**Oakley Gardening Club report – May 2023**

Ted Deeprose, our long term chairperson, retired in December 2022. His responsibilities have been shared among the committee so that the club can continue to run in an effective way. We hope that a new chairperson will be appointed at our AGM in October.

The club currently has 48 paid up members.

The average attendance at our meetings is 30 and this includes 2 or 3 guests.

Costs are always one of our main concerns.

We need to encourage a decent attendance from the membership at our monthly meetings. To do this we have to get good professional speakers, covering a wide range of gardening related topics. The cost of speakers including their expenses for the past year is close to £1,400. We know that this cost will increase next year.

The income we get from the membership subscriptions and entry fees to the meetings does not fully cover the cost of speakers. Our main and very important fund raiser is the Plant Sale. The income raised from this is used to supplement the cost of speakers and pay for all the other costs we incur such as the Village Hall, Advertising, RHS membership, Flower and Produce show and Administration.

We also try to offer our members a small subsidy toward our annual coach outing but even this is becoming difficult when, for instance, the cost of the coach for this year’s outing is £845.

On the plus side our committee is actively looking at how we can increase our income and reduce our costs and we will be presenting some options to our members at our AGM in October.