GRACE & FLAVOUR OGM 9th May 2026

	Date & Venue: Saturday 9th May 2026 at Grace + Flavour Ripley Lane, West Horsley KT24 6JW
	Chair: Beverley Nash **Minute Taker: John Whitlock**
1.	**Chairman's Report** This is an update of Grace and Flavour's activities since our AGM last November. The main items will be: • A report on the garden from John Whitlock, our Head Gardener • A report on our finances from Stephen Stuart-Matthews, our Treasurer Followed by any questions Here are some highlights from the last 6 months: 1. Following a request at the AGM, we now produce highlights from Directors' meetings immediately after each meeting to be communicated at tea time on the following Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday. 2. We had a busy December. We had another successful baked potato lunch. Also we provided a G+F Christmas tree for St Martin's Church Christmas Tree festival, organised by Jane King. This involved artistic contributions from lots of members in the form of potato print baubles. 3. We were delighted in December to be awarded a grant from the Horsley Community Fund for the provision of a third polytunnel. This was ordered in March and construction is well underway. 4. Starting in January we tackled the annual task of pruning all the apple, pear and quince trees. Thanks to the help of so many volunteers, we finished in record time. 5. 2026 has so far been dominated by water provision. As requested by allotment holders, an additional diptank has been installed in the allotments. Following a presentation to the Directors by Rob Harris in January, it was agreed that this year we should carry out a pilot of widespread irrigation using leaky hoses in the garden and also extend irrigation in the polytunnels. Benefits are expected to be a higher crop yield, reduced water usage and reduced labour requirement. As a first step, additional standpipes have been installed along Hollier Avenue. This has the added benefit of eliminating the safety hazard of having hoses laid across the paths. 6. Other highlights include an article in the March/April edition of the Horsley Directory, accompanied by a lovely photo from Alison Allman, rejuvenation of the East Horsley noticeboard by Patrick Smith, a donation of 5 paintings by Hugh Walker from the Plein Air painters and installation of a third pea cage. 7. In April two longstanding active members, Rob Treble and Trevor Wykes, were given awards by West Horsley Parish Council for service to the community. Looking forward, the new polytunnel will be put to use and the irrigation trial will proceed, making use of lessons learned from Farnham Community Garden. We will be taking a rest from opening for the National Gardens Scheme this year but may open informally during Horsley's Green Week in June. In the summer we also plan to have a resuscitation training session. Our next social event is the Summer Evening Social on Saturday 11th July, 6-8pm..

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2. Head Gardener's Report:

I think overall the garden is looking as good as it ever has at this stage of the season. Llittle cropping and lack of rain has meant weeds have not become too dominant. However it is unbelievable the amount of potatoes coming up in the area they were grown last year. They are our biggest weed issue.

The mild winter has helped us to have a successful winter and early spring season. The leeks were excellent although they perhaps finished a little early. We have sown even more this year (about 5000). The purple sprouting broccoli was excellent in quality and there was plenty for everyone. We had a good number of overwintering cauliflowers, and a small number of delicious spring greens (hope to grow more next year) Three types of kale were very successful and many took a liking to the Red Russian kale which we grew both in the polytunnel and outside. Inside the polytunnel we had a varied selection of salad crops, some fennel and kohl rabi. The peas we experimented with were fairly successful, perhaps growing sugar snap peas in the new polytunnel may be better (but there is some question about their hardiness which I need to resolve)

Our first 2026 sown vegetables are starting to crop, spinach, turnips, kohl rabi, salad and radishes. The broad beans are looking impressive and early. Ray has been cutting a good amount of asparagus. The rhubarb is starting to suffer from a lack of water.

