

Edgworth & District Horticultural Society

44th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 15th November, 2017

7.30 pm at The Barlow, Edgworth

	Members Present: 86 members attended the meeting
1.	Apologies: Peter Mathias, Janet Mathias, David Bonser, Lynne Bonser, Barbara Waring and Pauline Lowe
2.	<p>Minutes: The Minutes of the 2016 AGM which had been displayed on the website all year were distributed on tables and accepted as an accurate record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed by David Spencer ○ Seconded by Barry Scanlon. ○ All other members were in agreement and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.
	Matters Arising: None
3.	<p>Chairman's Report: (Appendix a attached)</p> <p>The Chairman (Keith Shatwell) began his report by welcoming everyone to this year's AGM, his first as Chairman. He informed members that a lot of time had been taken up with matters relating to the Legacy received last year and how best to invest and protect it both now and in the future. To this end, with help from Jeff Allsebrook and his team from Hawarths Accountants in Accrington, changes to the Constitution had to be made. Members attending will be asked to approve these amendments later in the meeting.</p> <p>He thanked all who had helped in any way throughout the year and went on to summarise some of the highlights of the 2017 programme particularly mentioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Martin and Jill Fish whose talk in February, 'From Plot to Pot – the Sequel' explained the growing and cooking of their produce on this, their second visit. ○ David Tideswell, whose talk on garden robins was very entertaining. ○ Evening and day outings were well supported <p>The Chairman thanked Pat Whalley who had again arranged an excellent and varied programme for the monthly meetings in 2017.</p>
	<p>Visits:</p> <p>Evening Visit: The Secret Garden, Worsley. A beautiful surprise, attended by many.</p> <p>RHS Visit: Harlow Carr Spring Festival through the Society's affiliation to RHS. The daffodils and tulips were spectacular.</p> <p>Spring Visit: Fully booked coach took members to Temple Newsam in Leeds.</p> <p>Autumn Visit: Trentham Gardens with an optional trip to Wedgwood.</p> <p>He also thanked the committee members who arranged the day trips also visiting the venues in advance to assess suitability.</p>
	<p>4-day Holiday to Northern Ireland was excellent in every way. Trevor Edwards our tour guide was a delight with horticultural knowledge second to none, he knew the owners of the fabulous gardens we visited. We even had an extra treat squeezed in, a visit to the building of the Titanic Experience in Belfast.</p>
	<p>Show: The Show was again a success, with several hundred visitors. Despite the wet and windy conditions of the morning. He thanked all who helped in any way. Special thanks to Tony Murphy, who though not a committee member gives the</p>

	Society a great deal of time, help and support particularly as Show Secretary.
	<p>Thanks were also given to the committee and all volunteers who help in various ways throughout the year , including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tea and cake makers at the monthly meetings ○ Newsletter team, ○ Web site contributors ○ All Stewards who helped with the Show, ○ All who provided cakes and those who worked so hard in the Café. ○ All who grew on seeds or plug plants or donated plants from their gardens for the Plant Stall, ○ Volunteers who helped in any capacity on Show Day, ○ The Barlow Facilities Team who constantly support us.
	Membership Now totals 236 including 4 life members.
	<p>Carol Murphy has been a valued member of our team for several years but has decided to leave the committee. She will, however, remain as Membership Secretary. She was presented with a floral display as a thank you for her contribution to the Society.</p> <p>Liz Waller has also decided to leave the committee after 1 year. We are grateful for the contribution Liz made to the Society.</p>
	The chairman appealed for more members to volunteer to join the committee.
	The Society's website carries all activities and news and the half yearly newsletter is available by website or hard copy. Members were asked to give their e-mail address to a committee member if they had not already done so.
	The Chairman's full report is attached (<i>Appendix a</i>)
4.	<p>Treasurer's Report :</p> <p>Treasurer (Phil Broughton) had provided copies of the Financial Report (<i>appendix b</i>) & Summary Report (<i>appendix c</i>) to 30th September, 2017 on every table at the meeting.</p> <p>These documents, (<i>appendices b & c</i>) are attached.</p> <p>The Treasurer highlighted some of the significant items in the accounts with a power-point presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was no Celebrity Speaker this year but the programme was excellent. ○ The Annual Show raised ○ The Annual Show raised £138.23 which is less than last year and is made up as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £366.23 Surplus before assets spend <u>-£227.91</u> Expenditure on Show Assets which will be used in years to come. £138.32 ○ £200 in prize money was claimed which exceeded the amount paid in and this is rising every year. This needs to be reviewed. ○ Special Expenditure of £227.91 was to provide lighting above the floral art exhibits. This greatly improved the exhibits and is an asset that will be used for years to come. ○ Thanks were given to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pat Whalley & Sue Brohi for persuading local businesses to advertise in the schedule raising £1,275, this amount covers the cost of printing ▪ The Advertisers themselves for their support. ▪ The plant stall staff who worked tirelessly in gales and rain to raise a

