

October 2024 Meeting – David Soanes & Richard Rigby “Medical Detection Dogs”

The first meeting of the new season of Ardleigh and District Horticultural Society was held on Thursday, 10th October, 2024, at Ardleigh Village Hall. It was attended by a record number of 41 people. The evening began with the Annual General Meeting of ADHS, where a report on the past year's activities and review of finances were given. The committee was elected, with one new member joining. Special thanks were offered to Rosie and Kevin Jackson for their continued dedication to the Society and its activities. Thanks were also extended to all Committee members and others that have helped throughout the year. Both the Plant and Cake Sale in May and Annual Flower and Produce Show were a great success, with increased attendance and entries.

Following on from the AGM, a talk was given by representatives of Medical Detection Dogs (MDD). For over 10 years MDD have been training dogs to save lives by using their amazing sense of smell. From detecting disease to alerting owners to life-threatening conditions, the dogs offer a reliable, cost effective and simple solution to detecting disease without the need for intrusive, unpleasant treatment. MDD was founded by Dr Claire Guest, who was alerted by her own dog to an undiagnosed condition that was successfully treated. Their HQ is in Milton Keynes, where they train and engage their dogs in medical research. They insist that no dog is put into a kennel but instead they live in volunteer homes. It costs around £29,000 to train an MDD and it is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions.