

Edgworth and District Horticultural Society

Annual General Meeting - 17th November 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

	Members Present – 82 members attended with 1 visitor
1	Apologies: Mrs. Anne M. Windsor, Mary Eidlow, Mary Horrocks, Beryl Carline, Ian Harvey and Michael & Judith Phillips,
2	Minutes of the 2009 AGM were read, approved, and signed by the Chairman 2 new members were welcomed, Medwyn Owen (who won the Dahlia cup at the 2010 Show) and Ann Harris.
3	Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.
4	Chairman's Report This is to be the last AGM led by Barbara Kenny as Chairman. She has agreed to remain as a committee member.
	The Chairman read through her annual report, a copy of which is attached, and commented particularly on the ever growing membership. Since 1974 the number of members has increased from about 100 to 239 at present, with average attendance having increased from 39 to 74. Thanks were given to the committee who work very hard to ensure that the Society flourishes. Small sub-groups work on different things such as producing a newsletter twice a year, show schedules and finally a very impressive new web-site which represents the work of the Society. The committee rarely changes much, but we do not want to appear as a closed shop, new members would be welcomed. Many members come forward to help with the Show, without which we would not be able to manage. Next year we are planning to invite more members to help with various activities as and when the need arises.
	The small membership fee of £2.50 pa is used to pay for good speakers and subsidising trips if that should be necessary.
	The Show is our big event of the year and planning begins in January. It is always very hard work on the day but is well worth the effort as it is always enjoyed by both members and public alike. The Show raffle raised £165.90 for 'Toy Box', a charity which helps to support street children in Latin America.
	Another highlight is our annual 4-day holiday. This year we went to Norfolk and visited some wonderful gardens. I particularly liked Bressingham and Will Giles' Tropical Garden.
	She outlined the Highs and Lows of her time as Chairman. There were many 'Highs' including the visit by Roy Lancaster, appearing in Lancashire Life, the visit of Mr. Barlow's descendant on the occasion of the Barlow Institute Centenary celebrations and recently meeting the Bishop of Manchester during his pilgrimage around the diocese.
	As for the 'Lows', there weren't many, but it does always seem to rain hard when we have our visits. Also, her worst nightmare is when the speaker doesn't turn up, which has happened occasionally. We aim to be prepared in future with an emergency talk by a committee member or a quiz.

5	Treasurer's Report:
	<p>The treasurer talked through a Powerpoint presentation of the summary of the Society's accounts previously distributed to members. (Summary is attached)</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The closing balance was £4,450, up from £4,139.84 last year ❖ The Show made a surplus of £372. 55 which is more than last year ❖ Membership had increased
	The treasurer thanked the auditor for his dedicated and thorough work on the Society's accounts
	Thanks were also given to Norman Woffenden for obtaining the advertisements for the schedule which finance the production of the publication. John King was also thanked for producing the schedule and managing to keep the cost of printing the advertisements within budget.
	<p>There is a risk in paying a lot for good speakers so a good attendance at meetings is important.</p> <p>Also whenever a coach is booked for a trip we have to cover the cost whether it is full or not. In future, in the event of a member cancelling a booking on a day trip, only part of the money paid is likely to be repaid. A refunds policy will be determined by committee and published with the trip booking/ticketing.</p> <p>The costs of the Show amount to nearly £1200 and are a financial risk.</p> <p>The money in the bank necessary to cover these financial risks is assessed annually and this year there is spare capacity to buy things for the society or Edgworth.</p>
	<p>Annual subscriptions will remain at £2.50 for the coming year.</p> <p>Monthly admittance charges will remain at £1.00 members (£2.00 non-members) for the time being.</p> <p>Because of the problems of the Barlow Institute who are likely to have their financial support from BwDBC withdrawn, it is anticipated that the hire costs for the room will rise. Should this happen, the admittance charges will be reviewed by the committee.</p>
	<p>The Treasurer proposed to simplify the banking arrangements by using e-banking (i.e. internet banking). This allows a better rate of interest to be earned. The introductory bonus on these accounts is usually only for one year so it is our intention to open a new account after each AGM and transfer the balance.</p> <p>Because it is an e-account payments can be made by any individual who is authorised. These will be the Treasurer and Vice Treasurer. As a regular check, the treasurer will deliver a financial report and bank statement at each committee meeting.</p> <p>The Constitution will require amendment and accounting arrangements and safeguards will also be prepared</p>
	The chairman thanked the treasurer for his thorough work on the accounts in 2010.
6	Amendments to the Constitution (see appendix)
	There was a majority vote in favour of the amendment with 1 abstention.
	Elections
7	Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Barry Scanlon was elected as Chairman ❖ Phil Broughton was elected as Treasurer ❖ Irene Spencer was elected as Secretary

8	<p>Committee The members of the 2011 committee were re-elected as follows John King, Sue Matthews, Carol Murphy, Barbara Kenny, David Spencer, Jean Turner, Pat Whalley, Norman Woffenden, Keith Shatwell and Sue Brohi</p>
	<p>Carole Frudd has decided to leave the committee but will remain on the web group and the newsletter group. She will also be willing to be called on to help with any other tasks. Thanks were given by Barry Scanlon for the work Carole has done during her year on the committee.</p>
	<p>Barry Scanlon was elected Chairman unopposed. He thanked Barbara for her work and commented on her passion and love for the Society which was a credit to her. A gift voucher from Hollands Nursery was presented to her from the Society. He thanked members for electing him and told how he joined the Society in 1983 and was made Treasurer in 1984. He would like to see our Society getting involved in more horticultural work in the community and hoped that we can still continue our meetings in the Barlow Institute for many years to come, despite their problems.</p>
9	<p>Auditor David Mason was re-elected as auditor</p>
10	<p>2011 Programme</p>
	<p>Thanks were given to Pat for arranging a very interesting and varied programme for 2011. Next year Christine Walkden from the One Show and Christine's Garden is coming to talk to us. This will be the highlight of the year and tickets will be available in due course. The other big event is our annual 4-day trip, this year to Dorset where we will visit several gardens which are not necessarily normally open to the public. We always have a wonderful time with excellent friendly company.</p>
11	<p>Open Forum</p>
	<p>Suttons Seeds have supplied us with 50 catalogues and we can save 33% on seed supplies and 10% on plants and sundries. The scheme will be organised by Amanda Mason. To qualify for the discount there is a minimum order of £50 collectively and if over £150 a further discount applies from which the society would benefit. The order forms are to be handed in to Amanda by 16th January and orders will be delivered to the purchasers own address. There is a postal charge of £1.00 per order.</p>
	<p>We were asked for the latest news of the Barlow Institute's situation, but we are equally in the dark.</p>
	<p>The Annual General Meeting closed at 8.40, and members proceeded to the pie and peas supper and the seed swap. There was also a quiz on each table with a prize for the winning table of a box of chocolates.</p>

Signed

Dated