

National Vegetable Society Surrey DA 2026 AGM

Saturday 7th February 2026 at East Horsley Village Hall (EHVH), KT24 6QT commencing 10:45am.

AGENDA

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of 2025 AGM (Appendix 1)
4. Matters arising from minutes.
5. Report on DA activities.
6. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts. (Appendix 2)
7. Election of Chairman.
8. Election of Committee.
9. Any Other Business – Venues for meetings
10. Saturday 7th February 2026 at East Horsley Village Hall (EHVH), KT24 6QT commencing 10:45am.

2025 AGM - Saturday 7th February 2026 at East Horsley Village Hall (EHVH), KT24 6QT commencing 10:45am.

Present – Norman Dickinson (ND), Moira Mannas (MM), Keith Hine (KH), Neil Hope (NH), Daphne Hope (DH), Louise Clubley (LC), Jonathan Cantelo-Jones (JCJ), Paul Yeoman (PY), Richard White (RW), Anne Adams (AA), Nicky Cornell (NC) + 4 others all listed.

1. Welcome.

MM thanked the 2025 NVS Surrey DA AGM attendees; especially ND, the Southern Branch (SB) Chairman, who was invited to take the meeting in lieu of an elected chair. ND welcomed everyone to the AGM and asked for any additional apologies to be identified and added to the list.

2. Apologies for absence.

Beth Otway (EO), Karen Murray (KM), Anne McLean (AM) + 3 others all listed.

3. Minutes of 2024 AGM.

The 2024 AGM minutes were uploaded by ND to the NVS website and email notification sent to members on 14th January 2025 along with the 2025 AGM Agenda. MM apologised for the email wording which erroneously stated they were included as an attachment. Hard copies of the 2024 AGM minutes were provided and ND invited attendees to add further comments or matters arising. None were raised so the minutes were signed off as a true record of the 2024 AGM.

4. Matters arising from the 2024 AGM

As the majority of the committee had stood down and only the Secretary and Treasurer Officer positions had been elected it was recognised that the search for committee members should continue throughout the year. Articles were placed in the Summer and Winter editions of Simply Vegetables magazine to publicise the programme of talks and encourage members to join the committee. KM circulated publicity to horticultural societies and gardening clubs that she has contacts for; EO publicised our meetings via the Surrey Horticultural Federation and the EHVH displayed publicity on-site to attract other hall users. JCJ encouraged meeting attendees to take a more active role in the DA, meetings were advertised on the NVS website and email notifications sent out to members. A 2024

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attendee had mentioned that including the postcode was necessary so we ensured that all of our publicity included the venue details. There had been a suggestion that the NVS should sponsor talks for other organisations but no approaches for collaboration were made by other groups and no additional volunteers came forward to run the DA. [Acceptance of the 2024 Minutes and Matters arising were proposed by KH and seconded by PY and carried unanimously with no abstentions or objections.](#)

5. Report on DA activities.

The 24/25 programme of events got off to a great start with our talk in March by Matt Peskett on the *Joy of Giant Pumpkin Growing*, followed by Ray Broughton's talk on *Companion Planting for Edibles* in April. RW, NH and KH held a *Gardener's Question Time* type panel discussion for attendees in May and in September Dan Bosence covered *Vegetables for all Seasons*. Pauline Lane and the Guildford Bee Keepers Association gave us a talk about *Bees and Pollinating Fruit, Vegetables, and Herbs* (with the additional treat of honey for sale) and our November finale was RHS Fruit Expert, Jim Arbury on *Growing Unusual Fruit*. As always our thanks go to EO our marvellous Events Secretary for arranging an entertaining and informative programme of talks and to JCJ for acting as meeting compere; engaging with the attendees, organising the refreshments rota and introducing the speakers at the meetings.

