

Edgworth and District
Horticultural
Society



***40th Anniversary
1973 - 2013***



“A Potted History”

David Spencer

Current Committee

Barry Scanlon	Chairman
Keith Shatwell	Vice Chairman
Phil Broughton	Treasurer
Jean Turner	Assistant Treasurer
Irene Spencer	Secretary
Pat Whalley	Programme Secretary
Carol Murphy	Membership Secretary
David Spencer	Show Secretary
John King	
Sue Brohi	

Co-opted members:-

Barbara Kenny
Amanda Mason
David Mason

Previous Chairmen

John Hurst	1973 – 1976
Bill Kerr	1976 – 1978
Brian Arnold	1978 – 1992
Norman Woffenden	1992 – 2001
David Spencer	2001 – 2004
Barbara Kenny	2004 – 2010
Barry Scanlon	2010 – 2013

Previous Treasurers

David Finch	1973 – 1981
John King	1981 – 1983
Barry Scanlon	1983 – 1988
Harold Bailey	1988 – 1996
Tom Richardson	1986 – 1998
John Jackson	1998 – 2003
Phil Broughton	2003 – 2013

Previous Secretaries

Jean Entwistle	1973 – 1977
Brian Arnold	1977 – 1978
Jean Entwistle	1978 – 1981
John Bull	1981 – 1983
John King	1983 – 1995
Christine Aiken	1986 – 2001
(Minutes)	
Annette Cutts	2001 – 2003
Irene Spencer	2003 – 2007
John King	2007 – 2009
Irene Spencer	2009 – 2013

**N.B. Dates refer to November
AGM's**

Preface

Edgworth Horticultural Society's 40th Anniversary

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the Committee's request to provide a foreword for the Edgworth Horticultural Society's 40th Anniversary booklet. At a time when so many similar societies seem to be failing, if not folding, through lack of support it is heartening to know of one that is very much alive and flourishing thanks to its dedicated and hard working committee providing an exciting and enjoyable year round programme of activities and events.

I well remember my visit to the Society's meeting on the occasion of The Barlow's centenary in 2009 and will never forget the warm welcome given me nor the friendly atmosphere in the hall that evening. For a visiting speaker such audiences are a gift from Heaven and are highly conducive to an enjoyable event. On a personal note, 1973 was an exciting year for me, starting in April when I led a group of plant enthusiasts on a 3 week trek through the mountains of E. Nepal. We saw a wealth of treasured plants including orchids, rhododendrons, Himalayan primulas, poppies and ferns as we walked through forests and along rivers, past lakes with snow-capped peaks reflected in their still waters.

Domestically, 1973 saw me visiting gardens in Cornwall, S.W. Ireland, Jersey Zoo and Harrogate which is where I first met the late Geoffrey Smith. He showed me around his beloved Harlow Carr Gardens and nearby Parcevall Hall before heading for a pie and a pint at his local in Kettlesing.

On my last visit I planted a special tree *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesdon' an American sweet gum whose sticky, amber-coloured sap hardens to a resin-like consistency on exposure to the air. It is good to hear that this tree is thriving outside The Barlow and appreciated by members and the public alike. Long may it flourish and still be performing when the Society celebrates its centenary.

My very best wishes to all.

Happy Days,

Roy Lancaster



Public Meeting November 9th 1973

A Public Meeting was called at the Barlow Institute on the 9th November 1973 at 7.30 p.m. under the auspices of the Village Institute Committee, with a view to forming an Horticultural Society.

The following were present:-

Mr. J. Hurst.	Mr. K. Perkin.
Mr. J. Greenhalgh.	Mr. D. Pinch.
Mr. W. Westworth .	Mr. R. Davenport.
Mr. W. Kerr.	Mrs N. Walmsley.
Mr. H. Isherwood.	Mrs J Entwistle.

Mr. J. Hurst was appointed Chairman of the Meeting.

Apologies were received from Mr. C. Leicester.

In spite of such a low attendance a resolution was proposed by Mr Pinch and seconded by Mr Perkin to proceed with the formation of an Horticultural Society. Passed unanimously.

Mrs. J. Entwistle was appointed convenor.

Nominations were taken for Committee and the following members elected:-

Mrs. J. Entwistle.	Mr. K. Perkin.
Mr. D Pinch.	Mrs N. Walmsley.
Mr. J Hurst.	Mr. W. Westworth.
Mr. H Isherwood.	
Mr. W. Kerr.	

Mr. J. Hurst volunteered to draw up a Constitution and present it at the next meeting to be held on the 14th november.

J. Hurst
26/3/75

Inaugural meeting – Extract from Minutes Book

Contents

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Purpose of booklet

The current Edgworth and District Horticultural Society was formed on November 9th 1973 and the Committee felt that, 40 years later, it was an event that could not be allowed to pass without recognition of the occasion and as a tribute to all those volunteers who, over the years, have given their time and hard work to create and maintain a vibrant Society for the community.

It, therefore, decided to mark the occasion by producing a booklet to be issued free to all members. This booklet sets out the events of the last 40 years and will bring back memories to those longer serving members and give the newer members an insight into what has gone before. It will hopefully also provide snippets of information which are new to everybody.

Formation of the new society in 1973

The first minute in the Society's Minute book states that

“A Public Meeting was called at the Barlow Institute on the 9th November 1973 at 7.30 p.m. under the auspices of the Village Institute Committee, with a view to forming an Horticultural Society”.

10 members were present and a resolution, proposed by Mr D Finch and seconded by Mr K Perkin, to proceed with the formation of an Horticultural Society was passed unanimously. 8 of the 10 members present were elected to the Committee; namely, J. Hurst, J. Greenhalgh, W. Westworth, W. Kerr, H. Isherwood, K. Perkin, D. Finch, R. Davenport, Mrs N. Walmsley and Mrs. J. Entwistle.

Mr. J Hurst, OBE was appointed Chairman and volunteered to draw up a Constitution.

At the first meeting on November 14th, the Society was named 'The Edgworth and District Horticultural Society' and J. Tebay and J Ramwell were co-opted onto the Committee. Jim Tebay reported that an Horticultural Society had been formed in the early 1900's and was still in existence with a total of 2 members, him being one.

The above information raises two questions –

- “When was the first Horticultural Society formed?” and
- “What do we know about the Village Institute Committee?”

The first Horticultural Society

In August 1904, it was reported in the Bolton Evening News that the 4th Annual Exhibition of the Edgworth & District Horticultural Society had been held on the previous Saturday, in the grounds of Greenthorne, Edgworth, thanks to the generosity of its owner, Mr. John Robert Barlow, J.P. The event involved the showing of flowers, fruit and vegetables by the villagers and comprised 242 entries displayed in a marquee erected in the grounds. The number of entries was down on previous years due to the day also having been chosen for similar events, but *"the grounds could not have looked better, for they were bathed in brilliant sunshine, and everything conduced to a most successful venture"*. Greenhouse plants were the principal feature of the Show but there were also large numbers of cut flowers and window plants as well as 'unusually good class' vegetables. A new class for 'sponge cake' suggests there was a 'home produce' element to the Show and with children's games taking place and the Bolton Borough's Prize Brass Band playing *"the afternoon was made pleasant for all"*.

The article also referred to the fact that the Show had been previously organised by the Turton Horticultural Society but this had been disbanded 5 years previously and the void had been 'creditably' filled the following year by the actions of local gardeners and residents who formed the Edgworth & District Horticultural Society.

Reference has been found of the 3rd Show being held in 1903 and one (the 1st?) being held in 1901.

Mr. John Robert Barlow took great interest in the Society and became its first President. His sister Annie was also an active member of village life and was involved with the Annual Shows.

The 9th Annual Show took place in 1909 and was held in the Wesleyan School but the formal opening of the Barlow Memorial Institute enabled it to be used for the 1910 Annual Show, and it still is over a hundred years later.

Physical evidence of the Society's existence at this time was produced by one of our members, Derek Ramsden, when he produced a prize winners medal from 1905, which had been awarded to his grandfather.

The Society produced its 36th Annual Show in 1939 but evidence of its activities after the War are sketchy. Nevertheless, Jim Tebay's information, mentioned earlier, provided the link between the earlier and current Societies and, in March 1975, Jim Tebay was elected temporary Chairman of the Committee meeting so that the remaining assets of the old Society (£16.98) could be transferred to the new Society.

Village Institute Committee

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to trace much in the way of records of its activities, and maybe no minutes were taken, but references have been found in Turton Urban District Council minutes and correspondence. In 1926, all the land and the Institute buildings were transferred to Turton UDC who managed them until 1974 when local government re-organisation split the District in two with the Institute becoming the responsibility of Blackburn Council. References in Turton's records are to the Barlow Memorial Village Institute Committee until 1954 after which they are simply referred to as the Village Institute Committee and they appear to have run village events, much the same as the Barlow Institute Committee has done since 1974.

Interestingly, in 1952, they asked Turton UDC to take over as they were short of money – nothing changes!

Possibly its activities had declined in the ensuing years because Frank Redman, who still lives in Edgworth, called a public meeting in 1965, when Turton UDC planned to close the Institute, and formed a Village Institute Committee. This was termed 'a "survival" Committee' to fight the closure and its aims and objectives stated as *'to promote the social and cultural activities in the village and to ensure the continued use of the Barlow Memorial Institute'*. A pamphlet produced in 1972 states that regular monthly meetings were held and lists all the village activities, 26 in total, many of which, such as the W.I. and the Luncheon Club, had been formed between 1965 and 1972, but no mention of a Horticultural Society.

The Village Institute Committee's 'Annual Village Gala' programmes for 1970 and 1971 advertised a 'Flower Show' in the Institute. A copy of its 'Flower Show' Schedule (price 3d) for Saturday 22nd August 1970, to be held at the Institute, has the same style and content as the Schedule for the Society's first 'Annual Open Flower and Vegetable Show' held on Saturday 17th August 1974. It is reasonable to assume that the uncertainty over the impact of local government re-organisation led to the decision to set up a separate Horticultural Society.