John Fluker and team have planted over 100kg of potatoes…. We have planted out cauliflowers, cabbages, fennel, calabrese, beetroot 5 beds of peas, summer broad beans, 9 beds of onions some sets others are from seed, 1 shallots from seed, I bed of parsnips, carrots and beetroot, sown 5000 leeks, radishes, kohl rabi, rocket and mustards. The polytunnels are filling with much more to plant out shortly such as courgettes, squash, brussels sprouts

The fruit on the both the trees and bushes are looking extremely promising. We have added an extra row of gooseberries this year. The pruning team worked hard under Beverley's guidance to winter prune.

Helena reports that we had more daffodils and iris bunches than ever before. The paeonies look set to be wonderful. Her empire is expanding a little this year. An extra bed and growing perennials on the bed next to the daffodil bed.

We have a new pea cage in operation (Amanda's old one). One has had a new net added and one is just about surviving. The new polytunnel is nearing completion. There are literally hundreds of tomatoes, aubergines, sweet peppers, chillis peppers, cucumbers and melons waiting to be planted in the near future

Pests in the form of mice and birds have caused issues in both the polytunnel and greenhouses. Beetroot, radish, some brassicas, chard and possibly spring onions have been badly attacked by birds either eating the seeds or disturbing the compost. Mice have particularly taken sweet corn, peas, some French beans and squash. We have caught a significant number of mice but not enough. At present I hope we can resow and the issue will be marginal.

My other concern are moles. There are plenty in both the allotment area and garden area.

	The two irrigation trials are in progress and both appear to be working well in the sense they deliver sufficient water to the beds they are focused on. This dry spring has again shown how important it is to resolve the watering problem. Even with the beds they are trialing not needing hand watering, I thought the other day we needed to water 17 beds by hand (that is with less than half the beds planted). There are still questions to be answered, for example… what damage may occur through weeding and cropping, and storage when not being used. Other questions that being looked at are the use of timers and pressure gauges. How successful is it with direct sown seeds such as parsnips and carrots. In the short term we need to find a watering solution, if we want to have a successful year.
3.	**Treasurer's Report:** During the first half of the financial year (from 1st October 2025 to 31st March 2026) Grace and Flavour generated a surplus (Income less Expenditure) of £876. In addition, we received with thanks generous donations of £1,122 in total from several members increasing the cash surplus to £1,999. Income included Sales to members of £3,251 and Other Income of £1,997 (primarily allotment fees and grants). Expenditure was £4,371. This included Cost of Sales of £1,303 mostly for seeds, manure and compost. Maintenance and Operating cost was £1,382 and total cost of Equipment purchases was £1,686 including: a dip tank and piping for the allotments, an extension to our irrigation stand pipe system, a fruit cage extension and some fruit netting. We also purchased a new polytunnel with a grant gratefully received from Surrey Community Foundation in conjunction with Horsley Community Fund. Our current account balance was £7,567 on 31st March 2026. Additionally Grace and Flavour retains a contingency on deposit of £11,204**.** Fixed asset values were £14,689 net of depreciation on 30th September 2025. Financial year end accounts including updated net asset values will be presented at the AGM.
4.	**Questions from Members:** **1.** Water Pressure – Gerry noted the poor water pressure when filling the pond. The problem is that as soon as 2 or 3 taps are put on anywhere is wither the garden or the allotments the pressure drops significantly **2.** There was an enquiry concerning the lease. Our lease extends to 2035. We enquired last year about extending the lease but the NT were not prepared to discuss it until two years before its expiry. We do have a break clause that can be enacted every 5 years. The next time this will be relevant is in 2030. **3.** Clarification on the assets at the end of our lease or tenancy was brought up. It was felt that our fixed assets such as potting shed and structures would pass over to the NT. Our other assets would be ours to deal with. Grace and Flavour is a Community Interest Company and as such our assets are "locked" and must always be held by (or transferred to) a suitable community organization. **4.** Tom thanked all those that helped keep the lavender in good condition. **5.** There was a question about the mole issues. Rob Treble has followed up a contact from a member. At the moment the mole catcher is very busy, but will be back in contact shortly.

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Next Director's Meeting: Thursday June 11th at 7.30 at the garden