

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia, and Vegetable Society

**Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting
held at the Victoria Club, Street on
Saturday 14th February 2026 at midday**

Officers present: Mr T Vernoum (President)
Mr C Hughes (Chair)
Mr J Searle (Vice-chair)
Mr P Baker (Treasurer/Entries Secretary)
Ms C Walker (Members' Secretary)
Mrs L Driscoll (Correspondence Secretary)
Mr C Driscoll (Show Manager)
Mrs R Hamlett (Press Officer)

Committee members present: Mr R Loader,

Guest Speaker: Mr Neal Hatch

1 Chair's Welcome

Christian opened the meeting, offering a warm welcome to all members present. and our guests and thanked them for their attendance at this our annual general meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

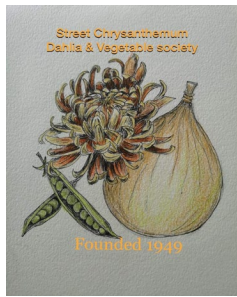
Mark Taylor, Paul Boncey, Helen Frost, Karen Forester, Helen Clark

3 Minutes of the last AGM held on 15th February 2025

The 2025 minutes had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Christian asked those present to spend a couple of minutes reading the AGM. Minutes. Christian asked for a proposer and seconder to ratify that the minutes. were a true reflection of last year's meeting Colin Driscoll acted as proposer and Rodney Loader as seconder. This was accepted as a true record and were signed by. Christian Hughes

4 Matters arising

There was no matter arising.



Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia, and Vegetable Society

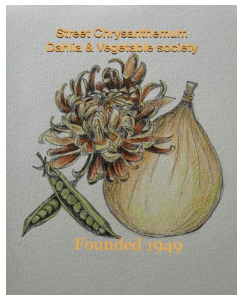
5 Chair's Report

Christian started his report by thanking the generosity of our sponsors that give so generously to our society year after year, supporting us especially at our show. He went on to mention Burns the bread that had provided the buffet lunch today and the food for our show, to our committee members that give their time to support the work that we do.

this led on to talking about 2025 and how it was our 75th Year, and how those nine founding members could foresee that we are still going from strength to strength. seventy-five years later, and I was a testament to those that had come before us.

Christian then highlighted some key points that stood out for him since the last AGM.

- **Sweet acres plant nursey** – Going with Pat to look at the current trends in plants and picking out the fuchsia for the members class, Christian said that they would pick a different variety for 2026.
- **Plant sale** – all the hard work and dedication over everyone involved to make the day an enormous success, Christian made a special mention to Terry Vernorm and Neal hatch for their contribution of Chrysanthemums and dahlia tubers to the society. Christian also said that it was a fabulous event where we caught up with old friends that we may not have seen for a while. Christian finished off this part of his report by thanking Shirley Nicolls and her daughter for the kind donation of monies to our society in memory of her late husband Jan, who was our last president, towards the purchase of two branded tear drop flags.
- **Annual show** - Christian highlighted his amazement on how we take the room that we are in, the day before our show and within a couple of hours we have set up all the benches, ready for Pat to set out the classes. And then watching the exhibitor's come in on the Friday night and sat morning to set up their exhibits to the judges carrying out there judging duties, to the buzz of the afternoon, when we throw open the doors to the public, showcasing the amazing flowers, vegetables, flower arrangements, cakes etc, in a year that saw high temperatures for extended periods with very little rain. Christian continued by saying that Pat would give a breakdown of the finances for the show in his report.
- **Annual Meal** – Christian commented that once the show has finished, it is a time of reflection over the year that we have had, but also looking forward to the society meal at the end of October, which is a nice way to round up the year, sadly due to illness some of our members were unable to attend
- **Pats Blog** – Christian thanked Pat for his continued success with his weekly blog which when looking at the figures, Pat continues to attract new views on a weekly basis. Pat is going to expand his blog this year to include dahlias and



Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia, and Vegetable Society

chrysanthemums as well as his talk on what is going on in his poly tunnner and garden in general.