Whatever the reason, the link between the two is confirmed with a Society minute, from 28th November 1973, to hold 'The Annual Flower Show' in August 1974 and

"to contact the donors of Cups and Shield to see if they are willing to have them transferred from the Village Institute to Edgworth & District Horticultural Society".

The donors obviously agreed as the 1974 Show Schedule contains the following Cups which are still awarded today –

Bell Rose Bowl, Richardson Cup, Sutcliffe Cup, Readey Cup, Crowthorne Cup, Mowat Cup, Leicester Cup and Hepburn Shield.

Organisation	Secretary or Leader	Time and Place of Meeting
OVER 60's	Mr. C. Leicester, 13 Foxdale Close, Edgworth	Barlow Institute Monday, 7-30 p.m.
YOUTH CLUB	Mr. G. Platt, 17 Lea Gate Close, Harwood	Barlow Institute Tues. & Wed, 7-15 p.m. except 2nd Tuesday
LUNCHEON CLUB	Mrs. B. Hepburn, 4 Longworth Bank, Edgworth	Barlow Institute Tuesday, 12-0 noon
EDGORTH DANCING CIRCLE (Modern Sequence)	Mrs. Cumliffe, Bermesye, Bolton Rd., Edgworth	Barlow Institute Saturday, 7-30 p.m.
NIGHT SCHOOL	Enquiries for Syllabus to Barlow Institute	
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE	Mrs. J. Entwistle, 256 Blackburn Road, Edgworth	Barlow Institute 2nd Tuesday in month, 7-30 p.m.
FISHING CLUB	Mr. B. Knowles, Blackburn Road, Edgworth	Barlow Institute 1st Monday, 8-0 p.m.
PLAY GROUP	Mrs. D. Mills, Isherwoodfold House, Edgworth	Isherwoodfold House, Blackburn Rd. Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 10—12 a.m.
LIBRARY	Mr. Banks, 209 Bolton Road, Edgworth	Library at Barlow Institute Monday, 7-30 p.m.
TRAVELLING LIBRARY	Lancashire County Council	Through the Village every other Tuesday
CIVIC TRUST	Mrs. Grasby, 66 Rigby Lane, Bradshaw	No Regular Meeting Enquiries to Mrs. Grasby
CO-OP LADIES' GUILD	Mrs. E. Jones, 4 Sandybank Road, Edgworth	Barlow Institute Tuesday, 7-30 p.m.
TURTON AND EDGORTH FOOTBALL CLUB	Mr. J. Pickering, 5 Sandybank Road, Edgworth	Rose and Crown Hotel Monday, 8-0 p.m.
CRICKET CLUB	Mr. W. Davies, 272 Blackburn Road, Edgworth	Barlow Institute Tuesday, 7-45 p.m.
GIRL GUIDES	Mrs. M. Hart, 451 Blackburn Road, Edgworth	St. James's Mission Church Monday, 7-0 p.m.
BROWNIES	Mrs. P. Charnock, 20 Overshores Road, Entwistle	Turton Primary School Thursday, 6-30 p.m.
CUB SCOUTS	Miss J. Horrocks, 159 Bolton Road, Edgworth	Turton Primary School Monday, 6-0 p.m.
MOTHERS' UNION	Turton St. James's Mrs. H. F. Fox, The Vicarage, Turton Mrs. J. Charnock, 3 Holly Bank, Entwistle.	St. James's, 1st Tuesday
LADIES' GROUP	Mrs. J. Aldred, 100 Hillside Ave., Bromley Cross.	Turton Primary School 2nd Wednesday
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Mr. R. Redman, 307 Bolton Road, Edgworth	Methodist School Alternate Thursdays, 7-45 p.m.
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Mrs. Kirkman, Moscrop House, Crowthorn School	Methodist School Wednesday, 7-30 p.m.
WOMEN'S BRIGHT HOUR	Mrs. Andrews Methodist Vicarage	Methodist Vestry Wednesday afternoon 2-30 p.m.
CLAY PIGEON CLUB	Miss D. Dagger, 154 Warwick Rd., Atherton, M/c.	Saturday morning, Toby Inn 10-30 a.m. Visitors welcome.
JUDO CLUB	Mr. Harrison, 3 Old Quarry Lane, Bromley Cross	St. James's, Hob Lane Wed., 7-0 p.m., Sat., 3-0 p.m.
CLINIC		Barlow Institute Monday, 1-30 p.m.
CHIROPODIST		Barlow Institute Once monthly, Tuesday.

ALL CLASSES OPEN

- Class No. 6d. ENTRY FEE FOR EACH CLASS
1. Vase of 3 Hybrid Tea Roses (two or more varieties)
 2. Vase of 3 Hybrid Tea Roses (one variety)
 3. Vase of 2 stems of Floribunda Roses
 4. One specimen bloom (one rose of any colour)
 5. Gentleman's Buttonhole (Rose with rose foliage only)
 6. Lady's Spray (Roses and foliage and/or fern)
 7. Vase of 6 stems of Sweet Peas (one variety)
 8. Vase of 9 stems of Sweet Peas (two or more varieties)
 9. Vase of 3 Gladioli
 10. Vase of 1 Gladiolus
 11. Vase of 6 Carnations
 12. Vase of 3 Pompon Dahlias (not exceeding 2 inches)
 13. Vase of Ball Dahlias (3) over 2-4 inches
 14. Vase of Cactus Dahlias (3) 4-6 inches
 15. Vase of 3 decorative Dahlias 4-6 inches
 16. Vase of Wild Flowers (Children's effort)
 17. Children's Handicrafts (No Kits)
 18. Grass Arrangement
 19. Flower arrangement incorporating wood
 20. Flower arrangement and foliage
 21. Decorative non-flowering houseplants
 22. Flowering houseplants
 23. Madeira Cake
 24. Victoria Sandwich
 25. Chocolate Sandwich
 26. Six Fruit Buns
 27. One Fruit Pie
 28. One Pot Marmalade
 29. One Pot Lemon Cheese
 30. One Pot Raspberry Jam

Village Institute Committee – 1970 Flower Show Schedule

The story of our development from 1973 to 2000

Having got the Society 'off the ground', the Committee appointed David Finch as Treasurer, with Jean Entwistle as Secretary, agreed a subscription of 25p (soon raised to 40p) and set about organising the Annual Show, arranging discounts for garden supplies and bulk buying, and looking into provision of Allotments in the area.

By April 1974, membership stood at 72 and the first general meeting was held in May at the Methodist School. After a few false starts with poor attendances and cancellations of the general meetings, a programme of monthly meetings was published for 1975, which included 8 talks, the Annual Show and the AGM. The talks covered a wide range of subjects, Roses, Dahlias, Alpines, Perennials, Cacti, preparation for Showing and Wine making. Speakers included a member of the Grey Mare Rose Society with whom this Society, through the Village Institute Committee, had strong links. This full and varied programme has continued each year and it is interesting to note that early talks were also given by Myerscough College, who still provide speakers today, and Harry Ackers, who for many years has been one of our Show Judges.

Meetings were held on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Bill Kerr, who was a committee member from 1973, recalls that

"The first Committee meetings were held upstairs "in t' 'Stute", as the Barlow Institute was affectionally called (and still is by some), in a room that was used by the District Nurses and had their equipment and posters on the walls about baby feeding and weighing."

This room was where the upstairs lift is now.

AGM

The 1st AGM was held on March 26th 1975, with 21 members present out of a total of 90. Assets were £60.46. The Draft Constitution was amended and agreed. It was subsequently modified at the 2nd AGM and, with minor changes for practical and legal reasons, remains true to its original intentions today, these broadly being:-

"To foster an active interest in horticulture, arrange Shows, disseminate information, arrange competitions, functions and Lectures, act in capacity of an Allotment Society (when land is available) and arrange sale of plants, fertilisers, etc."

These changes included - the financial year starting on 1st September and, moving the AGM from March to November; consequently, two AGM's were held in 1976.

At the November AGM, John Hurst stood down as Chairman and Bill Kerr was elected, serving 2 years during which time the Society was involved with the Queens Silver Jubilee celebrations in the village. Unfortunately, meetings were not very well attended at this time, averaging only about 20, which was felt to be a disappointment in view of the quality of the speakers and the excellence of the refreshments provided by Joyce Nelson and Elsie Burgess.

Allotments

The issue of the provision of Allotments was discussed by the Society and Blackburn Council from 1974 to 1981 with no satisfactory outcome. Blackburn said that they had no land available in Edgworth and asked the Society to recommend sites. This was done with a comment that 20 people were interested in having an allotment. In 1975, Blackburn acquired land at Edgworth Quarries, near Thomasson Fold, where Allotments could be provided but this was discounted due to possible pollution of the Wayoh reservoir. In 1979, a site at Turton Bottoms was proposed but opposed by the Conservation Society. However, Blackburn agreed, as part of the Edgworth quarries Land Reclamation Project, to provide extra topsoil at Horrocks Fold for future allotments; they had also prepared a scheme for 8 plots (30m x10m) but the earliest budget provision would be 1980/81.

It seems that no provision was made and at the 1981 AGM, the Society reported that dealings had been passed over to those individuals still wanting allotments.

Early memories

Brian Arnold had been elected Chairman at the AGM in 1978 and for the next 14 years took the Society forward. He remembers John Hurst

“as ‘a lovely gentleman’ who had been the driving force of an active group who had initially set up the Society and had to resign due to ill health”.

John Hurst died in 1978.

Jean Entwistle, who had been the Secretary since inception, retired in 1981 and was thanked for her invaluable service. Brian Arnold recalls that

“it was Jean who ‘bullied’ him into first joining the Society and remembers her ‘meticulous minutes’” (which have been a godsend in producing this booklet).

Jean and her husband farmed at Isherwood Fold until 1966 and was a keen gardener, with a big garden on Blackburn Road. She still lives in the village and has many happy memories of active involvement with village life.

When the Society was set up she was already Secretary of the WI and the Village Institute Committee, whose main activity was to prevent Blackburn Council from closing the Institute in 1974 when they took over responsibility.



