

# MAISEMORE GARDENS LIMITED

Registered in England, No.714547

Dear members,

I hope you have all enjoyed the lovely Spring and early Summer, such a contrast to last year. So far, it's been the warmest and driest on record I believe.

## The Council of Management

### AGM

We had 31 properties represented at the AGM (with apologies from another 8), which is an encouraging level of support. The meeting endorsed the accounts and the various reports prepared by committee members, after discussion and clarification in some cases.

Martin Price resigned last year and James Leeming stood for election. All voted in favour. The longest-serving director, John Watt, resigned and stood for re-election. All voted in favour. Lisa McGarry was confirmed as Independent Examiner of Accounts.

There were no resolutions submitted. Other business discussed included:



**Speed of traffic.** There is a request to remind people that the recommended speed limit is 20mph, though the legal limit is 30mph. Please would residents remind visitors and workman to slow down.

**Rats.** It is inevitable that there will be some rats, but recently there has been a marked increase in the population. Extensive damage has been caused and pest control has been required, all of which is very costly. It is the responsibility of all residents to minimise this, so it is requested that people do not feed foxes, or birds at ground level.

Remember that, if you could not attend or wish to remind yourself of what happened, the draft minutes of the AGM are available in the members' section of our website.

## Gardens – an update from Sarah Harrington

Our lawns have survived the long period without rain, looking green, as ever. We are still trying to be wild-life friendly in our treatment of the grass. We shall, however, be mowing a strip in the main lawn more closely to enable games to take place. We are hoping that people will make use of the lawns for various enjoyable activities.



We thank Richie Liston for stepping in and taking over when Andy was not able to continue looking after the gardens; unfortunately, he is now unable to continue because he needs a major operation on his neck. I am glad to say that Andy is now back with us and is going to take over again.

MGL Committee of Management Directors 2024

Christine Richardson, Martin Gebbett, Suzy Daniels, Sarah Harrington, John Watt, Martin Price, Judith Morgan  
Co-opted; Andy Maxted, Mike Austen

Registered Office: Station House, North Street, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 1QU

## Dinghy Park

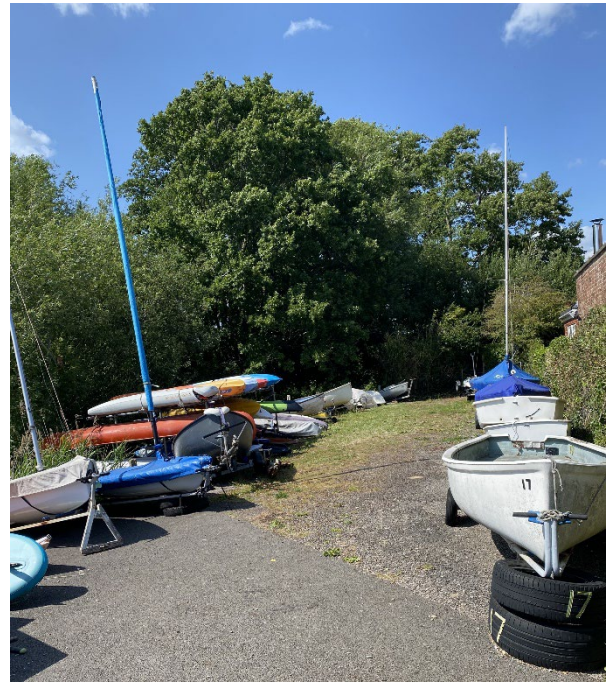
On the morning of Saturday, 31st May, a great group of local residents gathered at Dinghy Park for a working party. We spent the morning clearing out brambles, weeds, and rubbish that had built up. We also took down an old, falling-apart boat rack that was taking up space and wasn't safe anymore.

It was a really productive session, and the park is already looking much better.

A quick reminder to all owners of road trailers – please label them with your house number before the end of June so we can easily identify and manage them in the future.

Big thanks to Ella for the delicious flapjacks – they were much appreciated!

Thanks again to everyone who showed up and helped out – your efforts made a big difference!



## Agnes Summers remembered by her daughter Lyn Juchau.



Agnes Summers sadly passed away on 27th February 2025.

She lived in No 61 until January 2024 when she moved into a care home in Drayton.

Agnes moved to the house with her husband Alan in 1978. They both enjoyed socialising with the neighbours, swimming from the beach and going on many local walks. They had a GP14 which they kept in the boat park and loved sailing from the foreshore.

After retirement Alan joined the local and Chichester art societies and used to take part in the original Art Trails with his paintings. He sadly

passed away in 2006.

