

## **Report to Wroughton Annual Parish Meeting**

**by**

### **Wroughton and District Gardeners' Society (WDGS)**

The Society was formed in 1944 and despite the Covid pandemic has continued to remain active. In 2019 it had over 100 members and currently has over 80 members, who pay an annual membership of £10. Membership is open to anyone.

Our meetings are held in the evening, on the third Monday of the month at the Ellendune Community Centre where talks about horticultural subjects are given to audiences of between 40 to 50 people. Entry to members is free and only £1.00 for non-members. During covid, talks were given via Zoom. WDGS is self-financing and has a healthy bank balance as a result of the successful events that it runs. WDGS is affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society, The National Vegetable Society, The National Chrysanthemum Society and the National Dahlia Society.

Events include the Autumn Show, Plant Sale in May, evening garden trip, trips to Gardeners World Live, Malvern Spring Show. Every 2 years we invite a celebrity guest speaker, which in 2020 was Chris Beardshaw and this year was Nick Hamilton. In addition, we have organised garden trails around Wroughton and were pleased that this year, the guides, scouts and Tik Tok play group took part. Information about WDGS can be found on our Facebook site.

Our biggest challenge is recruiting new members as a lot of the existing members are older and becoming less active due to age related issues and because they go out less since the pandemic. A further challenge is that fewer members come forward to join the committee which plays a vital role in organising events and keeping members informed. As a result, we have stopped certain events such as the Spring Show.

We are grateful to local shops who display posters about our events, The Ellendune Community Centre, The Parish Council for allowing us to include a leaflet about WDGS with annual rent invoice, plus our members and the people of Wroughton, who come along and support our events.

Jess Bailey

Chris Cossey

Chairman

Honorary Secretary

Wroughton and District Gardeners' Society