

Another Successful Annual Show



This year's Annual Show was another great success and a credit to our Society. The appalling weather during the week before the show gave the floral exhibitors a real headache, but they rose to the challenge to produce blooms of the highest standard.

Wet weather on the day of the show also produced a slow start, but a busy last hour ensured a good turnout of exhibits. In particular the handicrafts were well represented after a quiet showing last year. One of the busiest classes was 'A Model from Recyclable Materials' in the Junior Art Classes. The Judge was amazed by the creative and original ideas displayed by our young people.

The House and Container Plant classes were also very well represented, with a number of large architectural plants of particular interest.

Continuing poor weather during the afternoon meant attendances were down over last year, but still over 250 people and nearly 50 children visited the Show. The Society would like to thank Mark Hilton, Policy and Practice Manager for Neighbourhood Engagement, from Blackburn with Darwen Council for attending and presenting the cups.

This was the third year that the Society ran a café serving refreshments. The queue from opening to closing time paid testament to its great success. A huge thank you goes out to all those who supplied the cakes and sandwiches, and also to those who worked tirelessly serving all afternoon.



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This year's raffle produced £200 which was donated to MacMillan Nurses. We extend our thanks to all those who donated prizes. The story of this year's show can be seen in pictures on the Society's website - Carol Murphy



EVENTS



Annual Dinner Fri March 30th

Evening visit
Bents Garden Centre Wed May 16th

Meetings: (3rd Wed of month)
(1) Introduction to Old Tools (2) Gardening Made Difficult! (3) Dahlias to Delight (4) Plant Nutrition (6) Deciphering Plant Names (7) Herbs & their Benefits (9) Modern Roses (10) Plants for the Winter Garden (11) AGM and social evening



See Web-site for talk summaries



Membership £2; Meetings, including tea/coffee and cakes - £1 for members, £2 for visitors.



2007 Outings The autumn trip to Studley Royal was much enjoyed in 2006. So we're organising both Spring and Autumn trips again in 2007 -to Normamby Hall near Scunthorpe and later to Ness Gardens on the Wirral.

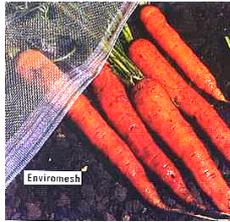


An even more ambitious plan is for an EHS-exclusive 4-day holiday, to the gardens of Northumberland. (We need 30 for this to go-ahead. See separate leaflet)

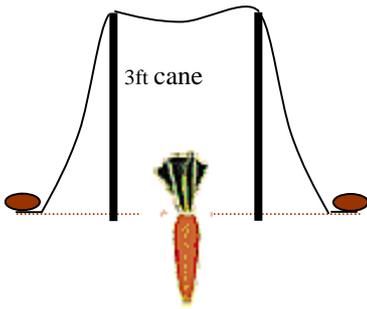
The Society's beginnings The Village Institute Committee called a public meeting on 9th November 1973 at which the current Society was formed, with a committee of 8. At its first meeting on the 14th, 2 more members were co-opted, one being Jim Tebay. Jim was one of the 2 remaining members of the **Turton & Edgworth Horticultural Society**, formed in 1912 and then, still existing. His involvement with both Committees established continuity and enabled the old accounts and money (£16.98!) to be transferred

On his death in 1985, the Society provided a memorial garden to him in St. Anne's Churchyard as a tribute to his overall contribution to both Societies & as speaker, judge and grower. It is still maintained by our Society's Committee.Continued overleaf

The carrot and the stick Living in Bromley Cross at an elevation of 600 feet above sea level and just below the High Veldt of Edgworth, I have had great difficulty in growing carrots – something probably experienced by many of your readers.



In the past the attempts have been ruined by the weather and attacks from the carrot root fly. Heavy doses of Bromophos and protection by fleece did not seem to be effective and manky small carrots riddled with holes from the carrot root fly were common so we gave up growing them for a few years. In 2006 however I tried an



entirely different tack and used

1. A raised bed of sand/soil and peat to get a good tilth, dry conditions and some warmth
2. No manure or fertiliser
3. A covering of the proprietary fine netting called Enviromesh arranged as shown in the diagram. The picture also shows the structure of the netting

which is extremely tough and allows sunshine and rain in to encourage growth. I got mine from Dobies but there must be other suppliers.

The results were amazing. No nasty chemicals were used (apart from a small scattering of slug pellets) and large perfect prize winning carrots (Autumn King) were harvested in late summer.

Enviromesh is expensive at £1 per foot length so this year's crop of carrots probably cost 20 pence each, but the mesh is very strong, can be reused for many years and the joy of getting chemical free tasty carrots in these difficult northern climes is worth the cost. Of course this is the result of one summers trial so we need to see what happens next year. – *Norman Woffenden* **Have other readers any experiences they can share? Hand-write, email or telephone.**

continued. Still awarded at our Annual Shows are eight cups that were transferred by the Village Institute Committee for our first Annual Show in August 1974obviously a pre-existing event at the time.

The **Turton & Edgworth Floral & Horticultural Society** held its first exhibition in 1860 (*Summer 2005 Newsletter*). It would be great if we could establish a link

Links to the **Edgworth & District Agricultural Society** have been suggested but none have been found. That Society was proposed in 1886 as a conversion from the Horse & Cattle Fair which had been held near the White Horse for over 100 years. The Society ran Fairs from 1887 until 1908 (also Turton Fair was held in Tower Street, Chapelton).

Was this interesting? Perhaps you can help? Village records holding pre-1974 information will take time to search or may be you know some snippets of information or perhaps more. Contact David Spencer on 307897 or email history@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk

Seasonal Tips on the Web

Our Web site now has seasonal tips regularly updated by John King as well as a host of pictures and more information about both talks and visits *The URL is on page 1*

AGM, 15th November, 2006. 59 people attended the AGM this year, which is a brilliant turnout. Could it be the business details, the potato pie supper or the quiz we held afterwards which was the great draw I wonder!

The Chairman, Barbara, changed the format this year. Everyone sat around tables in friendly groups and we had a Power Point Presentation with photos taken of members out on the various trips and at the show in August. She mentioned particularly the work the Society had done in the Community and how our website is developing and improving constantly. Do take a look, the details are on this newsletter.

An amendment was made to the Constitution which now allows the 3 Officers to serve for more than three years if they are willing to do so. We welcome Janet Comer and Sue Matthews onto the committee.

The Treasurer's report was as thorough as ever. Thanks were given to Mr. Neville Coates who has been auditor of the accounts for many years but has now decided to step down. We welcome David Mason who has offered to take over.

All this was over in less than an hour and supper was served, accompanied by a slide show, and followed by a quiz. A real challenge! - *Irene Spencer*

Contributions Please!

We'd like to hear from you, the members. Send us your thoughts on gardening topics or on the Society.

Perhaps you have a garden experience you could pass on – either amusing or a useful tip?

Send contributions by email or pass hand-written to a committee member