We are also grateful for the continued guidance and support of the previous committee members and also ND as Southern Branch chair throughout 2024:

- KH: Venue liaison and booking
- NH: Transaction approval and authorised Account Signatory
- LC: Backup Account Signatory
- ND: Website updates and email notifications

In support of the NVS aim to encourage the growing and exhibition of quality vegetables the Surrey DA provided £100 sponsorship to the 2024 combined Southern Branch Championships and New Forest Open Show which were held at Brockenhurst from 30th July to 1st August. A further £200 sponsorship was donated to the 2024 NVS National Championships held at Ardingly on 21st September.

KH was also the deserving recipient of the NVS Silver Medal award in June.

ND thanked the former committee members for the valuable support they had given to keeping the Surrey DA running after handing over to the outgoing committee. He praised the quality and diversity of the talks we had enjoyed; especially from the Beekeepers and also noted that RW, NH and KH had saved the day by sharing their expertise when the speaker Lady Lenzie had failed to turn up for her talk. On behalf of the Southern Branch ND thanked the Surrey DA for their donations to the Southern Branch and National Championships. ND's congratulation of KH on achieving the NVS Silver Medal award was applauded by all present.

6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts. (Appendix 2)

Hard copies of the Treasurer's Report and Accounts were provided and the Report read out by MM as KM was unable to attend. KH clarified that the payment for the hall bookings for the 2024 season had been made prior to KM taking over the Treasurer role at the 2024 AGM as there used to be a discount made for settling the bookings in advance. As this was no longer the case there was no advantage to making a bulk payment in advance so the payment for each date booked becomes due 30 days before-hand. The availability of the

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venue for the 2025 meeting dates was secured in April 2024 by pre-booking the hall and the first payment became due in January 2025 for the February AGM. **The next date booked is 12th March so payment is due a couple of days from now unless the incoming committee cancel the booking.**

NH advised that as at 7th February the Surrey DA's bank balance stood at £3644.92 as expenditure had been made in 2025, after the accounting period documented, for hall hire and memberships.

Regret was expressed by all present that the Surrey DA had not attended any external events during 2024. Not only had they been an opportunity to raise funds for the DA and to promote the activities of the NVS they had also been a lot of fun. All agreed that DH's cakes had been a major draw and were not surprised that she had received repeat requests for particular favourites at events. Without the active involvement of the membership however continued participation at external events has not been possible. **KH is still in contact with the RHS event planners though and will pass on details of any opportunities arising to the incoming committee for their consideration and action.**

Acceptance of the 2024 Accounts were proposed by NH and seconded by LC and carried with no abstentions or objections.

7. Election of Chairman.

Role currently vacant and no nominations received.

8. Election of Committee.

The outgoing committee KM and MM stood down and were thanked by ND for their work for the Surrey DA.

Karen Murray was the only candidate for the Treasurer role and was **proposed by JCJ and seconded by AA.**

Anne McLean was the only candidate for the Secretary role – she is not currently an NVS member but ND proposed that if all were in favour of her nomination **she would be allowed to stand on condition of her joining the NVS as an Individual member and ND would apply 8th February 2025 as her membership start date.** Nomination was proposed by AA and seconded by NC.

EO and JCJ were willing to continue their involvement for another year as Events Secretary and Meeting Compere respectively and their **nominations were carried unanimously by a show of hands.**

All of the nominees above were unanimously voted in by the AGM attendees with no abstentions or objections.

KH would contact EO with the good news of the continuation of the Surrey DA to give her the opportunity to source a speaker for the 12th March hall booking should the incoming committee decide to continue at EHVH.

9. Any Other Business.

1. Purchase of a Surrey DA trophy to be awarded at the Southern Branch Championships.

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KH explained that a number of show classes don't have trophies associated with them and NH agreed that a Surrey DA trophy would be a fitting way to celebrate the inception of the Surrey DA that both he and DH have been associated with since the early 2000's. If it could be applied to a class for Runner Beans that would be particularly appropriate. ND cited as precedence the case of a West Sussex Horticultural club which had closed and donated a trophy via the Sussex DA to award at the Southern Branch championships. ND asked what the anticipated cost might be and KH indicated that a budget of £125 to £150 should suffice to cover the costs of purchase, engraving, etc. ND thanked both for putting this forward and **the action was proposed by LC, seconded by KH and attendees unanimously voted in favour of this being fulfilled by the incoming committee.**

2. Sponsorship of the SB Championship classes at the New Forest Show.

In support of the NVS objectives previous Surrey DA committees have sponsored SB Championship classes when approached by the organisers. ND expressed gratitude for the sponsorship. While those present were happy for this to continue it was now unnecessary for this to be covered under AOB as the show organisers would contact the new committee as a matter of course to offer the sponsorship opportunity.

