

# Edgworth & District Horticultural Society

## 43rd Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 16th November, 2016

7.30 pm at The Barlow, Edgworth

	<b>Members Present:</b> 80 plus 1 new member who joined on the night
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Barbara Kenny, Sue Brohi, Peter Waring, Barbara Waring, Delphine Griffiths, Beryl Carline, Gaye Chadwick, Heather Gillespie and David Gillespie
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes:</b> The Minutes of the 2015 AGM which had been displayed on the website, were distributed on tables and accepted as an accurate record. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Proposed by David Spencer</li><li>o Seconded by Anna Harvey.</li><li>o All other members were in agreement and they were signed by the Chairman.</li></ul>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Arising:</b> None
<b>4.</b>	<b>Chairman's Report:</b> <p>The Chairman (Phil Broughton) welcomed everyone to this year's AGM. His report was accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation with photographs of the various activities of the Society during 2016. 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 2015 programme particularly mentioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Martin and Jill Fish whose talk in February, 'From Plot to Pot' explained the growing and cooking of their produce. They will make a return visit in 2017.</li><li>o Dr. Julia Haggard who described 'The Beekeeping Year'.</li><li>o Slack Top Nursery's talk on rock gardens</li><li>o And the Highlight of the year, our celebrity speaker, Chris Beardshaw who gave a very technical talk on 'How Does Your Garden Grow</li><li>o Lindsay Berry arrived in costume to talk about Mediaeval Gardening</li></ul> <p>The Chairman thanked Pat Whalley who had again arranged an excellent programme for the monthly meetings in 2016.</p>
	<b>Membership</b> Now around 250. This has dipped a little this year and so has attendance. This in part is due to the fact that if a subscription is not paid by the end of March, membership ceases as stated in the Constitution.
	<b>Visits</b> were all well supported. <p>Evening Visit: A record number of members visited Cotes Farm in May. Spring Visit: Fully booked coach took members to Wentworth Castle Gardens where they enjoyed a tour of the House, Conservatory and Gardens. This was followed by a visit to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park where the bluebells particularly were admired. Autumn Visit: Arley Hall &amp; Gardens, Beautiful gardens with an outstanding herbaceous bed. Unfortunately the weather was atrocious so the most popular attraction for many was the café.</p>
	<b>4-day Holiday;</b> The gardens of Suffolk and Essex. Once again a very enjoyable few days. The gardens were varied and included the famous apple tree in Sir Isaac Newton's Garden, Fuller's Mill with its Lakes and Bridges, Beth Chatto's Dry Garden,

	and several others including a garden centre where a problem with the coach was sorted out whilst we all enjoyed lunch.
	<b>Show:</b> 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. 270 visitors came along to the Show. The lowest since 2010. The weather was atrocious which may explain the fact that there were 30% fewer exhibitors but the ratio of exhibits per exhibitor had increased.
	Thanks were given to the committee and all volunteers who help in various ways, including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Those who maintain the Tebay Memorial Garden in St. Anne's churchyard and the garden bed at the front of The Barlow</li> <li>○ Tea and cake makers at the monthly meetings</li> <li>○ Newsletter team,</li> <li>○ Web site contributors</li> <li>○ All Stewards who helped with the Show,</li> <li>○ All who provided cakes and who worked so hard in the Café.</li> <li>○ All who grew on seeds or plug plants or donated plants from their gardens for the Plant Stall,</li> <li>○ Stewards who helped in any capacity on the day,</li> <li>○ The Barlow Volunteers who constantly support us.</li> </ul>
	<b>Holiday 2017 :</b> Visit to the gardens of Northern Ireland 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017. A reservation list for names was available together with full details.
	<b>Suttons Seeds :</b> A box of catalogues and order forms for 2017 was available. Suttons once again are offering members an excellent discount on orders (50% off seeds and 15% off other items). Members will need to use the specific code given to the Society, this is shown on the order form.
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report :</b></p> <p>Treasurer (Keith Shatwell) had provided prints of the Financial &amp; Summary Reports to 30th September, 2016 on every table at the meeting. These documents, (<i>Appendices 1 &amp; 2</i>) are attached to these Minutes. He highlighted some of the significant items in the accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Celebrity Speaker-</b> Chris Beardshaw. Ticket sales provided our largest income this year, £425. 36. There is usually a loss made on the monthly meetings but this surplus helped to reduce the overall loss.</li> <li>○ <b>The Annual Show</b> in August was let down by poor weather resulting in a drop of income. However, the Show itself was a success giving us a surplus of £419. 14. (The surplus in 2015 had been £731. 10).</li> <li>○ <b>Legacy</b> Geoffrey Nuttall, a past member, very kindly bequeathed the sum of £46,136. 44 to Edgworth &amp; District Horticultural Society. A report had been circulated outlining the Committee's considerations. The money is presently in the Society's current account and earns no interest. This is desirable but is not possible as a society. We have been advised that the best approach is for the Society to gain Charitable Status, since this also helps to ensure proper use of the funds.</li> <li>○ The charity and funds should be managed by the Committee and overseen by Trustees, who are suggested to be the Chairman. Treasurer and an independent person.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We are advised that the Constitution will meet the requirements of the Charity Commission but this will need their confirmation..</li> <li>○ The benefits to the Society are detailed on the attached Treasurer's Report. (<i>Appendix 3</i>).</li> </ul> <p>The Treasurer thanked :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pat Whalley - whose gallant efforts in selling advertising space in the Show Schedule had brought in over £1,055. 00.</li> <li>○ Plant Stall – stewards on the day and members who had grown the plants</li> <li>○ Café - for their sterling work</li> <li>○ All other members who had helped out on the day.</li> <li>○ John Sharp the Hon. Auditor for his work in checking the accounts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The closing balance was £51,154. 54 which includes a surprise Legacy of £46,136.44. See item 10.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Keith Shatwell announced that he has now completed 3 years as Treasurer and will now stand down as Treasurer</p> <p><i>Attached are the</i>  <i>Financial Report (appendix 1)</i>  <i>The Financial Summary (appendix 2)</i>  <i>The full Treasurer's Report (Appendix 3)</i></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Election of Officers for 2016</b></p> <p>Both the Chairman (Phil Broughton) and Treasurer (Keith Shatwell) had reached the end of their 3-year terms of office. Both were willing to continue as Officers and would swap roles.</p> <p>The secretary (Irene Spencer) has served for 2 of her 3 year term and was willing to continue.</p> <p>There were no other nominations for these posts so the proposed Officers for 2017 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairman - Keith Shatwell</li> <li>Treasurer - Phil Broughton</li> <li>Secretary - Irene Spencer</li> </ul> <p>All three officers were elected for the coming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposed by Peter Matthias</li> <li>○ Seconded by Andrew Waller</li> <li>○ Agreed by all</li> </ul>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Election of Committee for 2016</b></p> <p>All the current members were willing to serve in 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sue Brohi</li> <li>Martin Cox</li> <li>Carol Murphy</li> <li>David Spencer</li> <li>Jean Turner</li> <li>Pat Whalley</li> </ul> <p>In addition Liz Waller offered to join the committee</p> <p>All the above were re-elected /elected to the committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposed by Phil Broughton (<i>Proposer was Liz Waller at the meeting but this is clearly not right so Phil Broughton has agreed to do this in her place</i>)</li> <li>○ Agreed by all</li> </ul>