Agnes stayed on at the house being frequently visited by her family and friends in the community. She also attended yoga classes with some of her Maisemore friends and was learning to play bridge.

When Agnes was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, her family and carers together with the support of neighbours enabled Agnes to stay in Maisemore for many more years.



## Jim Cottis

Sadly, we also lost Jim Cottis, of number 50. Jim was a former MGL Director and had been ill for some time.

## Geoff Higgins remembered by Sue Stonier, his friend for more than 45 years



Geoff, with his wife Doreen and son Nicholas, came to Emsworth in 1980 when they bought the Inn on the Quay, having progressed via hotels on the Isle of Wight and the New Forest. Doreen was a very good cook and chose her chefs carefully. She and Geoff both paid great attention to detail and the Inn rapidly became very popular, which resulted in their making many long-lasting friendships with their regular customers.

Living over the Inn was cramped and after visiting No.55 for frequent wine tastings, or trying out a new recipe, they were attracted to the estate and bought No.31 in 1984, which remained the family home thereafter.

Doreen missed having guests to stay at the business so in 1985 they sold the Inn and bought Newtown House Hotel on Hayling Island. Then via a wildly successful French restaurant in Shere, Surrey, they moved to a sea-front hotel at Worthing, but all the time popping back to Maisemore whenever business allowed.

Doreen became ill and died in 1993. As their businesses were always a partnership of skills, without her Geoff could not, nor wanted to, continue, so he sold up and came home to Emsworth.

Having done accounts all his working life, he soon found himself needed. He did the accounts for a fish and chip shop, was for a while treasurer of MGL, and in 2000 took over as treasurer for the Museum, which he did for 16 years before a suitable replacement volunteered.

His knowledge of wines was useful, when at first he worked part-time in the wine shop at Westbourne, until a friend with a chain of motor-factors asked him to help part-time at his warehouse in Alton.

Geoff had many interests - food, wine, railways, family history research, playing cards, dancing and crossword puzzles - and DIY skills which he'd honed at all the various properties he'd lived in, including two French houses. With his warm, easy-going nature, always considerate, never selfish, he mopped up friends wherever he went and many of these interests overlapped.

He went away as often as he could - a few days on trains with another railway buff, a short organised trip with the museum to somewhere interesting, a tour in the car to research family history at some far-flung Record Offices, or a week or so in Spain or Italy with kind friends at their houses, not to mention going with Nick to his own house in France to patch it up some more. Latterly the oedema in his legs curtailed these and, while he continued to pursue his Family History project, he began to feel like 'a prisoner in his own home'. With ever failing health he was no longer able to cope at home, and so moved into White Lodge where he died a few weeks later, just after his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.



## Friends of Maisemore Gardens

As you will have seen from other communications, and the appeal at the AGM, the Friends of Maisemore Gardens are looking to recruit new blood and to broaden the appeal of the activities they organise to ensure that residents of all ages feel included. The 'Friends' are an informal group of residents who organise social events for all living in Maisemore Gardens and are independent of the Council of Management.

Funds are raised by donations and ticket sales for some of the events. Some of the profits are given to charities chosen by residents. For example, as reported in the last newsletter, a D-Day celebration last year was organised by Helen Pettitt and Suzy Daniels along with Martin and Patrice Price and some Friends of Maisemore Gardens. From this we donated £60 to "WW2 Veterans in 2024" who helped us to encourage Mick to come out to the Green and £40 went to "Hounds for Heroes" as well.

The Wine Tasting that was also briefly mentioned, was an event also organised by Helen, Suzy and Friends of Maisemore Gardens. This was to raise money for Alzheimer's Society following the deaths of John and Vivienne Fifield. We raised £450 from this event as well as giving a donation of £100 from FoMG funds to James Fifield for his Charity Walk for Alzheimer's.

VE day was celebrated this year by a few hardy people since the weather was rather unkind.

● **BOULES/GET**  
● **TOGETHER** ●  
**ON THE GREEN**  
**Every Wednesday at**  
● **5pm** ●

**Bring a chair and a drink and meet your neighbours!**

that people can drop into and enjoy (such as the boules). Come and join in whenever you like – everybody is welcome, whether they want to play or just socialise. Again, other suggestions always welcome.

The Summer lunch party is, of course, the traditional big event each year (details alongside). Innovations this year will include barbeques being available (with help, if required) for anybody who wants to bring along something to cook as part of their picnic lunch. There will also be new activities for all ages. See you there!

Thank you to those residents that have already expressed willingness to help and have contributed time and creativity to working on future developments. The more people we have, the less we need to rely on just a few individuals and the more we will be able to meet the wishes of the community. Please come along to any events that you like the look of and please do add your individual talents and creativity – water sports, baking, music, cooking and art are all in current plans, so please add your own talents.

