



## **VPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2023**

The AGM will take place at **6.45pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023** in **The Thomas Field Hall**, Little Gaddesden Church, Church Road, HP4 1NZ.

We are delighted to welcome Sheila Das to our AGM this year, RHS Wisley Garden Manager for Edibles, Education Seed and Wellbeing.

Sheila will present to us '**Edible growing for the future at RHS Garden Wisley**'.

Sparkling wine, nibbles, and celebratory cake will be available during the evening.

**The Agenda is as follows:**

- 1. 6.45pm Arrival and welcome of members**
- 2. 7.00pm Presentation by Sheila Das followed by questions**

**8pm AGM Business**

- 3. Apologies for absence**
- 4. Adoption of the minutes from 2022**
- 5. Election of committee members:**

The following Committee members have stood down this year and we would like to thank them for their dedicated service to the Association:-

Lin Underwood – former Store Manager  
Stuart Buchanan-Barrow – former Treasurer  
Janet Stinton – General Committee Member

The following Committee Members wish to stand again on the Committee

Alastair Greene – General Committee Member  
June Abraham - Events

The following members wish to join the Committee

Elliott Bachmann – as Store Manager  
Tim Crossley-Smith – as Membership Secretary  
Kate Fillipidis – as Treasurer  
Faye Rainbow – as General Committee Member  
Stephanie Royal – as General Committee Member  
Emily Hinde - as General Committee Member  
Rachel Heaphy – as General Committee Member

In addition, we have a number of volunteers either working in the store or managing events who are not formally attached to the Committee but are great supporters of the VPA for which we thank you.

We are needing to recruit a Secretary to the committee so that we can function satisfactorily. The role includes preparation of the Agenda and the Minutes for meetings approximately six times a year.

We are always on the look out for volunteers to help on occasional Sundays in the store so that one person doesn't have to manage the store every week for the whole year.

## **6. Membership (£5 per annum, per household);**

From our new Membership Secretary **Tim Crossley-Smith**.

- Thank you for your continued membership in 22/23.
- Our dream is every household in the village being a member. That would mean a doubling of the membership. Please pass on our details to anyone you know who has recently moved to the village so we can keep growing the membership.
- Membership fees are a vital source of income for our funds as we continue to recover from the lockdown years of no events. Apart from helping to meet our operational costs, the fees also enable us to maintain our building (the roof was replaced in 2022 and we would like to do the electrics this year) as well as supporting local charities.
- We continue to have affiliated membership to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) which gives us the magazine, which is available to borrow from the store, plus reduced entry price to the gardens which we are glad that members have used this last year.
- Membership for the current year started on 1st April 2023 and we are pleased to report that we have already collected £720 (more than 70% of last year's overall fees). Fees continue to be a modest £5 per household and 75% of our members pay either by bank transfer, or even better by standing order. This really helps with our administration, so if you can pay this way we really appreciate it. Our bank details are as follows:-

Bank: Santander

Account name: Gaddesden District Village Produce

Sort Code: 09-01-51

Account number: 48549306

## **7. Overview of the accounts for the year 2022**

See separate report from our new Treasurer **Kate Filippidis**.

## **8. Garden Store:**

From our new Store Manager **Elliott Bachmann**, looking ahead to 2023.

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen

The store has now been back to regular opening hours for two months now. I am pleased that the regular footfall and purchasing habits of our patrons has indeed led to very busy periods for those

kindly on serving duty at the store each Sunday morning. This has also led to the increased happiness of our Treasurer and Committee Members.

As an aside, I should highlight that due to the significant sales of the relevant bird feed supplies it wouldn't be a surprise to see a new "flightless" genus of the relevant native birds of the United Kingdom residing in Little Gaddesden.

None of the success that the store has seen in the last couple of months would be achievable without the considerable assistance from our wonderful local community. That spans those who are currently sitting on or assisting the committee to those that make use of the store on a regular basis. I raise a toast and a round of applause to you all.

It is evident that this rich vein of success can only be sustained by maintaining that same strong community spirit. So please continue to buy bird feed, compost and any other gardening sundries from the store. For those more exotic items (chit potatoes, Jeyes Fluid, gloves etc) that we don't stock please ask and we will do our very best to source them for you.

As always, we NEED you in order to be successful.

Yours (still learning) Store Manager

#### **9. Shows and events;**

We were able to hold the Winter Show in 2022 and again in 2023, the May Plant Sale and the Harvest Supper but no Summer Show due to a lack of people. However the Summer Show is back on this year, so please make a note in your diary of the following:-

For the Coronation weekend we will celebrate on Sunday 7 May (1pm to 4pm) as part of the many playing field activities with a plant sale and garden supplies table so do call by. Don't forget to purchase your Sunflower plants there, so that you and your families can enter the Great Sunflower Growing Competition to be judged at the Summer Show.

The Summer Show will take place on Saturday 19 August. All the usual Vegetable and Flower Classes will be available to enter your prize specimens. The Schedule is in the process of being created.

The final event of 2023 will be the Harvest Supper and Quiz on Saturday 30 September. Mark your calendar appropriately and reserve your seats for this very popular social evening as you will not want to miss out.

#### **10. Communications:**

Many thanks as always to our web manager Andrew Sheard and our Social Media Champion Stasia for comms on Instagram and Facebook,

#### **11. Archiving of our old records and any other business**

#### **12. Please see below some of the pictures from the Winter Show**



