

Edgworth & District Horticultural Society
Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 15th November, 2023

1a)	Apologies for absence: Anna Harvey, Barry Scanlon, Pam Duxbury, Stephanie Tarrant, Teresa Smith, Geoffrey Minshull and Mary Minshull
b)	Members Present: 54 Members were present 47 members paid their subscription for 2024
2.	Minutes of AGM held on 16th November, 2022: These minutes were accepted at the 2023 AGM as a true record. Proposed by Keith Shatwell Seconded by Barbara Kenny
a)	Matters Arising: No matters arising were raised
3.	Chairperson's Report: Jean Turner (chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting noting this was the 50 th AGM of the re-formed Society which began in 1973. At that time Carolyn Sutcliffe was a Junior Member and remains a member to this day attending most meetings. A celebration cake has been purchased and will be served after the potato pie. 3 committee members have resigned which leaves a committee of 7 instead of 12 as stated in the Constitution. With 170 members, she made a strong appeal for extra committee members or volunteers to help the dwindling committee with all kinds of tasks. She would particularly welcome volunteers willing to help with specific tasks such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintaining the planters in the villages • Understudies to work alongside those organising the accounts, the day trips and the holiday • Help with setting up the microphones at meetings. • Help with setting up and clearing away at meetings. • Help with refreshments or baking a cake. • Strong, able-bodied people would be most welcome on occasions. • Future shows are at risk without more help. Planning begins in January and involves a lot of arranging. • Help could come from family members, not necessarily gardeners. • All tasks can be done alongside someone else and no-one will be asked to do anything they are not comfortable with.
	Jean then listed the Society's achievements of 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 external speakers, often selling unusual plants • Free visit to RHS Bridgewater • Evening visit to a private garden in Brindle • 2 Day trips by coach • 4-day Holiday

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Parish Council to fund the planters in Edgworth and Chapeltown. • Plans to rejuvenate the Stocks Memorial Garden in Chapeltown • The Liquid Amber tree planted by Roy Lancaster in 2000 in the Barlow car park is looking good with lovely autumn colour. • Maintaining the Barlow and Tebay garden beds continues.
	<p>Legacy Funded Projects:£2,000 was awarded to fund the following local projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairy Garden, Hob Lane Edgworth • Eyrie Scout Hut, Bromley Cross • New Community Garden, Belmont • The Woodland edge at Chapel Grange, Chapeltown • Walmsley Church Garden of Remembrance, Egerton • Edgworth Primary School
	<p>Community Project: Crafty Green Fingers is a craft group organised by Lesley King. The aims are to encourage children and young families to take an interest in all things environmentally friendly and have links to gardening and nature. Also to try to encourage younger families to join EDHS. Hopefully these children might be encouraged to enter their craft item in future Shows. Thank you to Lesley King for organising this group.</p>
	<p>Show: Great show with more exhibitors and entries than 2022. Junior entries also saw an increase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tombola stall raised £200 (inc. Gift Aid) and was donated to Bolton Hospice, a charity chosen by Sir Jake Berry who presented the trophies. • The plant stall and café also did well. • A small surplus was made on the show.
	<p>Thanks were given to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stewards at the show for all their hard work on the day. • The committee for tireless efforts in the planning & execution of the show • Co-opted members who helped in various ways throughout the year • The facilities team at the Barlow • The advertisers in the schedule whose payments covered the cost of the schedule.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-day holiday is being considered and names were being listed to assess interest. • Suttons Seeds again offer members 50% discount on seeds & 10% on other items • Mahers of Great Lever offer members 10% discount on garden products • Arthur Lane Nursery no longer offer a discount to members
	<p>She ended by thanking everyone for coming adding a further plea for members to consider how they can help in some way. This is her last year as chairperson and she is hoping to find a replacement/ understudy for next year.</p>

4.	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Treasurer thanked Lesley King for Reviewing the Accounts. • Legacy Fund on 30th September 2023 stands at £42,622.44 • All investment withdrawals are made through Haworths and they take no charge • Garden maintenance on the Tebay Garden & The Barlow beds continues and is paid for by the Society • North Turton Parish Council obtained a grant for work done on Chapeltown Memorial Garden so there will be minimum cost to us. • Legacy account remains at £42,622 <p>Operating Fund used for running costs of the Society amounts to £4,948.77</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers often cost £200 per night <p>Show</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This made a bigger surplus than last year • Hire of The Barlow increases every year • The tombola stall did well raising £200 to donate to Bolton Hospice • Plant Stall doubled last year's surplus. • Thank you to all plant growers
5.	<p>Election of Officers:</p> <p>The 3 Officers were all re-elected for 2024</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chairperson - Jean Turner</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Treasurer - Phil Broughton</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Secretary - Irene Spencer</p> <p>Proposed by Pat Whalley Seconded by Barbara Kenny</p>
6.	<p>Election of Committee:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Pat Whalley (Events Secretary)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Angela Swallow (Membership Secretary)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Heather Berry (co-opted in 2023, now elected committee member)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sue Brohi</p> <p>Proposed by Pat Whalley Seconded by Barbara Kenny</p>
	<p>Committee Resignations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Spencer, Keith Shatwell and Heather Dowle have all resigned. Both David and Keith served as Chairmen of the Society in the past and all three have given generously of their time to serve on the committee. • Sadly Martin Cox passed away in September. He always organised the plant stall at the show and served for several years on the committee. • Another long-standing member, Brian Harfield has recently passed away also. He could always be relied on to grow on plug plants for the show.

7.	<p>Reviewer of Accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesley King was thanked for her work over the last three years. She now wishes to step down and a new volunteer was asked for. Post AGM - Judith Rowle volunteered to take on the role of Reviewer of Accounts for 2024.
8.	<p>Events Secretary's Report – 2024 Programme</p> <p>17th Jan. Gardening for the Future 21st Feb. Young Designer of the Year 2023 20th Mar. A Bucket Full of Stuff 17th Apl. Nerines & Agapanthus 15th May EVENING VISIT to Holly House, Croston Sat.8th June DAY OUT – Chatsworth Plant Fair 19th June Top 10 Garden Lessons Sat.22nd June Visit to Summer Flower Show, Harlow Carr 5th-8th July 4-Day Holiday to Gardens of Somerset 17th July The Floral Kitchen Sat.17th Aug. ANNUAL SHOW Sun.8th Sept. DAY OUT to Yewbarrow and Sizergh 18th Sept. Small trees for small places 16th Oct. Tulips, Past 'til present 20th Nov. AGM with potato pie supper & quiz (members only)</p> <p>Looking further ahead, the report ended with the announcement that Chris Beardshaw has been booked to give a talk in 2025.</p>
9.	<p>Open Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Berry was co-opted to the committee after the AGM 2022 and has now been elected as a full committee member. She made a plea to members for others to volunteer to help the committee in some way however small as she had enjoyed her involvement. She now edits the website and facebook pages for us. Janet Faulkner began by pointing out that the committee is now in crisis and reiterated Jean and Heather's pleas for more help either as a committee member or co-opted member to help with certain tasks. She pointed out that there is a danger the Society could fold if the committee numbers don't increase.
10.	<p>The meeting closed at 8.35 pm and was followed by a social evening with potato pie supper, quiz and a rolling slide show of our 2023 events.</p>

Signed.....

Dated.....