Sponsorship of this year's championships to be decided on and actioned by the incoming committee.

3. In the event of the Surrey DA closure, a donation to the Southern Branch of a proportion of the remaining funds allowing for a sufficient balance to be transferred to the SB holding account to be used for the Surrey DA if it is started up again.

No longer applicable as the Surrey DA is continuing for another year.

4. Remuneration of refreshments expenditure

JCJ raised the matter of the settlement of out-of-pocket expenses as he had been perturbed that KM had advised him that she personally covers the provision of milk etc. under £5 and expected others to do the same but would arrange for a bank transfer if a claim form completed with his bank details and accompanied by receipts was presented to her. It seemed an unfair expectation that those costs would be borne by individuals even if they had chosen to do so.

Prior to the 2024 AGM DH had undertaken the role of Catering Secretary and had supplied refreshments at meetings as well as showcasing the use of vegetables in cakes at meetings and external events and had invoiced the Surrey DA accordingly. As no one volunteered to take over the Catering Secretary role at the 2024 AGM DH had kindly supplied a starter bag of catering essentials to the 2024 committee and JCJ organised a refreshments rota with members volunteering to take turns looking after the catering bag, replenishing the contents as necessary and manning the kitchen at each meeting. ND clarified that DAs are expected to bank any cash received straight away and to settle expenses by cheque and bank transfer payments where possible so that an audit trail of transactions is maintained. NH agreed that from an accounting perspective cash receipts were kept separate from outgoings and not netted off and LC confirmed that this was a common practice for charities and that accounts were checked by an independent auditor. MM admitted that as she had supplied a cash float for door and refreshment takings at a speaker meeting that KM didn't attend she had reimbursed herself the refreshment expenses from the money taken and had handed KM the net profit of £2 along with a completed expense form and receipt. ND agreed that those volunteering to supply

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the refreshments should not be left out of pocket and suggested that administration could be reduced by collecting receipts for multiple meetings then submitting a covering expense form. **The purchase and provision of refreshments will be a matter for the incoming committee to address.**

5. Surrey DA Transaction authorisation and approval

NH requested that it be formally minuted that both he and DH stood down from the committee at the 2024 AGM and that, while he had agreed to act as transaction approver and second signatory on the Surrey DA bank account during the period of transition, he would not be continuing to do so for a second term. To meet the requirement of the NVS rules that all cheques must be signed by two bank registered signatories and that two authorised individuals are needed to confirm approval of payments via electronic banking systems **the incoming committee needs to make arrangements for a replacement account signatory and transaction authoriser to take over from NH.** At ND's request NH confirmed that he would continue on a temporary basis while this process is being completed.

6. Meeting venue

KH will formally pass over full responsibility for setting up meeting venues and associated payment arrangements to the incoming committee.

Date and Venue for the 2026 AGM to be arranged by the incoming committee to be held as soon as practicable after the National Societies year end in accordance with the NVS rules.

MM confirmed the next Surrey DA meeting is pencilled in for 12th March 2025 in the Millennium Room at East Horsley Village Hall, Kingston Avenue, East Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT24 6QT subject to EO engaging a speaker and the incoming committee completing the hall booking transaction.

ND closed the meeting at 11:40 and we enjoyed delicious cakes generously donated by DH for the AGM and biscuits donated by KH.

Addendum

Please note that these minutes include some details that were not explicitly mentioned during the AGM as they were common knowledge to the attendees. This is to assist the incoming committee as the new secretary has not previously been involved in the Surrey DA. For ease of reference **action points are flagged by font colour** as are **records of the proposers and seconds of items and the voting outcomes.**

MM