Jean Entwistle

She remembers the efforts made to get more users into the building to prove its viability, (a prelude to what has happened in recent years) and, when this was successful, the Council put up the hire rates so that Committee meetings were held in members' houses and meetings soon moved to the Methodist School.

She took a year off being Secretary in 1978 to spend time with her grandchildren and resigned in 1981 to spend more time with her husband who had already retired.

In 1983 she was invited to present the prizes at the show.

Brian Arnold also remembers the strong support from village stalwarts such as Ken Nelson, Nancy Westworth, Harry and Donna Hughes, and those who provided cups such as Norman Hepburn, Mrs. Bibby, Mrs. Mowat, and the wonderful Mr. and Mrs. Van Dijk.

In 1985 visits to Gardens and Nurseries were introduced.

By 1990 attendance at meetings had increased to around 50, with peaks exceeding 60, and membership had increased to 150 but both then suffered a slump and took another 10 years to regain those levels.

Refreshments

Homemade cakes at meetings have long been an attraction and Harold Bailey recalls being asked by someone when attending another meeting at the Institute

"Why is it that you always get better attendances at Horticultural meetings?" to which he replied *"because you don't have cakes"*.

It had been the practice for members to make voluntary contributions towards refreshments at monthly meetings but concern was expressed in 1991 that some people were consuming large quantities but contributing very little, however the AGM decided against a minimum charge. 12 months later, the issue was again raised together with a proposal to increase fees. It is interesting to note that the minute reads *'it was queried whether those not attending the talks would want to continue membership if the subscription were increased (at this point the discussion was interrupted for consumption of pasty and cake, necessitated by the limited catering facilities).'*

At the 1992 AGM, Brian Arnold stood down as Chairman due to heavy personal commitments and Norman Woffenden was elected.

During his first year: -

- Wine classes were reintroduced to the Show (hardly a surprise, knowing Norman's business as a Wine merchant) along with other changes,
- Subscriptions were finally increased to £2 with a 50p entry charge at meetings.

The Annual Dinner was also introduced in 1994.

St Anne's Flower Festival

The Society started participating in the St Anne's Flower Festival in the late 80's, thanks to a former Committee member, Elsie Burgess, and it has done so ever since. In 1993, Elsie also prepared a display for '200 years of Methodism' in the Methodist church.

This year, the title for the display, *pictured below*, is 'The EHS Show', which is fortuitous as it enabled it to record our Ruby Anniversary. The display was arranged by Margaret Houghton, from Horwich, as she has done in recent years following on from Mary Stubbs. The Society makes a financial contribution towards the arrangement.



Developments since 2000

The new Millennium ushered in a new era under three different Chairmen, who are all still Committee members, looking at ways to develop the Society's image and public attraction by expanding its scope, formalising its organisation, trying to keep it fresh and interesting.

In 2001 Norman Woffenden decided to step down as Chairman after 9 years, which he felt was long enough and that the key roles ought to be changed more often. David Spencer was elected Chairman and proposed that in future the key roles of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary should be held for a maximum of 3 years. The Constitution was amended accordingly at an Extraordinary general meeting. Norman was thanked for the hard work he had put in to move the Society forward with new ideas which had raised membership and attendance levels again.

6 Committee members also resigned and new ones were elected, including a Secretary, the duties of which had been shared out over the previous 9 years, which meant that for the next year a steep learning curve was needed for the new Committee.

New items introduced over the next few years included,

- a Show sub-group leading to improvements to the Show procedures and publicity with banners,
- articles in church magazines and press releases,
- posters advertising monthly meetings,
- attendance book to help relate to active members,
- introduction of microphones at the Show (and subsequently at meetings),
- discounts for members at local Nurseries,
- A members Newsletter was first published in Summer 2004 and has been a bi-annual feature ever since.

Having served for 3 years, the Chairman was not eligible for re-election in 2004 and Barbara Kenny was appointed. The out-going Chairman appealed for members to serve on the Committee or help at events as the success of the society depended on their efforts. He was thanked for his dedication to the job.

New initiatives

Efforts were made to try to get children more involved with the entries for the Show through schools and uniformed bodies but results were disappointing due to holidays and the time lag between end of term and Show date. However contacts were improved and Edgworth Primary School responded by developing a Kitchen garden.

In order to 'move with the times' and improve communications with members, the Chairman introduced 'Powerpoint' presentations to the AGM and welcomed the creation of a Society Website and email reminders about monthly meetings. A laser printer was also acquired to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Despite the earlier plea for members to volunteer to serve on the committee, when the Treasurer's post came up for renewal in 2006, there were no new nominees (as was the case when John Jackson resigned in 2003). Phil Broughton was happy to continue as Treasurer so, to avoid problems with having no Treasurer, the Constitution was again amended to qualify the 3 year rule by adding 'unless there are no other nominations and they are willing to continue...'

Holidays

A new innovation was introduced in 2007 with a short (4 day) coach holiday to visit gardens in the North East. Getting the minimum number required was hard but after the enthusiastic feedback from those who went, next year's trip to Somerset proved to be no problem. Subsequent holidays to Galloway, Norfolk, Dorset and South Wales have been increasingly popular and this year's holiday to Kent and Sussex was a sell-out with a waiting list. These holidays have proved to be a big success and are a great way of bonding with other members.



Visits

Not all such bonding is planned as the day trip to Normanby Hall in 2007 proved when on the way home smoke started billowing out from beneath the coach and everyone had to get off and wait on the motorway verge whilst the Fire Service attended and a replacement coach was sent.

Around this time there were Council cutbacks and proposals affecting the running of the Institute and leading to increased fees which caused problems for the Society and other users. The financial aspect was partly addressed by the Society receiving grants but it became necessary to increase subscriptions to £2.50.

North East Holiday
2007 - Wallington



Not much room for cases!

Dorset Holiday 2011 –
'Mount Pleasant'
Douglas Gibbs' private garden



Kent & Sussex Holiday
2013 - Sarah Raven's
Garden





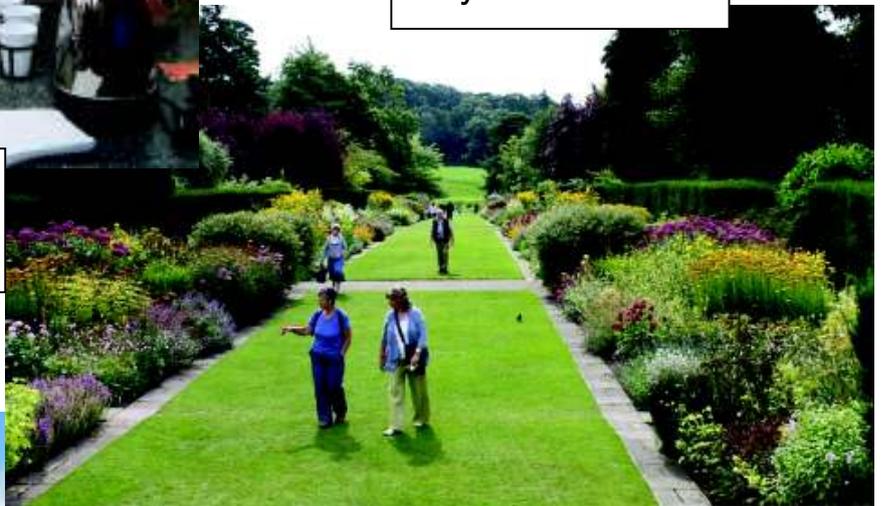
Claughton Hall 2006
Evening Visit

Ness Gardens 2007
Day Visit



Newby Hall 2010
Day Visit

Myerscough 2013
Evening Visit – Impromptu
Refreshments



National Memorial
Arboretum 2012
Day Visit – RNL
garden designed by
Chris Beardshaw

Celebrity Speakers

The Barlow Memorial Institute celebrated its Centenary in 2009 and the Society played its part in their programme of celebration by including 'Celebration' and 'The Barlows' in the Show schedule, having a stall at the celebration weekend and arranging a celebrity speaker.

Roy Lancaster presented his talk, 'A Plantsman's Garden', which was all about his own garden, and planted a tree (*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesdon') near the Children's Play area to mark the centenary. To help publicise the Society a 'pop-up banner' was purchased to be displayed at this and other appropriate events. This evening was a ticket only sell-out and proved very popular.

A border spade used to plant the tree was raffled.



Roy Lancaster also found it 'an enjoyable experience' and wrote to say

"It was a warm welcome you gave me and I was so thrilled to meet everyone including several friends from the past. I enjoyed planting the tree too I do hope it is allowed to thrive and show its rich colours in Autumnn."

(As a proud Boltonian who fondly remembered his visit, he willingly wrote the Preface to this booklet.)

As a result of this success, further celebrity speakers have been invited.



Christine Walkden entertained us in 2011 with a talk on 'The making of Christine's Garden' which gave us an insight into the characters and demands of one of her 'down to earth' TV series. She was a very lively and enthusiastic speaker with an encyclopaedic knowledge of horticulture and handled question time with no problems at all. A donated signed copy of one of her books was raffled. The evening was another 'sell-out'.

Chris Beardshaw proved to be a big draw in October 2013, our Anniversary year, with a maximum capacity sell-out. The room was buzzing with anticipation and all present were not disappointed. What an evening!

Chris did a 3-hour session with 2 talks separated by a refreshment break during which he continued with book signing and chatting to people. His first talk was about Furzey Gardens in the New Forest, which is a Charitable Trust and provides opportunities for people with learning difficulties. He explained how the gardens have been rescued from neglect using these students who have developed skills to the extent that they, with Chris, produced a garden for Chelsea which won a Gold medal and 'People's Choice'. He introduced us to the 'Just for now' principle of garden design.

