

Edgworth & District Horticultural Society

42nd Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 18th November, 2015

7.30 pm at The Barlow, Edgworth

	Members Present: 71
1.	Apologies: Gretchen Roth, Angela Adamson, Barry Scanlon , Judith Scanlon, Jenny Manning and Barbara Kenny,
2.	Minutes: The Minutes of the 2014 AGM were distributed on tables and accepted as an accurate record having been proposed by Geoffrey Minshull and seconded by Geoffrey Whalley. All were in favour and they were signed by the Chairman.
3.	Matters Arising: None
4.	Chairman's Report: The Chairman (Phil Broughton) welcomed everyone to this year's AGM. His report was accompanied by a power point presentation with photographs of the various activities of the Society during 2014. He began by thanking all who had helped in any way throughout the year and went on to summarise some of the highlights of the 2014 programme particularly mentioning 'Incredible Edible': an idea which began in Todmorden, Lancashire a few years ago where vegetables are grown on spare land, by volunteers from the community and this provides free food for the community. The idea has spread to become worldwide. Herbs: a talk by the very knowledgeable Paul Turner from N. Yorks. Sarah Raven: Our celebrity speaker for this year, ticket sales were slow initially, but were virtually sold out in the end. She gave a very interesting talk entitled '50 Most Productive Plants'. All meetings were very well attended, usually by 70 - 95 members, although January had a low attendance probably due to the very bad weather that particular evening. The Chairman thanked Pat Whalley who had again arranged an excellent programme for the monthly meetings in 2016. Membership continues to increase with the number of new members 2 - 3 times higher than 10 years ago. Statistically attendance at each meeting is around a third of the total membership with two thirds of members attending regularly. Hypothetically, it is possible that at some time we might be saying that the hall is full and have to turn people away, hopefully that won't happen. Seating capacity in the Hall is 120. Visits were all well supported. Evening Visit: 50 members visited The Barn on the Green, Inglewhite in May. Spring Visit: Fully booked coach took members to Wollerton Old Hall & Hodnett Garden, Market Drayton. Autumn Visit: Cath's Garden Plants with morning coffee at Heaves Hotel, Lunch at Brockhole, the Visitor's Centre for the Lake District followed by a visit to Holehird. David Spencer was thanked for organising the complicated arrangements for this trip.

	<p>Finally an extra visit to Harlow Carr. As the Society is now an affiliated member of RHS we are entitled to take up to 55 members each year to any RHS garden and have free admission.</p> <p>This proved very popular and we quickly filled a coach and also took 2 cars</p>
	<p>4-day Holiday to the gardens of South Shropshire/Herefordshire. Once again a great success visiting many interesting and varied gardens. The coach was disappointing as it was old and the air conditioning failed. Attempts were made to rectify the problem but this took some time and meant hours on the phone by Jean Turner and Brightwater Holidays. As a result the coach firm offered £50. 00 refund and Brightwater offered £250. 00 resulting in a £5. refund to all travellers.</p> <p>The hotel was in the centre of Hereford and quite close to the Cathedral which was a bonus for many.</p> <p>Choice of hotels is somewhat limited due to the number of single rooms required.</p>
	<p>Show: Planning begins in January and special thanks were given to Tony Murphy who is not a committee member but works extremely hard as Show Secretary.</p> <p>Takings were up despite the fact that the number of entrants decreased.</p> <p>However, this is explained by the fact that the number of entries had increased.</p>
	<p>Thanks were given to all who help to make the Show such a success including:</p> <p>All Stewards</p> <p>Café. All who provide cakes and who work so hard in the Café.</p> <p>Plant Stall. All who grew on seeds or plug plants or donated from their gardens and the stewards who helped on the day.</p> <p>The Barlow Volunteers who constantly support us.</p>
	<p>Volunteers help the committee throughout the year in various ways and appreciation goes to them also.</p> <p>Newsletter. Janet Faulkner assists Phil Broughton and Sue Brohi with this. Janet's contribution is the excellent article 'Where am I?' Members were asked to forward any contribution which would be of interest to other members.</p> <p>Garden Beds. All the volunteers who maintain both the Tebay Memorial bed and The Barlow bed.</p> <p>Cakes. All who provide cakes or help serve tea at monthly meetings and special meetings such as Celebrity speakers etc. when greater numbers are expected.</p> <p>Please continue to volunteer to help in any way you can. Your help is much appreciated.</p> <p>Web site. Help is needed to keep this up to date. You may like to submit relevant items for inclusion which would interest members.</p>
	<p>Bursary 'The EHS Norman Woffenden Bursary' has been given by Beryl Woffenden in memory of her late husband, Norman, to a student at Myerscough College. The recipient will be chosen and announced soon by the College and it is hoped that he/she will visit us at a future meeting.</p>
	<p>Suttons Seeds offer us an excellent discount on orders using the specific code given to the Society. This is so popular that extra catalogues are to be requested.</p>
5.	<p>Treasurer's Report : The Treasurer (Keith Shatwell) provided copies of the Financial & Summary Reports to 30th September, 2015 for members to see. These documents, (<i>Appendices 1 & 2</i>) are attached to these Minutes.</p> <p>The fee for Sarah Raven was £2,500 which was not recovered by ticket sales and was subsidised by the Society but she gave a really good talk and was considered worth</p>

