

Edgworth & District Horticultural Society

41st Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 19th November 2014

7.30 p.m. at The Barlow, Edgworth

	Members Present: 75
1.	Apologies - Sue Jeffries, Steve Longford, David Mason, Mr & Mrs M Stewart.
2.	Minutes - The Minutes of the 2013 AGM were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3.	Matters Arising - None.
4.	Chairman's Report - The Chairman (Phil Broughton) summarised the high points of 2014 and thanked all those individuals involved in the Society's successful year before asking for a similar level of support in 2015. His comments were accompanied by a detailed PowerPoint presentation. Details of his report can be viewed in Appendix 1 to these Minutes.
5.	Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer (Keith Shatwell) had supplied sufficient copies of the Financial & Summary Reports to 30/9/14 (including Movements in Cash Balances) for every member present at the meeting to examine the figures. These documents are Appendix 2 and 3 to these Minutes. He then went through a detailed PowerPoint presentation of the income and expenditure of the Society in 2014 and advised that the subscription cost to members at the end of 2015/2016 will increase by £0.50 to £3.00 p.a. The Accounts await the Auditor's return from holiday for audit.
6.	Amendments to the Constitution - Originally planned to put before the 2013 AGM, these were postponed and were put before this AGM after having been displayed at meetings for several months. Designed to bring the Constitution in line with common EHS practices over the last few years, after clarification by the Chairman the changes were agreed to by the meeting and formally adopted. A copy of the changes comprises Appendix 4 (6 pages) to these Minutes.
7.	Election of Officers - The Chairman & Treasurer are beginning their second year in office. The Secretary's role becomes vacant with the resignation of Amanda Mason who was thanked for her work as Secretary, planning and planting The Barlow garden and co-ordinating the plant stall at the annual show. Pat Whalley proposed Irene Spencer as the new Secretary (seconded by Amanda Mason). The proposal was agreed by the members present.
8.	Election of Committee - Following the resignation of David Mason in September 2014, the following additions to the Committee were agreed: Martin Cox (proposed by Phil Broughton, seconded by Sue Brohi), and David Spencer (proposed by Pat Whalley and seconded by Barbara Kenny). Tony Murphy is happy to work as the Show Secretary in 2015 and is available to be co-opted onto the Committee when required. The Committee for 2015 will be Sue Brohi, Phil Broughton, Martin Cox, Carol Murphy, Keith Shatwell, Irene Spencer, David Spencer, Jean Turner and Pat

	Whalley.
9.	Auditor - John Sharp is happy to continue as Auditor and will examine the Society's accounts in January 2015.
10.	2015 Programme - Pat Whalley detailed the speakers, visits and holiday planned for 2015 to the meeting, which are listed on the membership card for 2015. The dates for the Salop/Hereford holiday are to be 16th to 19th July rather than those on the card. The main speaker for the year is to be Sarah Raven in September and Stephen Lowe of Radio Lancs will present prizes at the annual show. In March, the annual dinner will return to The Red Lion, Hawkshaw. The evening visit in May will be to Inglewhite, June's visit will be to Wollerton Old Hall & Hodnet Hall, whilst September will see us visiting Holehird Garden in Windermere and more.
11.	Open Forum - no topics raised.
	The meeting closed at 20.25 hours. The evening continued with a music-accompanied slideshow providing a backdrop whilst members studied a quiz provided by Irene Spencer and a hot supper was served with wine and soft drinks.

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Chairman's Report (abbreviated)

Monthly Meetings & Membership - With membership numbers having been consistently high over the last few years, attendance at monthly meetings remains 2-3 times higher than 10 years ago, including at the AGM - something few Clubs and Societies can aspire to. Almost a third of the total membership attends each meeting.

2014 Programme - Review of the year's notable meetings as well as day/evening visits, the 4 day holiday and annual dinner, the latter returning to The Red Lion at Hawkshaw in 2015. All activities were very well supported by members.

Annual Show - A new cover for the **Schedule** was used in 2014 with outside printers being employed by the cover's designer. This was not without fault, with some revenue being lost due to errors in the advertisement. Despite these, the cost was comparable to previous years when the printing was done in-house. Views of the membership were asked for so that the schedule for 2015 can be discussed.

Plant sales achieved a new high in 2014 - many thanks to those who contributed plant to make this so successful.

The **café** opened at 13.30 hrs in 2014 and this will be repeated in 2015, after which the effects will be analysed and a decision made whether to make the revised opening time permanent. Again, thanks to everyone who helped and/or contributed to the success of this very useful income earner.

The main hall continues to be full of colour and fragrance at the show. Members' opinions were sought as to whether the **exhibitors of dahlias** (some of which are at national competition level) are deterring local, less accomplished exhibitors.

Visitor numbers were down slightly from 370 in 2013 to 284 in 2014 - the reasons are not clear.

The **number of entries** has increased, although the number of exhibitors has not. Younger exhibitors have increased (under 15) and some juniors are now exhibiting in adult classes. We'd like to **encourage more young people** to compete and views from the membership were sought as to how we could encourage this.

EHS in the Community - Volunteers from the Society continue to maintain and improve the Tebay and Barlow gardens. Thanks to all for their hard work.

Web Site & Newsletters - 2 Newsletters are published each year, in January and August. Again, we actively welcome and encourage input from any member to help bolster these activities. Computer skills are not required, but text and photographs would be very welcome for both the web site and the newsletters.

Appendix 1

The web site is regularly maintained, with additions to it covering trip reports, holiday reports, photographs, news, speakers' tips and updates to the home page every month.

Notification of future events which could be included in the monthly email to members would also be very welcome.

Helpers in 2015 are requested for:
the Tebay & Barlow gardens;
Teas and cakes;
Newsletters and web site content;
The annual show.

Thanks to all supporters of the Society, including:
everyone who helped at the annual show;
garden volunteers;
tea and cake-making at meetings;
the Committee;
The Barlow volunteers for helping to make The Barlow a very attractive venue.

Phil Broughton
Chairman
19th November 2014