

Edgworth and District Horticultural Society

Chairperson's Report for the AGM of 2020

A huge welcome to those of you reading this in advance of our modified 'AGM/Committee meeting' to be held 18 November 2020. This year has been very different for us all and as a society we have only held 2 meetings in January and February. Looking back, how I used to enjoy our monthly 'get togethers' meeting friends for a chat, sharing our news and exchanging tales of joy and woe regarding our gardening exploits. All fuelled by informative talks and tea and cake. I hope you have been able to access Irene Spencer's excellent monthly newsletters, full of 'titbits' about members' activities and suggestions of gardens to visit. Thank you Irene for making this happen and my thanks to all who have contributed articles.

The day to day running of the society has continued as usual but with committee meetings held 'virtually'. Thank you to Phil Broughton for setting these up, hosting them and ironing out the problems for those of us less familiar with the technology. Phil is also our treasurer and has maintained our accounts. Katie Hopkins has audited this year's accounts. My thanks to both of them for their hard work.

The society has continued to support its active community projects throughout the year. The Tebay Garden at St Ann's church, the bed to the front of the Barlow and the Liquid Amber Tree [planted by Roy Lancaster] have all been replenished and maintained. The planters around the village funded and organised by EHS and North Turton Parish Council had a fine showing of spring bulbs and were later planted with summer bedding by Arthur Lane nursery, which has cheered us all. Our addition of hanging baskets to the Barlow front entrance and the Canopy also gave a blast of colour. Our future project restoring the Chapelton Rest Garden has been delayed due to the Covid restrictions but plans of the existing area and the current plants have been drawn up by David Spencer.

My thanks to Heather Dowle, Phil, Glenys Syddall (NTPC), Pat Whalley and David for their work on these projects.

We are keen to encourage horticulture in our area for the benefit of all. We have used monies from the 'Legacy' fund and offered to fund 2 local horticultural projects to the value of £ 500-00. This has been advertised on our website and in local magazines. We will announce the recipients of these monies after 18 November.

The programme of meetings for 2020 will be rolled over to 2021 where possible; we are investigating the possibility of holding 'virtual' meetings if our speakers would be willing to do this. **Please** tell us if you would like to try this. Thanks to Pat Whalley for again organising our programme.

Membership for 2020 will be rolled over to 2021 as we have had so few meetings. No subs to pay! Thank you to Angela Swallow for taking over as Membership Secretary in this difficult year. Don't forget that you will get a discount at Arthur Lane Nursery and Maher's shop in Bolton if you show your membership card. Sutton's Seeds also give us an excellent discount on seeds, plants and equipment. Just enter our unique code.

We have been unable to enjoy our days out, holidays and the Annual Show this year, but we will be back as soon as it is safe to do so. My thanks go to all the committee members for all the 'groundwork' they did for these non-events, it will come in useful later. And yes we will need people to grow plants to sell at the show in 2021 and to help on the day.

Keep yourselves Safe; hopefully we will be able to meet up soon.

Jean Turner, Chairperson