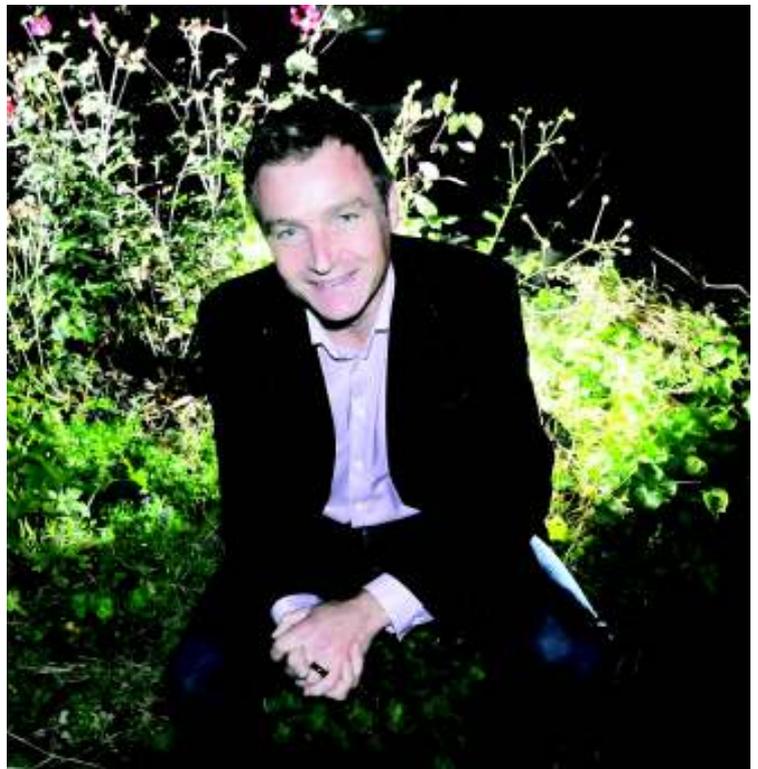


Image courtesy of Bolton News

His second talk was based on his book '100 plants that almost changed the World' which was a light-hearted and fascinating insight into the links between plants and history. He explained the derivation of the word 'garden' from 'paradise'.

Not only is Chris extremely knowledgeable on horticulture, he is also an excellent, humorous and enthusiastic speaker with a modest demeanour who kept the audience entertained all evening.

The raffle prize was a signed copy of his book which raised £166 for Arthritis Research UK.

Website

In 2010 a decision was taken to re-design and expand the Website to provide a better service to members. It had been set up several years earlier by Phil Broughton and developed as a trial to gauge its use to members. A sub-group was set up under John King's guidance and has worked hard on its development to produce an extensive site where members and anyone else can access information about meetings, trips, holidays, Annual Shows, past events, who's who, and how to make bookings. It also serves as a secure repository for committee procedures. It is a site of which members should be very proud given the relatively small nature of the Society.

The improved publicity in raising the Society's profile beyond the 'Edgworth and District' area had its rewards and reached an even wider audience when it featured in the April 2010 issue of Lancashire Life, together with other local organisations and people, in an article on Edgworth.



Image courtesy of
'Lancashire Life'

Committee members
(l to r)
Pat Whalley,
Phil Broughton,
Barbara Kenny,
(Chairman)
Irene Spencer,
Barry Scanlon,
David Spencer.

The way the Society had developed over recent years must have been appreciated by members as, by the 2010 AGM, attendance levels at monthly meetings was causing logistical problems with the catering, whilst the AGM itself was reaching room capacity. It is reputedly the unmissable meeting of the year, which is highly unusual for such a meeting. Perhaps it is due to its format with powerpoint presentations, seed swop, quiz, meat and potato supper and free wine!

Barbara Kenny stood down at this meeting and Barry Scanlon was elected Chairman and commented on Barbara's passion and love for the Society which was a credit to her'. The Society has continued to grow over the last 3 years with;

- Membership reaching 268
- Attendance at monthly meetings reaching 100,
- Show attendance reaching a record 400+,
- Introduction of :-
 - Members hanging basket competition to precede the Annual Show.
 - Rosettes for all Show prizewinners to keep as a memento.
 - Bulk buying of seeds at discount rates.
 - 'We would like to get to know you better' questionnaire to obtain members interests and views on the Society.

This period was significant as it included major changes at the Barlow Institute when Blackburn with Darwen Council finally withdrew their staff and financial support and transferred the building and its management to the community, which re-named it The Barlow. This has needed a great input from volunteers to keep the building running and carry out improvements which has inevitably led to changes for users, such as the Society. Committee members and volunteers now have to set up and clear away chairs for monthly meetings and members co-operation and assistance with these tasks is appreciated. Assistance, both physical and financial, has been given by the Society to The Barlow through the Audio-visual facilities, including the installation of the drop-down screen and fixed projector in the hall.

Without a doubt, the improvements to the building, such as, redecorating, electrical improvements, new toilets, Library and Café, brought about by the dedicated volunteers of The Barlow, have made a big difference to its appeal and appearance for all users and, for this, they must be thanked.

Community Activities

The Society started involvement with the local community in 1975 by helping tidy old people's gardens where cases of hardship had been notified. Turton Old People Welfare Committee thanked the Society in January 1976. Committee agreed to continue this service. In 1979, advice and help was given to Father Doran at the Roman Catholic Church in planting conifers nearby. 80 conifers were bought and help was given in planting them.



When, in 1981, the Society entered the Bolton Show and won 3rd prize in the Bolton Challenge Trophy for Best Horticultural exhibit by a Society, it donated the prize of 12 rose bushes, and contributed 12 more from its own funds, and planted them at the Old People's flats, Barlow Court, in Edgworth.

In early 1987, improvement of the environment was proposed with the suggestion that other organisations should get involved, together with Blackburn Borough Council. The Council gave the Society some daffodil bulbs, lifted from the Institute after flowering, and these were planted on the embankment at Wellington Road. Further daffodils, and crocus bulbs, were bought by the Society, which received a grant from the Parish Council and also from Blackburn Council.

Expressions of appreciation of the splendid display were received from the public and the Parish Council, and more bulbs, lifted from the Barlow Institute in 1988, were planted at Wellington Road. Further sites were located at Greens Arms Road, Blackburn Road and approaches to Entwistle. A video was made by Blackburn Council of the Society's bulb planting. This was the start of a programme of planting lasting several years using volunteers, grants and Society funds. It was soon realised that planting in public areas was not without its problems when the Police stopped and questioned the group working on Wellington Road. A similar incident occurred when two longstanding members were working at Bury Road and spotted by a passing motorist who reported them to the Police for 'stealing' daffodils. One of them had a bit of explaining to do when

the local policeman arrived at his home! Perhaps Public and Police vigilance was more common in those days.

Subsequent bulb planting was carried out at Horrobin and Barlow Court, where shrubs were also planted in 1992 to replace the rose bushes which the Society had planted in 1981 and were in poor condition.

The Society planted the box balls in the Millenium garden in front of the Institute in 2002.

Blackburn with Darwen Council gave us grants for Green Week and Festival Week in 2005 for plants to be grown on for the Show and for bulbs. About 1000 daffodils and crocus were planted by a small group of members behind the Institute.

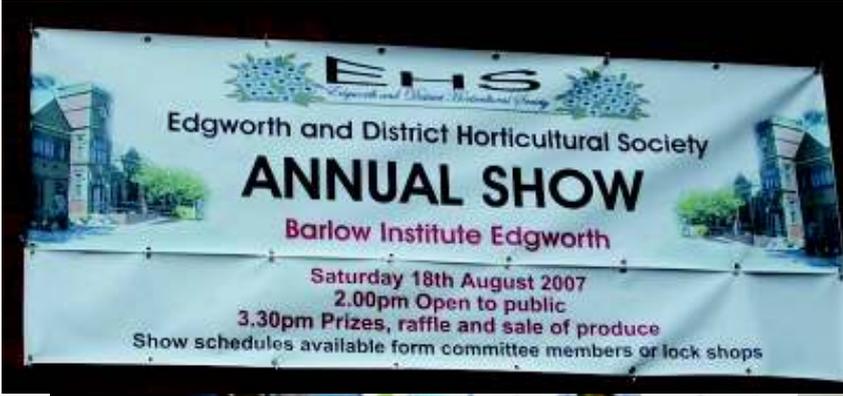
The following year, a School garden project got underway with Edgworth Primary School with Society Committee members acting as advisers to garden designers, teachers and parents to design raised beds for the children to grow vegetables and ornamental plants. Help was also given to St.James' cubs with bulb planting and to ladies in Darwen with hanging baskets.



In recent years, more bulbs have been planted on Greens Arms Road, Broadhead Road and around the waterwheel on Bury Road (*pictured*).



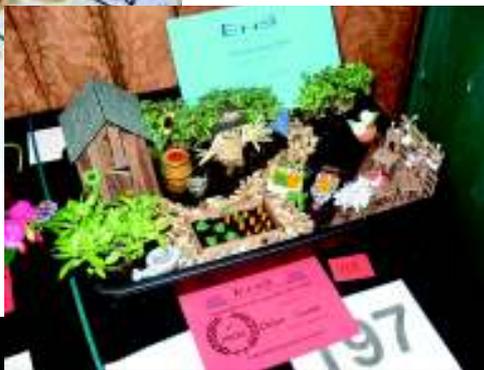
In this anniversary year, the frontage of The Barlow has been landscaped to provide an attractive, low maintenance scheme that, once established, should become an asset to the building.



Morning Entries



Judging



Afternoon viewing - Downstairs



**More
Afternoon
viewing –
&
Prizewinners**



Annual Show

Development

From the first Show in 1974, it has been the cornerstone of the Society's existence, taking up a large proportion of Committee members' time. It has become a regular event in village life with good public support to see the varied exhibits entered by both members and non-members. It is not just a Horticultural Show but covers Arts, Crafts, Photography and Cookery and has always been a traditional, friendly Village Show, with an emphasis on Novice and Children's classes.

It develops fierce rivalry amongst locals and families; an example being Vikki Eckersley who won two cups this year, whilst her daughter won one, and her mother had won previously. She said that she is *"part of a very competitive family and the Show is one of their highlights of the year"*.