- **NVS Article** - Christian spoke about the article that he had sent to the National vegetable society, giving the results for the vegetable classes at our show, and was surprised that we had a third of a page in the winter edition.

Before christian finished his report and handed over to Pat, he spent a couple of minutes looking forward to 2026, and what we wanted to achieve as a society.

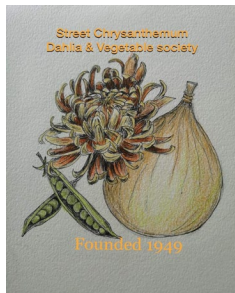
- **Durstons sponsorship** - Dan Durston for Durstons garden products would like to sponsor our schedule for 2026, Pat outlined the meeting between Brendon Curry and Dan Durston and what Dan was doing with compost, and that there may be an opportunity to attend a talk on compost that Dan was going to give, A date, time and venue was yet to be confirmed.
- **Updates for 2026 Schedule** – We plan to update several chrysanthemum, dahlia, and vegetable classes. A subcommittee will be formed, and the finalized schedule is expected by April.
- **Electronic Spreadsheet for prizes** – Christian thanked Neal Hatch, for putting together a spreadsheet for our society so that we can record entries, and who has won classes at our annual show.
- **Instagram** – Christian highlighted that we would soon have a presence on Instagram, which complements our Facebook page, that Pat posts his fantastic weekly blog.
- **SCDVS Website** – Christian would look at updating our website to include an electronic entry form, more would follow on this in 2026.
- **Trip to a RHS/NT Garden** – Pat spoke about having a society trip out to a RHS/NT garden in 2026, possibly in June, and that he thought that we as a society would be able to cover the costs of a coach, and that we could open it up to other members of local gardening societies, if they wished to attend as well

Christian then finished his report and handed over to Pat.

6 Treasurer's Report

Pat gave an incredibly detailed report of the society's finances over 2025. As a society we finished £460.08 up in 2025.

This was due to increases on monies raised at our plant sale by £353.96, and the



Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia, and Vegetable Society

following at our annual show, where there were increases on monies taken at the tombola, donations given and refreshments was. All of this was offset by our expenditures, where there were increases on society affiliations, cost of plants, hall hire, prize money and stationery, office, and printing cost.

Pat went on to highlight the donation to our society from Shirley Nicolls and her daughter plus talked about how Dan Durston would be sponsoring the schedule this year.

Pat finished his report by saying that for a small society we have an extremely healthy bank balance.

Christian then asked for a proposer and seconder to ratify the finances for 2025, Jim Searle proposed, and Terry vernoum seconded, Pat signed the minutes as a true record.

7 Election of Officers

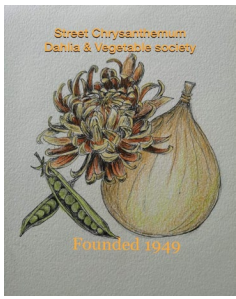
Position	Person Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
President	Terry Vernoum	C Driscoll	R Loder
Chair	Christian Hughes	R Hamlett	M Roper
Vice-Chair	Jim Searle	C Walker	CL Hughes
Correspondence secretary	Lin Driscoll	R Loader	T Vernoum
Membership secretary	Christina Walker	C Driscoll	CL Hughes
Entries secretary	Pat Baker	R Hamlett	T Vernoum
Treasurer	Pat Baker	B Curry	C Walker
Show Manager	Colin Driscoll	C Walker	P Baker
Press Officer	Ruth Hamlett	L Driscoll	CL Hughes
Committee members	On block	R Loader	P Baker

Committee: P Boncey, M Taylor, R Loader, CL Hughes.

Pat asked if there were any other persons present that would like to join the committee. Clair Hughes raised her hand that she would like to join and was proposed by P Baker and seconded by J Searle to join the committee.

8 Date of next Committee meeting

Tuesday 24th February 2024 at 20:00 at the Victoria club



9 AOB

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia, and Vegetable Society

Christian asked those present if there was anything else that they wanted to bring forth, there wasn't anything brought forward, so Christian concluded formal proceedings by inviting all present to take part in the buffet lunch.

CH 15/02/2025