



WINCHESTER HOME & GARDEN CLUB

Dear Garden Club Members:

HAPPY MAY! It is so wonderful to ride around Winchester and see all the “blooms” happening around us. Such a very special time of year!

Many of us enjoyed our **Spring Annual Luncheon** at the Winchester Country Club on May 1st. Thank you **Eileen Bickenbach** for all your hard work in organizing “**The Run for the Roses**”. The theme was executed beautifully with our Members appearing in traditional “Derby Attire”. Hats/fascinators and flower couture were worn by many as captured in the photos presented here. The tablescape was true to tradition with beautiful centerpieces filled with Red Roses. Thank you Rose and Cheryl for working hard with Eileen to create such masterpieces. Thank you Jackie Burchard for working with Eileen and creating the ingenious rose napkins!



At this luncheon, two honorary members were honored for their years of service. Congratulations to **Cathy Alexander** and **Kristen Ward**. We are so appreciative for all you have done for our Club. Here’s Liz Darby, WHGC’s Membership Chair’s write up.

Both ladies joined in 2008 so they are just concluding their 15th year in the Club. Both of them have given service in the same board position for at least 10 years. While some members move around from one position to another, some find their calling and stick with it.



In 2008, we had our meetings at the Jenks Center and enjoyed only sweets and coffee at the meeting. **Cathy Alexander** is a fixture in town, she would usually sit in the back row and reminded me a bit of those guys in the balcony on the muppets. Always with an opinion but always extremely positive and passionate about the club. She began her years on the board in 2014 with a little bit of arm twisting. At the time, the Club was on the brink of folding for lack of any brave souls willing to lead us.

Since then, she has continued to be the trusty sidekick to our co-President Dot Butler that we all know and love. Congratulations Cathy!

Kristen Ward not being one to sit back and be a spectator, she immediately joined the Board in the role where she has served for all of her years. Kristen makes us all look good! As you may find in our yearbook, our Club has 4 purposes.

1. *Promote education in the areas of ecology, horticulture and landscape design.*
2. *Study the arts and learn the crafts of gardening, flower arranging and decorative materials.*
3. *Promote civic beauty and conservation.*
4. *Cooperate with other organizations in furthering our goals.*

Kristen is a natural born teacher, giving us incredible demonstrations of creating beautiful containers and throughout the Town in leading the charge with the town urn, site gardens & bulb planting initiatives! She's doing the dirty work and coordinating with the DPW, she has done so much to teach us, involve us and make us all look good. Congratulations Kristen!



Thank you to the many who donated items for our “traditional luncheon raffle”. So many items were displayed and a lot of happy members and guests left with wonderful prizes.

We hope you have enjoyed this year's presentations and special programs such as Festival of Wreaths and Trees, Winchester Home and Garden Club has talent and our first Art in Bloom. Our goal is to have something of interest for everyone.

Your generosity and commitment to our monthly lunches, designing beautiful centerpieces and the support of our raffles all add to the wonderful community within WHGC. It is truly appreciated.

We are hoping to hold one more event. On **Tuesday, May 21**, we invite you to join us on the “**River Walk**” in the center of Town. We will meet at the Jenks parking lot at 11:15 and have a guided tour of this walk. Below is the link promoting the Walk and will give you an idea of what is in store for you

<https://youtube/LXUTcG4pK2M?si=N9RxLFhuDNoqzEdw>

After the walk, we hope you will join us at Lucia's for lunch. The cost of the lunch is \$30 and checks can be sent to WHGC Dot Butler at 30 Wildwood St. We would appreciate a RSVP as soon as possible in order for Lucia's to plan.

At the last meeting in April, it was suggested to request from members who made those wonderful salads for our luncheon buffets to send in their recipes. If you would please take the time and email to butlermaid@gmail.com, I promise to gather and send out to all.

We are busy planning programming for 2024-2025. Some of you have sent suggestions along and we are looking into those possibilities. Also, if you would like to get more involved in the club, please reach out to Cathy or Dot and let us know your interests.

Well that's a wrap for the year! We enjoyed spending time with all of you and hope for a repeat in September! Until then, enjoy your gardens and the beautiful weather. As the song says "See you In September"!

Fondly, Cathy and Dot