8.	<p><b>Election of Auditor</b>  John Sharp was re-elected as Auditor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposed by Keith Shatwell</li> <li>○ Seconded by Phil Broughton</li> <li>○ Agreed by all</li> </ul>
9.	<p><b>2017 Programme</b>  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 Harlow Carr, Temple Newsam and Trentham Gardens are all eagerly anticipated. The 4-day holiday continues to be very popular and books up very quickly. This year members will be off to visit Gardens of Northern Ireland July 23 – 26  Mahers and Arthur Lane Nursery again are offering members 10% discount.</p>
10.	<p><b>Legacy</b>  Phil Broughton presented the main points of the Committee discussion document about the Legacy which had been emailed to members in the week before the AGM and printed copies made available at the meeting.  The committee would like to see this asset protected both now and in the future so would like to consider applying for charitable status.  Suggested projects include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Edgworth in Bloom, involving residents, local businesses etc. with the Society contributing towards plants, planters, compost etc.</li> <li>○ Identifying areas that could be planted with trees or shrubs etc.</li> </ul> <p>On behalf of the committee he asked the AGM to support the course being followed and in particular to agree to go ahead with an application for EHS to become a charity.</p> <p>From the Floor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Peter Matthias suggested spending some of the money soon and not waiting for Charity Status. David Spencer agreed with this.</li> <li>○ Geoffrey Whalley, who has experience of running a Charity, pointed out that the work is onerous and more Trustees would be needed. Keith Shatwell replied that his advice was that it would not be onerous if turnover remains under £10,000 since we would not need to report to Charity Commission.</li> <li>○ Barry Scanlon requested more information and queried that earning interest is allowed. He requested an EGM to explain the implications when all enquiries have been made.</li> <li>○ Margaret Berry felt that people could be deterred from joining the committee if Charity Status is obtained as it would be more onerous.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolution:</b> The Committee were asked to investigate the implications then report back to the members at an EGM.  Proposed – Ian Thornton  Seconded – Geoffrey Whalley  All Agreed</p> <p>Attached are :-  Committee discussion document (Appendix 4)  Map outlining the “District” covered (Appendix 5)</p>

<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Open Forum</b>  Michael Arundel thanked the Society for taking part in the Heritage Weekend at St. Anne's Church, Turton on 10<sup>th</sup> September last. He complimented the Society on its display.  A bottle of wine was won by Ann Harris after finding the winning card under her chair</p>
	<p>The meeting ended at 8. 45 pm.  It was followed by a social evening with a seed swap, PowerPoint slide show of the year's activities, quizzes and a potato pie supper with wine.</p>

Signed.....

Date.....