The Show has generally been held on the 3rd Saturday in August except for a period between 1979 and 1984 when it was held in September, apart from 1983. It is not clear why the date was changed to late September in 1979, especially as 800 programmes had been sold and a £40 profit made in 1978, but it continued for the next 3 years in the 1st week of September. It was decided to revert to the 3rd Saturday in August for 1983 because there were only 63 exhibitors in 1982 and a loss was made. Also that was considered to be a better time locally for flowers and vegetables and to avoid clashes with other events. This didn't suit everyone as there was a noticeable fall in attendance and the change in school holiday patterns meant that many were on holiday, so September was tried again for 1984. This caused difficulties with booking the Institute and so the date was finally fixed in August.

The First Show

The first schedule only contained 40 classes, covering Roses, Flowers, Vegetables, Cookery, Floral Art, Wine and Children's classes. It is interesting to note that a set cake recipe was included in the Cookery Section and has been ever since. Admission was by Schedule at 5p (soon increased to 10p in 1975), Entry fee was 5p per entry and prize money 1st - 50p, 2nd - 25p, 3rd - 10p; less for children. All classes were 'Open'. Vases for the flower exhibits were loaned from the Grey Mare Rose Society, as the Village Institute Committee had done previously. They were loaned again in 1975 but after that the Society purchased its own display vases which have been added to since, due to the increase in classes, and are still in use.

All Classes Open. 5p per entry.

Roses Classes 1-4. Judge: Mr. C. Partington

1. 3 Hybrid Tea Roses (2 or more varieties)
2. 3 Hybrid Tea Roses (one variety)
3. 2 Stems Floribunda Roses
4. One Specimen Rose

Flowers & Vegetables Classes 5-18.

Judge: Mr. E. Shepherd

5. 3 Small decorative Dahlias (not over 6")
6. 3 Cactus Dahlias (not over 6")
7. 3 Pompon Dahlias (not over 2")
8. 6 Stems of Annual (one variety)
9. 6 Stems of Perennials (more than one variety)
10. One House Plant in bloom
11. One House Plant for foliage effect

Vegetables to be shown as grown

12. 5 Potatoes
13. 4 Tomatoes
14. 1 Cabbage
15. 3 Beetroot
16. 6 Peas in pod
17. 1 Cucumber
18. Collection of 3 vegetables other than above

Cookery Classes 19-27. Judge: Mr. F. Longworth

19. One Home Made White Loaf
20. Vanilla Sandwich (7" Tin)
21. Chocolate Sandwich
22. 6 Small Fancy Cakes
23. 6 Shortbread Biscuits

24. One Fruit Pie
25. One pot of Lemon Cheese
26. One pot of Jam (any variety)
27. One pot of Chutney

Floral Art Classes 28-31. Judge: Mrs. E. Sharpe

Dresses and accessories allowed

28. "Sunset" 24" sq. allowed (approx.)
29. An all foliage arrangement 24" sq. (approx.)
30. A Dining Table Arrangement
31. A Miniature Arrangement not exceeding 6" x 6"

Wine Classes 32-35. Judge: Mr. H. Morris

1. Red Dry
2. Red Sweet
3. White Dry
4. White Sweet
5. Dessert

Children's Section Classes 36-40.

Judge: Mrs. E. Gibbon

Up to and including 8 years

37. Vase of wild flowers. Prize for most varieties.
38. Collage Picture, any material framed or unframed.

8-14 years

39. Miniature Garden not exceeding 15" x 10"
40. Collage Picture, any material framed or unframed.

The First 20 years

- In 1975, a Section with classes for 'members only' was introduced to give newcomers more opportunity in the other Sections.
- Having first tried a Beginners class for floral art, a novice section was introduced for members in 1985.
- The following year, all Sections were changed to have 'Open' and 'Novice' classes, which is still the format today. This was part of a complete update of the Schedule to create 85 classes.

During the first 10 years the committee worked hard to improve the number of entries and encourage children by developing contacts with local schools.

- Children's entries were free and cash prizes were increased as an incentive to £2, £1, 50p for 1979 by a kind donation.
- £5 prize was awarded in 1977 and 1978 for best show exhibit in each of the Roses, Dahlias, Vegetables, Cookery and Floral Art categories.
- Floral Art prizes were increased to £1, 50p, 25p for 1979 but then dropped and despite a decision in 1981 to increase all prize money, nothing was implemented until 1993.

Along the way various classes have been introduced and dropped because of lack of or changes in interests, e.g. Children's Pets (1982 and 83) and Wine, dropped in 1984, re-introduced in 1993 for 3 years, then made another return in 2012.

In 1985, a new format was introduced for the schedule with a 'Message from the Chairman'. There were 85 classes, including a new Handicrafts category, and the Schedule price increased to 20p.

Entry to the Show had always been by purchasing a Schedule but by 1988 the effectiveness of house to house sale of Schedules was questioned due to the time involved and benefits achieved. It was suggested they be free to members but another 5 years passed before this was agreed and implemented.

In 1989, House plants appear in the schedule, the Junior Section is extended and classes now total 109 producing a record 488 entries. Changes to the points system for exhibits followed and, to ensure consistency for stewarding, guidelines were drawn up.

EDGWORTH HORTICULTURAL SHOW 1993

AT BARLOW INSTITUTE, EDGWORTH
ON SATURDAY, 21ST AUGUST 1993 FROM
2.00-4.00pm



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
SHOW BY ATTENDING
OR EXHIBITING.
PRIZES AND CUPS
AWARDED.
LOTS OF NOVICE CLASSES.
REFRESHMENTS



ADMISSION - 30p
CHILDREN FREE.
CLASSES ALSO FOR
COOKERY, HANDICRAFTS AND
CHILDRENS' WORK.
RAFFLE - PROCEEDS TO
DERIAN HOUSE CHILDRENS'
APPEAL.
SALE OF EXHIBITS - 3.30pm.

SCHEDULE FOR EXHIBITORS NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE (SEE OVER)

1993 Publicity Leaflet

Raising the image in the 90's

With the appointment of a new Chairman, 1993 saw another burst of activity with changes being introduced.

- Schedule classes were expanded, entry fee increased for the first time to 10p, prize money had minor increases except for Floral Art where higher rates first discussed in 1979 were at last implemented, at £1.50, £1, 50p; this level being unchanged to the present day.
- Schedules were finally issued free to all members and potential exhibitors, but an admission fee of 30p was introduced; increased to 50p the following year.
- Dahlias were given their own category in 1994 instead of being part of 'Flowers' and the number of classes reached 115.

A higher profile was sought for the Show as many people were unaware of its existence and, over the next few years,

- A banner outside the Institute and signs on lampposts were introduced with local door-to-door leaflet drops (*see adjacent example*).
- The issue of sponsorship was raised but advertising in the schedule was preferred and the first advert appeared in 1997. The RHS points system was also included to give exhibitors clearer information as to what the judges were looking for.
- Rule 15 was introduced clarifying which exhibits were not for sale.
- Schedules had been handed out to visitors on entry to the Show but in 1999, despite 400 having been printed, the numbers left were no longer sufficient to do that and it was decided to consider producing a shorter version to hand out.
- The plant stall was introduced.
- It was decided to buy new black sheets for Floral Art rather than continuing to borrow them.

Running a Society, which includes an Annual show, generates a lot of items, both large and small, which need to be stored and Brian Arnold generously did so at his home. However, when he moved away these had to be relocated in various Committee members homes until storage space could be found at the Institute.

Into the New Millenium

As the Show has developed over the years, a lot of knowledge had been accumulated and there was a concern that, as people moved on, some of it could be lost, so in 2002 a complete record of how things were done was prepared by the Chairman, David Spencer, who continued as Show Secretary after his Chairmanship. This is kept up to date as new items are introduced and changes

made. It enables anybody to pick up and follow the procedure, which proved its worth when he was taken into hospital suddenly in July 2010.

Subgroups have been created to manage the various aspects of the Show thus directly involving the whole committee.

To publicise the Show more successfully, further banners and posters have been erected and leaflets delivered immediately before the Show in August, over a wider area. Press and Radio coverage has also been extended. Contact is made with schools and uniformed organisations to encourage children to enter and the local head teachers, in particular, have been very supportive. In 2007, schoolchildren entered a competition to design the poster and publicity leaflet which was used for several years.

The Schedule is the item that 'sells' the Show as its layout, clarity and attractiveness is what generates interest to exhibitors, the public and local advertisers who want to support the Show as well as promoting their own local business. Improvements were made in 2006 but it has really been in the last 5 years that its impact has been felt since the introduction of colour and increased advertising, which has made the production of the schedule self-financing.

Notable improvements

Improvements to the Show since 2000 have been numerous.

- Café introduced (2004). This proved to be a winner both as a welcome visitor facility/meeting place and money earner to offset increasing Show costs. Its success led to two rooms being required in 2012 and 2013.
- New categories have been introduced, such as, Paintings (2006), Scarecrow competition (2007-9), Patio plants (2007) and Photography (2008). The paintings and photography have proved very popular.
- Photographs were provided to explain the distinctions between the different rose and dahlia classes and a Help desk was introduced (2008).
- The appearance of the Main Hall was greatly improved when the Floral Art Display was extended to completely fill the stage (2009).
- Plant Stall relocated from the entrance hall to the back kitchen for safety reasons (2009) but this caused other problems, which were solved by erecting a gazebo outside the entrance to the building (2011). This not only improved plant sales but also highlighted the presence of the Show and is a major contributor to offsetting Show costs.

The success of these improvements is borne out by attendance doubling from 140 in 2000 to 290 in 2007 and reaching a record 355 in 2012. In addition, 50 children also attended. The number of exhibitors also rose from 85 in 2004 to 143 in 2012 with the number of entries submitted increasing from 413 to 648 over the same period.

The 'knock on effect' of this growth meant that Judging time increased and the show opening time had to be put back to 2.30pm so that all prizewinners' cards could be in place when the public entered.

Not all has been plain sailing as the Committee has, from the beginning, been concerned about insurance, hire charges, balancing entry fees and prize money to keep the Show a village event with the emphasis on the pride in winning and receiving a card or a Cup, rather than the monetary gain. Whilst the prize money has barely changed since 1974, except for Floral Art which remains unchanged since 1993 when its higher exhibit costs were acknowledged, the entry fee increased to 20p in 2003. As mentioned previously, Blackburn with Darwen Council significantly increased the hire charges for The Barlow in 2006. However, after pressure was brought to bear, they recognised the importance of the Show to the community and helped to soften the blow by giving grants to the Society in 2006 and 2007. Once these ceased, charges had to be reviewed and the admission charge increased to £1 in 2009.

