

## Gardens Report – AGM March 2025

I am pleased to report that our overall expenditure during 2024 was just under £2,600 – well within the allocated budget of £5,000. In part due to the continuation of savings made by moving away from bi-annual planting-up of bedding plants.

Unfavourable weather over the first 4 months of the year limited activity on our garden sites mainly to just general maintenance and tidying.

### Ocean Drive –

The planting undertaken at in November 2023 showed some development, but it was expected to be a 2-3 year project. A few more plants were then added in the Spring to supplement.

Around July we became aware that what had always been understood to be 'common' land was shown on title deeds as being owned by the freeholders of adjacent property. They, too, say they were not aware of the position. We have exchanged several emails regarding the way forward, including a possible licence similar to that we hold in respect of another site we maintain. Correspondence is ongoing.

### Langbury Lane –

Much of the old growth and dead wood was been removed. Then a new bed was dug over and prepared, with a range 36 new perennial plants put in on Friday 5 April – it is hoped that these will establish over the next couple of years.

Costings were obtained to either repair or replace the bench. However, the figure was higher than expected and further research is required.

### Highdown Way –

I undertook several visits during the year to tidy the site – particularly the area around the crazy paving.

Some of the plants in the barrel were replaced, as previous ones died having been waterlogged due to the heavy rains.

### Clover Lane –

Several visits were made to the site to remove weeds from shale border, plus some weeding in the centre, in an attempt to keep tidy.

I am aware that most of the shrubs were overdue a good prune and the central ground weeded/dug over. Several contractors were contacted, with site visits arranged but some were no-shows or late cancellations. Eventually 2 quotes were obtained and work scheduled for early February 2025,

The assigned gardener is slowly returning to greater capacity. My long-term plan is to echo some of the recent planting at Langbury Lane

The Grove –  
6 perennial Geraniums were planted amongst the rockery surround  
Unfortunately, for a short while, the site was overlooked but the position has been  
rectified.

Once again, I wish to thank our gardener, David Saunders, for all his hard work and  
help, both in keeping our sites maintained and for his input and suggestions  
regarding suitable plants to be added.

Unfortunately, he was not able to work at full capacity for several months due to a  
delayed medical procedure in July which restricted duties to mowing and light  
weeding. David was able to return to more strenuous jobs by early October.

Despite all issues I think that we have managed to keep the 5 sites looking neat and  
respectable.

Simon Thompson

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