

## **BLACK PEAR GARDENING CLUB CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM 2017**

2017 HAS BEEN ANOTHER GOOD YEAR FOR THE BPGC. WITHIN FOUR YEARS OF BEING FORMED WE HAVE A MEMBERSHIP OF 106. WE ARE PROBABLY ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE COUNTY. WHILST SIZE IS NOT EVERYTHING IT HAS ALLOWED US TO FINANCE AN EXCELLENT AND DIVERSE RANGE OF MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS, SUBSIDISE THE COACH TRIP, ALONG WITH, I HOPE OUR FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING APPROACH, THIS HAS HELPED US TO GROW EACH YEAR.

WE HAVE ENJOYED VERY GOOD ATTENDANCES THIS YEAR TO BOTH THE INDOOR MEETINGS AND THE GARDEN VISITS, CONFIRMING THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAMME ARRANGED BY ROGER AND BARBARA PARKER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

I PARTICULARLY ENJOYED WILL SCOTT'S TALK 'TOOL SHARPENING FOR THE TERRIFIED' AND ROSEMARY WINNALLS', 'A GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE'.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO WELCOME DR NOEL KINGSBURY FOR OUR OCTOBER LECTURE, SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT 'WOMEN MEN AND GARDENING'. WE WERE ABLE TO DONATE THE PROCEEDS OF OUR RAFFLE, OF £51 TO THE GREEN FINGERS CHARITY.

THE ANNUAL GARDENER'S MARKET GAVE US ALL AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE THOSE MORE UNUSUAL OR SPECIAL PLANTS FROM LOCAL NURSERIES AND MEMBERS PLANT STALLS, ALONG WITH ENJOYING TEA AND CAKE.

IRENE AND I WERE DISAPPOINTED TO MISS THE COACH TRIP TO BRIDGEMERE AND THE DOROTHY CLIVE GARDEN, I MUST ONCE AGAIN THANK CATHY FOR STEPPING INTO THE LEADER ROLE AT SHORT NOTICE.  
IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR NEXT YEARS COACH TRIP PLEASE MENTION IT TO ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER, THEY WOULD WELCOME YOUR IDEAS.

WE HAVE OF COURSE TODAY'S SPEAKER REG TO LOOK FORWARD TO ALONG WITH THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH ORGANISED THIS YEAR BY COMMITTEE MEMBER LES CHIVERS. THANK YOU LES.

I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE BY THANKING THE COMMITTEE OFFICERS, PAM AND CATHY, JASMINE FOR MAINTAINING THE MEMBERSHIP LIST ALONG WITH COLLECTING YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES. ( IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED THEY ARE NOW DUE .)

THE CLUB ALSO OWES A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO DOUGLAS FOR MAINTAINING AND OPERATING OUR WEBSITE. IT IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL IN COMMUNICATIONS TODAY, BOTH TO EXISTING MEMBERSHIP AND THE WIDER WORLD.

A FRIEND WHO IS A MEMBER OF ANOTHER LARGE GARDEN CLUB, OFTEN COMPLAINS TO ME THAT WHEN SEARCHING FOR WORCESTERSHIRE GARDEN CLUBS OUR WEBSITE ALWAYS APPEARS BEFORE THEIRS!

THANK YOU ALSO TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HAVE HELPED AND SUPPORTED ME DURING NOT ONLY THIS YEAR BUT THE PAST FOUR YEARS AS CHAIRMAN. ALSO TO YOU THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE HELPED OUT, IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED ALONG WITH TURNING OUT TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMME ARRANGED, IT MAKES IT SO MUCH MORE REWARDING TO SEE A GOOD ATTENDANCE.

YOU WILL ALL BE WELL AWARE BY NOW THAT I AM NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION THIS YEAR. I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE. I KNOW THEY WILL WELCOME ANY IDEAS FOR THE 2019 PROGRAMME AND HELP DURING THE NEXT YEAR. I HAVE OFFERED TO CONTINUE WITH PRODUCING THE NEWSLETTER AND THE PUBLICITY FOR THE CLUB, SO YOU WILL NOT COMPLETELY ESCAPE FROM ME!

THERE IS, I THINK, A VERY PROMISING PROGRAMME PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR, I WILL MENTION IT IN MORE DETAIL LATER, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO ENJOYING IT WITH YOU.

THANK YOU.