Even with the increases, people visiting the Show are impressed by its value for money.

40th Anniversary Show

What an occasion to set new records! Favourable weather preceding the Show and on the day, at least until mid-afternoon, resulting in the previous year's records (mentioned above) being surpassed with entries reaching 801 and attendance of 370, plus about 50 children. Record takings were also made on the Plant Stall and in the Café, both of which are very popular and crowded for much of the afternoon. The number of exhibitors actually fell slightly but several new exhibitors produced a wide range of quality flower and vegetable entries to impress the public and the Judges. These displays in the hall actually exceeded the space available and only by squeezing in an extra table and encroaching into the Floral Art area, where entries were down, was it possible to include them. It is impossible to predict the number of entries in each category, as the Society is perhaps unique in the area in accepting entries on Show day, and the stewards often have a juggling act to perform by carefully moving exhibits around to fit.

Handicrafts were well supported with the photography classes reaching new levels; unfortunately, the Cookery entries were fewer than usual. Children's exhibits were again excellent in all classes with record entries. It is encouraging to see their enthusiasm and delight in winning prize cards and Cups.

No record of the Show would be complete without mentioning the Prize presenter, Brian Arnold. As the longest serving previous Chairman, it was a pleasure to see that his enthusiasm for the Society is undiminished. This was apparent in his recollections and his delight in presenting the prizes in such a friendly and relaxed way.



**Four Chairmen at 40th Show (l to r)
David Spencer (2001- 04), Barry Scanlon (2010-13),
Barbara Kenny (2004-10), Brian Arnold (1978-92)**

Judges

No Show would ever be successful without Judges and we are lucky to have had such a knowledgeable and friendly collection of individuals who, over the years, have freely given their time and advice to give pleasure to the winners and visitors alike. The current Judges all enjoy coming and look forward to be invited back the next year.

Harry Ackers (Flowers), who sadly had to retire 2 years ago, and Harry Hughes (Roses, Dahlias and Art) have each served 30 years, whilst Peter Coates (Vegetables) has done 24 years. Harry Ackers worked in Horticulture for Bolton Council, (where one of his apprentices was Roy Lancaster,) has judged throughout the North west, lectured and given talks to the Society. Brian Arnold remembers Harry Hughes and Donna, his wife, being amongst "*village stalwarts who gave strong support in the early days*". Donna's family ran the Edgworth Post Office and she and Harry set up the craft Shop alongside. Harry was also a member of the Grey Mare Rose Society and remembers the early liaison and help given in launching the Horticultural Society. The early Rose judges were all from the Grey Mare. Peter Coates was Allotments Officer for Bolton Council and judged in other local Shows. He has always been keen to encourage new people into vegetable growing and donated a glass trophy to be awarded for the best Novice vegetable.

There have been far too many judges to name them all, for example, there have been 15 in the 20 years when the Junior sections had their own judge, but several who served for a number of years are worth a mention. Jim Tebay 1977-85 (Vegetables), J Nisbet 1976-83, Mrs V Keers 1990- 96 and Janet Evans, who has spent since 1997 tasting all the cakes, bread and jam in order to judge them – what a hard job! (all Cookery), Joan Hughes 2001-10 and Gillian Platt 1983-92 (both Floral Art) who returned in 2011.

Finally, it is interesting to note that since Handicrafts were first introduced in 1985, there have only been 2 Judges, Nancy Boothman 1985-99 and Joyce Read from 2000. Nancy holds the unenviable distinction of being the only recorded injury, having slipped on the wet floor in 1986 and breaking her arm; but she came back to judge for another 13 years.

Cups

As mentioned earlier, the 1974 Schedule included 8 Cups which had been donated to the Village Institute Committee for its Show and were transferred to the Horticultural Society, these being: -

Bell Rose Bowl, Richardson Cup, Sutcliffe Cup, Readey Cup, Crowthorne Cup, Mowat Cup, Leicester Cup and Hepburn Shield.

As there are no records from before 1974, the dates and reasons behind the donations can only be based on personal memories, but all the people who donated them were prominent in Village life, except for Readey's who are Cup and Trophy suppliers. They were approached and persuaded to donate, probably by Harold Isherwood who was a keen rose grower and an active Society member and a very persuasive individual.

- Mr & Mrs Bell lived in Greenthorne Close. Mr Bell was a member in 1974.
- Mr KC Richardson was the headmaster at the Methodist School until it merged with the Cof E School in Turton and he then moved away. He was also a local councillor and Chairman of Turton UDC in 1971.
- Geoffrey and Dorothy Sutcliffe lived at Greenthorne and the family are still connected with the Society. The Sutcliffe Cup was renamed the Greenthorne Cup in 1988.
- Mr Sadler was headmaster at Crowthorn School and his wife was a keen gardener and judged the Junior section at the Show in 1979. They donated the Crowthorn Cup.
- Mr Mowat was a Surgeon and his wife was a member in 1974. They lived in the Greenthorne area.
- Mr Cyril Leicester was Secretary of the Over 60's Club in 1972.
- Mr NG Hepburn was a local councillor who presented the prizes at the first Annual Show in 1974. His wife started the Luncheon Club in the Barlow Institute.

Several of the above Cups were donated by people in the Greenthorne area and this increased when Mr & Mrs Bibby, who were members donated the **Bibby Cup** in 1975. This was followed by the **Whitehead Cup** in 1978, the **Parish Council Cup** in 1985, as a result of persuasion by Parish Councillor Wilf Scarlin, who was also a Society member, and also in 1985, the **Richard Holland Memorial Cup**.



The Committee decided to introduce the **Horticultural Society Cup** in 1988, for Juniors, but in 1995 this was moved to 'Other Flowers' and **4 new cups** were donated **for the Junior sections** by Wilf Scarlin (pictured left). These were for **Floral Art, Cookery, Art & Craft (age under 6) and Art & Craft (age 6 – 15)**.

In 1996, Mr Van Dijk donated the **Elisabeth Van Dijk Memorial Cup** in memory of his wife who had died in 1992. Both had supported the Society well over many years. Mr Van Dijk had presented the prizes at the Annual Show the year after his wife's death. 2 years later, in 1998, Cynthia Gore donated the **Stuart Cup** in memory of her son.

It was 2007 before further donations were made but they then followed on a regular basis starting with the **Peter Coates Trophy**, reflecting his longstanding support for novices getting involved with vegetable growing. This was followed, in 2008, by the **Kenyon Cup** which was donated by Pat and Geoffrey Whalley in memory of Pat's mother who had been a very good supporter of the handicrafts section at the Show over many years. Pat and Geoffrey recall their wedding day, which her mother was reluctant to attend as it clashed with the Show, where she expected to go to collect her Cup. So they bought her a Cup of her own which, on her death, they felt appropriate to donate to the Society.

Probably the most interesting Cup, because of its provenance, is the Simpson Cup.

Steve Simpson approached the Society in 2009 and offered a Cup that had been in the possession of his grandfather, a former chairman of the Society in the 1920s. After he died, it was kept at his Uncle's (Lloyd Meikle) flat in Barlow Court. When he died in 2008, his daughter passed it on to Steve. His grandfather was Fred Simpson who lived at Crown Point and was a keen gardener and horticulturalist whose garden was at Greenthorne in what is still known to older folk as 'the nursery'. It is inscribed as follows: -

The J Isherwood Ltd Challenge Cup
PRESENTED TO
The Edgworth & District
Horticultural Society
1929

It was won outright for the most number of points in the local vegetables classes at the 27th Edgworth and District Horticultural Society's annual floral and vegetable show in 1930. As he had also won in 1928 and 1929, it was the custom that the winner kept the Cup after 3 consecutive wins.



The Society greatly appreciated the donation and, with Steve Simpson's agreement, had the Cup refurbished and renamed as the Simpson Cup (*pictured left*).

Nothing is known about the original presenter.

Sadly, Steve who was a Parish Councillor, member of the Barlow committee, keen vegetable grower and Society member, died in 2012.

The next 2 cups were also donated in memory of people; these being the **Westworth Cup** in 2011 and the **Patrick GW Smith Memorial Cup** this year.

The Westworth Cup was donated by the Coles Family in memory of their recently deceased relative, Nancy Westworth, who was an active member of the Society and also her husband, Walter, who was a founder member in 1973 and served on the Committee for several years. Patrick Smith's family donated the Cup to be awarded for Novice vegetable growers following his long interest as an exhibitor of vegetables.

This year a review of the Junior classes was undertaken and, so that each section is awarded a Cup, a **Junior Photography Cup** has been donated by David and Irene Spencer.



Display of Cups - 2013

Prize Presenters

There has been a range of prize presenters with only two repeats; Charles Fletcher-Cooke, MP in 1976 and 77, and Wilf Scarlin in 1999 and 2002. However, they seem to have followed a theme with pre-2000 presenters being predominantly people connected with the Society, e.g. donors of Cups, past committee members. Since 2000 the emphasis has been on the clergy, head teachers and council officials, to promote links with the community and elicit continuing financial support to the Institute and the Show.



The one departure from the above was the appearance of Bolton's **Jason Kenny** in 2009 following his Olympic gold medal success the previous year, although even there, a link exists as he is the nephew of the Chairman at that time.

Jason is *pictured left* with a proud prizewinner.

Charity donations

After the initial few years when the Show was becoming established, a raffle was introduced with the proceeds being given to a Charity decided by the Committee or to specific requested Charity, as in 1986 when it was given in memory of Richard Holland. Prizes for the raffle have always been donated by local businesses and individuals. It was not until 1993 that the chosen charity appeared in the schedule and 5 years later the choice of Charity became the privilege of the Prize presenter.

Tributes to key people

William Whitehead of Overhouses opened the Show in 1978. He kindly offered to provide a Cup (William & Helen Whitehead Cup) up to a value of £50. The Society decided that he be offered the position of Honorary President of the Society, which he had gladly accepted. It is the only time that such a position has been awarded.