It's great to have regular small neighbourly events

**Saturday 19th July from 1pm  
on the Green**

**SUMMER  
LUNCH  
PARTY**

**Tickets £5**  
(available soon)

**Welcome Drink and Puddings included**

**Bring own picnic lunch, drinks, table, chairs, etc.**  
**Barbecue available for cooking own food**

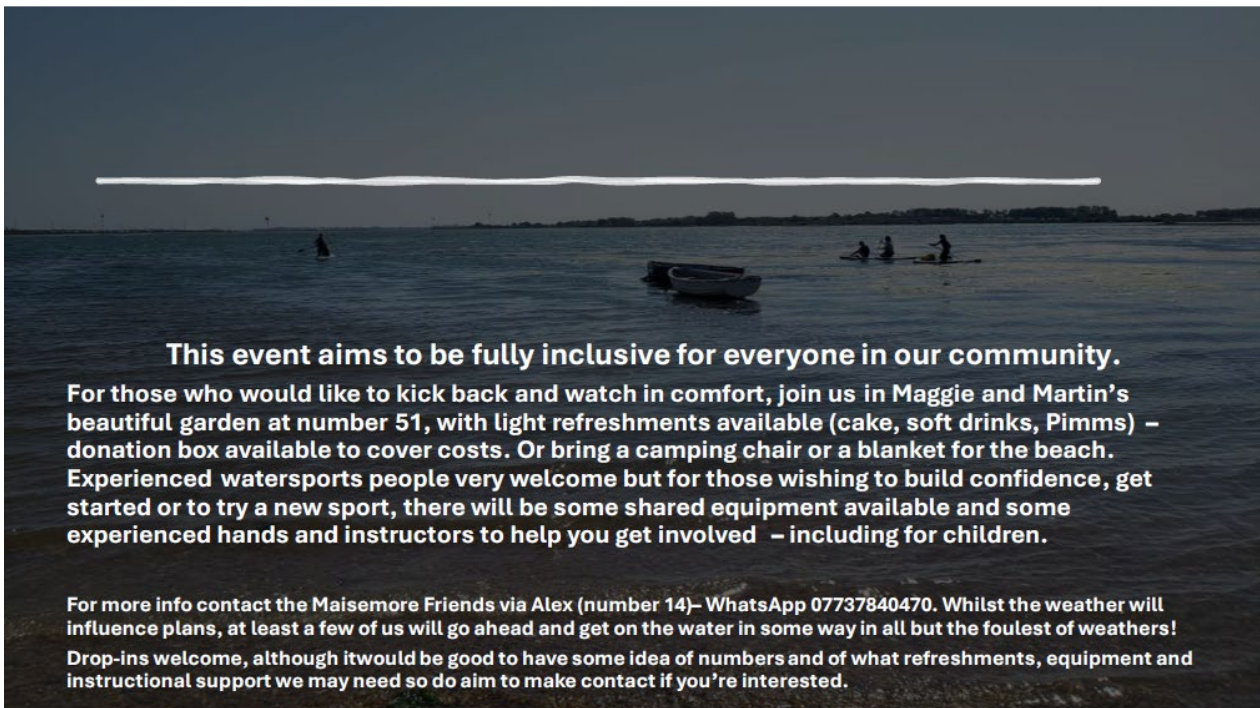
Here is a totally new and innovative event, that hopefully many residents will support and enjoy:



## Maisemore Pop-up Sailing Club

Inaugural event – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June  
2-5pm  
Location: Dinghy Park and foreshore – with the Clubhouse hosted at Number 51

An open invitation for the whole Maisemore community – refreshments overlooking the water, equipment and instruction available, all ages and experience (and confidence!) levels accommodated. Come and see friends, meet new ones and make the most of our incredible location and facilities.



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**This event aims to be fully inclusive for everyone in our community.**

For those who would like to kick back and watch in comfort, join us in Maggie and Martin's beautiful garden at number 51, with light refreshments available (cake, soft drinks, Pimms) – donation box available to cover costs. Or bring a camping chair or a blanket for the beach. Experienced watersports people very welcome but for those wishing to build confidence, get started or to try a new sport, there will be some shared equipment available and some experienced hands and instructors to help you get involved – including for children.

For more info contact the Maisemore Friends via Alex (number 14)– WhatsApp 07737840470. Whilst the weather will influence plans, at least a few of us will go ahead and get on the water in some way in all but the foulest of weathers! Drop-ins welcome, although it would be good to have some idea of numbers and of what refreshments, equipment and instructional support we may need so do aim to make contact if you're interested.