	<p>significant income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cafe staff who also raised a significant income. ▪ The donors of plants and cakes for sale. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ £479 was raised from entries on Saturday afternoon. 376 people visited. ○ Expenditure included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printing costs- £700 Hire of the Barlow - £550 ○ Restoring some cups and trophies ○ Rosettes ○ Overall the Show the show produced a surplus of £138.32 ○ The raffle enabled a donation of £282 to The Bolton Hospice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed by Pat Whalley ○ Seconded by Barbara Kenny ○ Agreed by all
	<p>Bequest</p> <p>Geoffrey Nuttall, (deceased), a past member, bequeathed the sum of £46,136. 44 to Edgworth & District Horticultural Society. This was announced at the 2016 AGM. Following a lively discussion, members asked the committee to investigate the various options open to the Society for investment of this sum and how to protect it in the future and report back.</p> <p>Liaison with Jeff Allsebrook from Hawarths' Accountants in Accrington and an Independent Financial Advisor have helped the committee recommend</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'LEAVING THE SOCIETY AS IT IS NOW, WITH STRENGTHENED CONSTITUTION AND WITH AN ASSET LOCK ADDED'</i></p> <p>As a result the Constitution has been revised and the proposed amendments made available on the website.</p> <p>Jeff Allsebrook informed members that a charge is normally made for investment advice but the fee would be waived for the Society.</p> <p>Investment Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bulk to be invested with Old Mutual for a 5 year term (instant withdrawals with no loss of interest). ○ Leave c£5,000 in current account to cover Society running costs, projects etc. ○ Safe risk investment in cash, bonds & equities producing c1% interest p.a. is in progress. ○ A review of the Investment will be held annually. ○ Use investment interest to fund horticultural projects in the community. <p>Spending the Bequest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects funded by investment interest. ○ Projects funded by investment capital. <p>Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help for the community ○ Flowers in Edgworth – Buy 50 planters and plants to place around Edgworth and ask householders & businesses if they are willing to care for them. Members (and other groups) will be asked to 'adopt' a tub. ○ Keen to collaborate with Parish Council who have a similar idea. ○ Employ gardeners to care for the Barlow bed and Tebay Memorial bed. ○ Members asked to form a sub-group to discuss further ideas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thirza Vickers asked for the wider Turton area to be considered when ideas are discussed, she was advised that this was the intention. <p>Recommendations to the AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To agree to retain the current status of the Society with the addition of an Asset Lock to ensure that all the Society's assets are protected against misuse. ○ To approve the addition of an Asset Lock. ○ To approve the revised Constitution. <p>Full report on Management of the Bequest (<i>appendix d</i>) is attached</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Constitution Amendments</p> <p>Professional advice given to the committee states that to include an Asset Lock the Constitution needs to be broadened to include the wider community.</p> <p>The Treasurer went through the committee's suggested amendments page by page hoping for approval from the membership. A detailed draft including reasons for changing certain areas was tabled and a copy is attached (<i>appendix e</i>)</p> <p>Page 1 - Approved</p> <p>Page 2 - Approved</p> <p>Page 3 - Approved subject to 'normal' being added to paragraph 5.</p> <p>Page 4 - Approved subject to Auditor being called 'Independent Examiner of the Accounts' (often described as Auditor)</p> <p>Page 5 - Approved - Proposed addition – A member may claim remuneration for permissible out of pocket expenses, but no member may claim a salary or loan. This will be subject to the Asset Lock and cannot be changed at any time in the future.</p> <p>Proposed by Eileen Bailey Seconded by Heather Dowle Agreed by all</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Election of Officers for 2018</p> <p>The Chairman (Keith Shatwell) and Treasurer (Phil Broughton) both agreed to stand for re-election after their first year in the positions. The secretary (Irene Spencer) has served for 3 years but was willing to continue.</p> <p>There were no other nominations for these posts so the proposed Officers for 2018 were:</p> <p>Chairman - Keith Shatwell Treasurer - Phil Broughton Secretary - Irene Spencer</p> <p>All three officers were re-elected for the coming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed by David Spencer ○ Seconded by Barry Scanlon ○ Agreed by all
	<p>Election of Committee for 2018</p> <p>Heather Dowle agreed to join the committee and was unanimously accepted</p> <p>The following members were re-elected /elected to the committee to serve in 2018:</p> <p>Sue Brohi Martin Cox David Spencer Jean Turner Pat Whalley Heather Dowle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreed by all

7.	<p>Election of Independent Examiner of Accounts</p> <p>John Sharp was re-elected as Independent Examiner of Accounts (previously referred to as Auditor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed by David Spencer ○ Seconded by Barry Scanlon ○ Agreed by all
8.	<p>2018 Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pat Whalley, (Events Secretary), detailed what promises once again to be a very interesting programme for the coming year. The talks are varied and the planned visits to Stoneyford Cottage and Mount Pleasant Gardens, Woodstock Barn And Cholmondley Castle 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 the beautiful gardens of the Cotswolds, July 21 – 24. ○ Mahers again are offering members 10% discount with the Maher’s card. ○ Arthur Lane Nursery are also offering members 10% discount with their EHS membership card. (Offer excludes multi-buy offers). ○ The chairman thanked Pat for once again putting together what promises to be a very varied and interesting programme for the coming year.
9	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eileen Bailey thanked Phil Broughton and the committee for all the work involved in researching the way forward with the Bequest and revised Constitution. ○ Barry Scanlon asked if the Barlow will still be suitable for the Show once their improvement plans go ahead. Phil Broughton replied that an agreement with the Barlow was in place that all the rooms would be available.
	<p>9. 00 pm the meeting ended and Keith Shatwell thanked everyone for coming. 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.....