In September 1985, **Richard Holland**, the acting Secretary, who had been a Committee member since 1979, died suddenly. Brian Arnold, who was Chairman at the time, paid tribute to the magnificent work and encouragement he had given the Society in a most helpful and pleasant way. He recalls that

“although living in Bromley Cross and being highly thought of in Bolton Horticultural circles, Richard strongly supported us in Edgworth. His knowledge of vegetable growing was excellent and he freely gave advice and encouragement to all”.

In recognition of his contribution, the Committee purchased a Cup in his name which is awarded for the best vegetable exhibit at the Annual Show. Members' contributions towards refreshments at monthly meetings and the 1986 Show raffle proceeds were given to Charity (British Rheumatism and Arthritis Association) in his memory.

Two months later, the Society lost another stalwart when **Jim Tebay** died suddenly. At the AGM,

“he was warmly praised for the marvellous contribution he had made, not only to this Society, but also to the previous Edgworth Horticultural Society. He had supported the Club in many ways, not least as a regular and knowledgeable speaker to the monthly meetings and, over many years, as a Judge. He had an excellent reputation as a grower which extended far beyond Edgworth. He will be greatly missed by the Society and it comes as a devastating blow so soon after the death of Richard Holland.” The members showed their respect by standing for a minute's silence.



Jim Tebay

Family recollections are *“it was several years after he married when he first got an interest in gardening and after moving to Crown Point he acquired a large plot of land approx 200yds from the cottage which he turned into an allotment. He erected a large greenhouse and grew tomatoes and grapes in the greenhouse and vegetables and flowers on the allotment, but leeks and onions became the vegetables he would enter into Show competitions. At the time of the Shows he would take over his wife’s kitchen and wash and polish the onions and leeks creating havoc in the kitchen area where there was soil everywhere!”*

A quiet modest man who diligently worked in his garden and if you visited him and showed any interest in gardening he would guide you around his allotment giving you gardening hints and tips.

As Jim became older he couldn’t continue gardening as much as in his younger days but was in demand as a judge”.

It was decided that the Jim Tebay Memorial Garden should be created and, following discussions with the Vicar of St. Anne’s Church and gaining the Parochial Church Council’s approval, a site adjacent to the path leading from the southerly lych gate to the church entrance was agreed. The Society paid for the materials and plants and work was carried out by volunteers. A plaque was also provided. Maintenance of the Garden has been carried out by the Committee on a rota basis ever since, for which the Church has been very grateful.

After 20 years the Garden had reached the stage where it needed refurbishment and so in 2009 it was partially replanted and generally upgraded. The plaque was also later replaced and, with the approval of the the Tebay family and the PCC, the Garden became a memorial to include all deceased members.



The Jim Tebay Memorial Garden at St. Anne's Church

Wilf Scarlin, died in 2007, and his family wanted to do something in his memory, so, a standard rose 'Arthur Bell' was planted, as part of the refurbishment of the Tebay garden. He was a very keen rose grower and won the Bell Rose Bowl on numerous occasions.

Brian Arnold recalls that **Harold Isherwood**, who encouraged him to join the Society, also

"grew wonderful roses in his tiny garden at Crown Point, and passionately wanted to win the rose bowl every year (and often did until it was monopolised by Wilf Scarlin)".

Ken Nelson was one of the early members of the Society and was a keen exhibitor in the Annual Shows. His dahlias and cacti were always excellent and his name appeared year after year on the list of Cup winners. Growing plants at his home in the elevated position at Entwistle must have been difficult but this did not deter Ken. His interest in cacti started as a child and his first cacti, grown on a window sill at his parent's house, was still alive when he died in 2007, aged 74. In 2010, his wife, Joyce, a member since 1974 and Committee member for 25 years, sold his cacti at an auction run by the Manchester Cacti Society.

Another Committee member, **Sheila Coomer**, who did much for the Society is commemorated in St. Anne's churchyard. She died in 1998 and, with a brief ceremony, a red hawthorn tree was planted near to the Jim Tebay Memorial garden.

Brenda Doldon and her husband, Ray, were active in the Society before moving from the area in 1999. They are still involved with the National Gardens Scheme and Brenda is the County Organiser for this area.

No list of memories would be complete without mentioning **Norman Woffenden** who sadly died on 23rd October 2012. He retired from the committee in 2011 after serving for 19 years, the first 9 of which he was chairman of the society. Latterly he was membership secretary and vice treasurer. You will remember being greeted by him on the door at every monthly meeting as you paid your entry fee. He was a very well liked and respected member of the Society who worked extremely hard yet was full of fun and enjoyed 'a bit of banter' with anyone. When he retired he said '*what a wonderful part of his life serving on the committee had been. He was invited on by Sheila Coomer and has always found the society members past and present very friendly and helpful*'.

Norman enjoyed his garden and was always keen to participate in the Show, as an exhibitor as well as a steward. He was a proud prizewinner for vegetables and fruit, winning the Cup for 'Best Vegetable' on several occasions, but in 2012 he won the Cookery Cup to add to his many talents.



Norman Woffenden receiving his Cup in 2012 from Angela Stott, Headteacher

It is interesting to note that on his first committee meeting in 1992, he suggested that Roy Lancaster be asked to visit the Annual Show as an example of a typical Village Show. It took 17 years for Roy Lancaster to visit, albeit for a talk, not the Show, but at least Norman's wish was realised.

Norman also ran Woffenden Wines and his wife Beryl kindly donated wine for the 2012 AGM with which a toast was raised to his memory.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

There have been so many people who have contributed to the success of the Society over the last 40 years that it is impossible to mention everyone by name and many members will have their own particular memories. To all those who have gone before and not been mentioned, the Committee gives them warm thanks for developing the Society into the thriving one that exists today.

Programme of Meetings and Visits

This is without doubt the mainstay of the Society's regular monthly activities having started with 8 talks in 1975. It was initially drawn up by the Secretary following Committee discussions on suitable topics but was identified as a separate role in 1995 when a Programme Secretary was appointed. Pat Whalley was elected and is still performing this role 18 years later with great fortitude and excellent negotiating skills to ensure 'value for money'. Over the years the scope of the programme has expanded to provide greater variety for members and its preparation is based on members' and Committee suggestions with reference back, as necessary, to records which give details of all the meetings ever held since 1975. As well as showing when a topic was last discussed it is interesting to note trends of what remains popular and what was just a passing phase.

All meetings to be held at the Methodist School, Edgworth, 7-45 p.m.
 Subscription for 1975, 40p payable to the Treasurer: Mr. D. Finch, 12 Meadow Way, Edgworth, Nr. Bolton.

JANUARY 22nd
 "Rose Growing"—Mr. C. Partington.

FEBRUARY 26th
 "Dahlia Cultivation"—Member of the Grey Mare Dahlia Society.

MARCH 26th
 Annual General Meeting.

APRIL 23rd
 "Alpines"—Mr. C. Boniface and Mr. R. S. Morgan.
 "Spring Bulb Show"—Hyacinths, Tulips and Daffodils.
 Container not to exceed 10 inches.

MAY 28th
 "Wine Making"—Mr. H. Morris.

JULY 23rd
 "Preparation for Showing"—Mr. K. P. Morris.

AUGUST 16th
 Annual Flower and Vegetable Show.

SEPTEMBER 24th
 "Cacti and Succulents"—Mr. Colin Partington, Bolton and District Cactus Society.

OCTOBER 22nd
 "Perennials"—Mr. N. Tompson.

NOVEMBER 26th
 To be arranged.

1975 Programme

2013 Programme

Meetings are held at The Barlow, Edgworth, starting at 7.30 pm
 There is a small entry charge, which includes interval coffee/tea & cakes

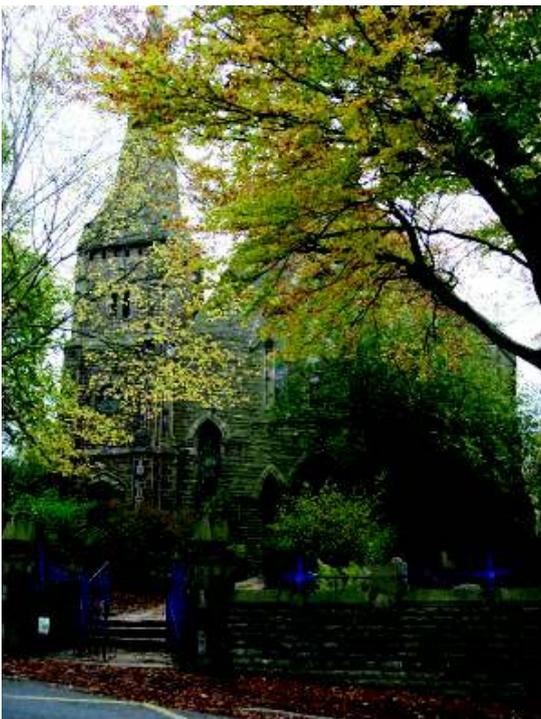
Jan 16	Ups & Downs of Gardening	Barbara & Brian Seddon, Wigan
Feb 20	A Passion for Heucheras	Vicky & Richard Fox, Crewe
March 13	MEMBERS' EVENING MEAL	The Pack Horse, Affetside
March 20	Climbing Plants	Paul Cooke, Ness Gardens
April 17	Lilies, Hardy to Hybrid	Matthew Smith, Preston
May 15	EVENING VISIT to the Myerscough Garden with Bob Hughes	
June 19	Gardeners' Question Time	Chaired by Alison Tarpey-Black
June 22	DAY OUTING to Breezy Krees Garden & Nursery, York	
July 17	Borders for Colour & Interest	Michelle Martin, Hesketh Bank
July 27	4 DAY GARDEN HOLIDAY to the Gardens of Kent & Sussex	
Aug. 17	ANNUAL SHOW	The Barlow
Sept. 18	Shady Plants	Phil Dunnett, Woodplumpton
Oct. 2	CELEBRITY SPEAKER	CHRIS BEARDSHAW
Oct. 26	AUTUMN OUTING to Thorpe Perrow Arboretum, North Yorkshire	
Nov. 20	7.30pm AGM – followed at 8.00pm by a Social Evening and our ever popular Potato Pie Supper, Seed Swap and Quiz	

Meeting Venues



In August 1974 a venue was agreed for the public meetings, this being the **old Methodist School** on Bolton Road, Edgworth which had ceased to be used as a School when the new one was opened in 1974, although it remained in use as a Sunday School until 1989. Meetings continued here until 1978 when, due to insurance problems a move was necessary. It has since been converted into apartments.

