.

A big thank you to my loyal team Jane Neave, Linda Wells and Janet Green who picked the exhibits on Fridays and staged them on Saturday mornings and returned for the prize giving and to help clear up at the end and who without their help we would not have achieved the results on behalf of the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens.

### **MEMBERS OF MAG**

The meeting took a block vote and duly approved the election of the following officers, committee members and other roles:-

President	Catherine Dann
Chairman	Chris Groom
Deputy Chairman	Malcolm Penny
Treasurer	Keith Barnard
Secretary	Joan Butfield

### **Committee Members**

Jo Oliver  
Sue Place  
Tony Swan  
Sue Smales  
Paul Lake  
Christine Lake  
Susan Toms  
Denise Read.

No other nominees came forward

### **Other Roles**

Hon. Auditor	Steve Dunn
Advisor	Gerry Edwards
Council Liaison Officers: -	Josh Wallington, Green Spaces, Fiona Sweet, Museums and Historic Buildings

### **By Invitation**

Cllr. Nick Denys and Cllr Becky Haggar

Steve Dunn has agreed to continue as our Hon Auditor and was approved.

KB is the person to contact for JW.

### **AOB**

Christmas Lunch - KB is taking orders for the Christmas lunch to be held at the Woodman on Tuesday 10th December.

The meeting closed at 1.05pm