

**The Rutland Group of The Hardy Plant Society**  
**Annual Report for AGM 11th March 2025**

In the past twelve months we have enjoyed talks on a variety of subjects, the highlight of which was a presentation by Rosie Hardy. Not only did we enjoy a talk about Autumn Flowering Perennials, but also a tempting array of plants for sale. Thank you Claire for publicising this on social media, ensuring good attendance for September.

Our annual plant fair was held at the end of May and although the windy, unsettled weather may have affected the numbers attending, a profit was made for group funds.

Members had a very pleasant visit to Janet and Andrew Rowe's lovely garden at Tilton on the Hill. The weather was perfect and a good time was had by all.

In June, a self drive day out was enjoyed by everyone. Firstly, a tour of Colin Ward's nursery at Swines Meadows was followed by a buffet lunch. After lunch, we went on to Sharron and Paul's garden in Haconby, where we marvelled at the new 'dry' garden, looking fabulous in the warm sunshine. Afterwards we were treated to delicious tea and cake.

The year was rounded off with an interesting talk from Doug Stewart followed by festive refreshments.

From January this year, Sharron and Paul Cutler have kindly volunteered to take on the meetings programme for 2025. In addition, they will hopefully be able to plan an outing or coach trip.

Our annual Plant Sale will be held on Sunday 25th May 2025. I hope that many of you will support this event and perhaps even volunteer to help on the day.

The meetings programme has been arranged for 2025, with some excellent talks to come. So far, a speaker has been booked for March 2026.

None of these events would take place without the input of your committee.

I am standing down as your chairman and resigning from the committee as from the AGM on 11th March 2025. John Dyson is also resigning from the committee (although he will continue to look after the group website). Due to family commitments, Pat Woolston is not able to continue in her role as publicity officer. This leaves a very small committee, which, at best, can only keep the group ticking over.

Unless new volunteers come forward to join the committee, the group cannot continue and will have to fold.

May I express my appreciation for all the help and support that the committee has provided over the years.