	<p>the investment.</p> <p>The Show was very successful, financially taking in £1,621.</p> <p>He announced that a loss is usually made on the monthly meetings due to increased hire charges for the hall and the rising cost of speakers, therefore, from January 2016 the door cost is to increase by 50p. to £1.50 for members and £3. 00 for non members.</p> <p>He thanked Pat Whalley who had brought in over £1,000 in advertisers in the Show Schedule.</p> <p>The Treasurer also thanked John Sharp the Hon. Auditor for his work in checking the accounts.</p> <p>The closing balance was £4,250.99 - down from £4,545.37 last year</p> <p>The full Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes, (<i>Appendix 3</i>).</p>
6.	<p>Election of Officers for 2016</p> <p>Chairman - Phil Broughton</p> <p>Treasurer - Keith Shatwell</p> <p>Secretary - Irene Spencer</p> <p>All three officers were re-elected for the coming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed by Peter Matthias • Seconded by Anna Harvey • Agreed by all
7.	<p>Election of Committee for 2016</p> <p>Sue Brohi</p> <p>Martin Cox</p> <p>Carol Murphy</p> <p>David Spencer</p> <p>Jean Turner</p> <p>Pat Whalley</p> <p>All the committee members were re-elected for the coming year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed by Janet Faulkner • Seconded by Eileen Bailey • Agreed by all
8.	<p>Election of Auditor</p> <p>John Sharp was re-elected as Auditor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed by Andrew Waller • Seconded by Jean Turner • Agreed by all
9.	<p>2016 Programme</p> <p>Pat Whalley, (events secretary), detailed what promises to be a very interesting programme for the coming year. The talks are varied and the planned visits to Wentworth Castle Gardens, Cotes Farm and Arley Hall promise to be really good. The 4-day holiday continues to be very popular and books up very quickly. This year members will be off to visit Gardens of Suffolk and Essex July 23 - 26. Finally, we have a guest speaker coming in September, Chris Beardshaw, of television fame. It is a return visit for Chris who is a very gifted speaker.</p>
10	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>a) Peter Matthias pointed out that the Liquidamber tree which Roy Lancaster</p>

	planted a few years ago, behind The Barlow was being overshadowed by the nearby hedge. The hedge will be trimmed back. b) News was announced that the RHS is to create a north-west garden in the grounds of the old Worsley Garden Centre.
	The meeting ended at 8. 20 pm. It was followed by a social evening with a seed swap, power point slide show of the year's activities, quizzes and a potato pie supper

Signed.....

Dated.....