The new venue was **St. Aldhem's Roman Catholic Church**, at Thomasson Fold. This location proved to be *'a very comfortable meeting place'* and remained so until 1992 when a further move was necessitated by the closure of the Church and concentration of the Roman Catholic faith being centred on St John the Evangelist Church in Bromley Cross. It is now converted into 2 houses.



A move to the **Edgworth Methodist Church** followed, in a seeming continuation of the use of evangelical buildings for meetings, but this only lasted until 1999 when the room had become too small for the attendance levels and stair access was an issue.

As Brian Arnold recalls, *"the venues for meetings during these years were interestingly ecclesiastical. Is there a connection between God and Gardeners?"*

A move to the **Barlow Institute** provided a much better venue especially for the larger attendances of recent years. It is hard to believe that now we are struggling at times to fit everyone into the Hall for meetings and that the Show has overflowed the building onto the forecourt.

The Institute is now known as 'The Barlow'.



A brief explanation of the links that exist between the aquilegia 'Nora Barlow', Charles Darwin and the Barlow family who presented the building and its grounds to the village for public use can be found in the Appendices.

Questionnaire and feedback from Members.

At the 2012 AGM, a 'Getting to know you' questionnaire was offered to all members to discover their interests, views on the Society, why they joined, likes/dislikes, areas for improvement and if they would like to be involved. Just over 20% of the total membership responded (equating to about 40% of the active membership).

85% of those responding were over 60, which is perhaps typical of many other organisations, but does highlight a growing concern amongst the committee (who have a similar percentage), if not expressed by members, that more younger members need encouragement to join.

- 60 % have a medium sized garden.
- There is a wide range of garden interests with perennials, flowers and propagation being to the fore.
- Many were attracted by recommendations as well as an obvious interest in gardens.
- The friendliness of the Society dominated the 'likes', with cakes, socialising, interesting and informative events all featuring highly.
- Over 90% were happy with how things are run and want to keep things as they are; the remainder only made minor suggestions which will be considered.
- Many offers of help were made, mainly regarding practical involvement at meetings.

What of the Future?

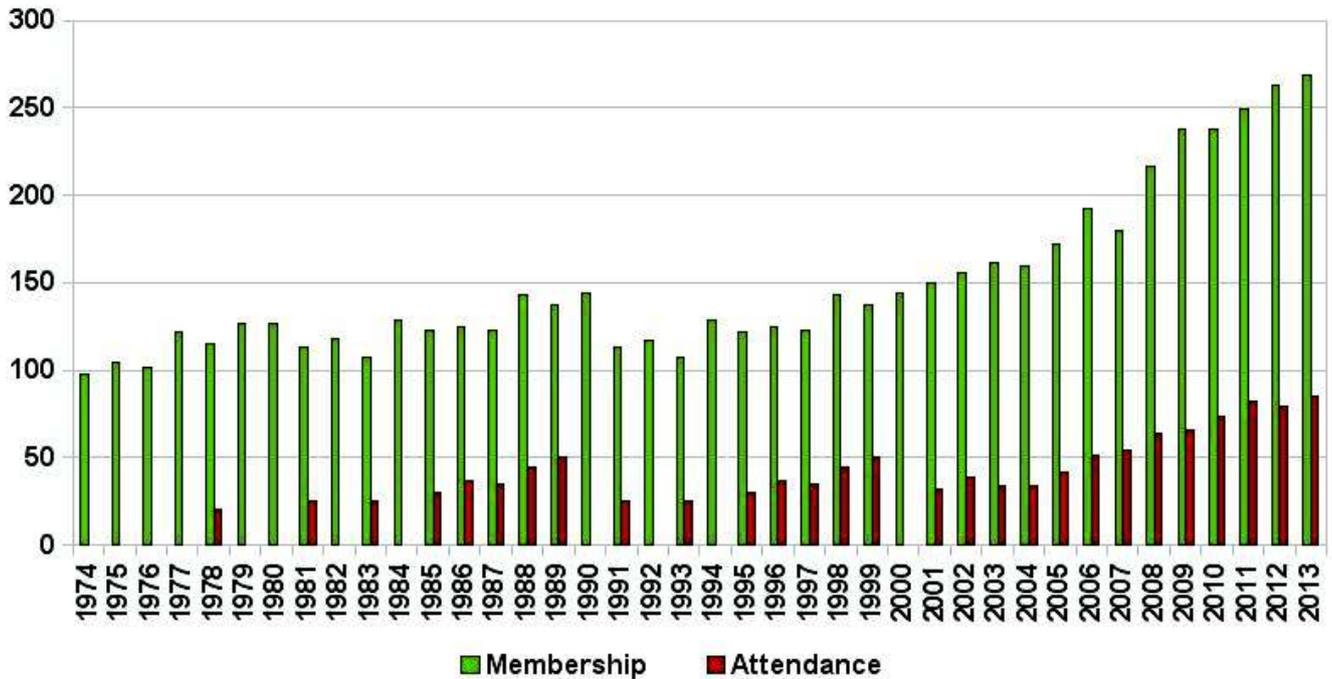
It is gratifying to know from the member's feedback that there is a high degree of satisfaction and support for what the Committee has done and the excellent reputation that the Society has achieved. Similar comments have been made by the public and exhibitors at the Show. The Society strives constantly to introduce new ideas and move with the times to keep it interesting and stimulating; not everything works out but much does, as proved by feedback. Long may this continue.

The aim has always been to maintain a vibrant, friendly organisation meeting local needs and has been successful to the extent that we have almost reached a capacity limit at The Barlow. This means that efforts must be concentrated on maintaining what we have and not expanding our publicity and catchment area beyond our capacity constraints.

The major concern that must be addressed is the ageing profile of the Society. Many long-standing members joined in their 30's or 40's and have helped in many ways but, as indicated in the members profile, they are now in their 60's and 70's. What is missing in this Society, and others, is a lack of younger people joining and this is something that will have to be addressed. Without an influx of younger members, membership will fall and there will be a reduction in the number of people physically able to carry out the work involved in setting up meetings and re-arranging The Barlow before and after each Show.

Appendices

Edgworth & District Horticultural Society Membership and Attendance 1974-2013



Membership Subscriptions – agreed at AGM for following year.

1973	25p	Juniors (U18) 15p
1974	40p	Juniors half price
1977	50p	
1979	60p	
1984	£1	
1988	£1.50	
1993	£2	
2008	£2.50	

Admission charges to monthly meetings

1974	Voluntary contributions to refreshments
1993	50p charge introduced
2000	75p
2003	£1
2004	£2 for non-members

NORA BARLOW - Links to The Barlow

The Barlow Institute (now known as 'The Barlow') and its recreation grounds were presented to the village of Edgworth in memory of James and Alice Barlow by their sons and daughters on October 30th 1909, 'for the use and enjoyment of their neighbours'. James was a local industrialist and the family lived at Greenthorne, close to the Institute.

The opening ceremony was performed by Sir Thomas Barlow, the elder son. He had been Attending Physician to Queen Victoria and signed the bulletin announcing her death to the public. He also served later Monarchs.

Sir Thomas (1845 – 1945) and his wife had 5 children. The eldest son was Sir James Alan Noel Barlow, a senior civil servant and who married a woman by the name of Emma Nora Darwin who was the granddaughter of Charles Darwin.

Sir James died in 1968 leaving Nora widowed until her death in 1989 at the illustrious age of 104. But what is striking is the knowledge that following his death she bequeathed the family home "The Orchard" in Cambridge to the University, which in turn became New Hall College, now known as Murray Edwards College. So we in Edgworth, together with students and staff at Cambridge are joint beneficiaries of Barlow philanthropy.

The College is famous for its grounds and gardens. Nora Barlow was a very keen gardener and horticulturalist. She is most famous for her work on the hybridisation of aquilegia giving her name to the famous "Nora Barlow" strain of these plants.

A commemorative plaque celebrating the centenary of the Barlow Institute was unveiled on 30th October 2009 by the poet Ruth Padel, who is the daughter of Hilda Barlow, one of the 6 children to Nora and Sir James, and therefore the great great granddaughter of both James Barlow and Charles Darwin.



Aquilegia vulgaris 'Nora Barlow' is one of the most popular and interesting forms, being highly prized for its bright, cheerful flowers and graceful, upright habit, producing nodding, spur-less, almost spherical heads composed of many narrow, pink and pale green to white petals. Unusually for an *Aquilegia*, it comes true from seed. It has been awarded the prestigious RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM).

Six plants have been incorporated into the Society's planting scheme for the garden outside The Barlow.

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank the following: -

- Barry Scanlon, Jean Turner and John King for their help in producing this booklet.
- Those people, especially Jean Entwistle, Brian Arnold, the Tebay family, Bill Kerr, Frank Redman and Harry Hughes, whose recollections have helped to add a personal touch to facts gleaned from official records.
- The Committee, past and present, for all the hard work they put into running the Society on your behalf.
- All the volunteers who help at monthly meetings with making cakes, tea duties and setting up the hall.
- All the volunteers who help with the Show, whether as Stewards, delivering leaflets, catering, but especially Geoffrey Whalley and Tony Murphy whose help is vital to its success.
- George Bentley who as Blackburn Council's representative at The Barlow provided great support, and still does after his retirement.
- All exhibitors at, and visitors to, the Show for their continued support.
- All those people who have helped develop and run the Society over the last 40 years.
- Those who have kindly donated Cups over the years.

And anyone else I have forgotten to mention.

November 2013