
Black Pear Gardening Club Chair's Report for 2024/25

I feel a bit of a fraud standing here as your outgoing chair, having not been able to contribute very much since the beginning of July 2025, but I give praise and many thanks to all the committee members and volunteers for carrying on with the work of the club and making it the success it is today. A review of the year has seen 7 presentations instead of our usual 8. This is due to the coach trip we took to see Snowdrops at Colesbourne in February 2025. This was a new departure for the club, and will be replicated in the coming year with a coach trip to see John's Garden at Ashworth Nurseries, near Kingswinford, on the 21st February 2026. In between, with a thank you to Léonie for organising, we have managed to go on 3 garden visits during the summer, including to the Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire.

Again, we have had some very successful fundraising days at the Three Counties Showground, providing Plant Creche facilities for the RHS Spring and Autumn shows thanks to Léonie and others.

The club's bank account has now gone electronic, thanks to the efforts of Cathy Snelgar and Brian Skeys. The move to online banking should reduce the effort required to run the club accounts as well as reduce the costs.

This coming year, thanks to Léonie, we can look forward to another 7 talks and one of the highlights is a presentation given by Rekha Mistry of Gardener's World fame on "Seed Sowing, Propagating and Extending the Season in September, as well as Care in the Garden and Greenhouse" on the 19th September 2026. Our 3 garden visits in the summer includes a coach trip to Claverton Manor in Bath and Gardens, home of the American Museum on the 15th August 2026.

As of the end of September 2025, club membership stood at 101 members, and the club reserves were of the order of £5,801.64 - an increase of £994.44 on last year.

Again, thanks to everyone for the work you have put into organising the monthly meetings, and a big thank you to the members for your support and I hope to see you all at next months Christmas Lunch.

Lawrence Gleaves - Departing Chair of the Black Pear Gardening Club.