

Edgworth & District Horticultural Society
Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 20th November, 2024

1a)	Apologies for absence: Andy Warman, Kathy Warman, Sue Brohi, Gill Crook, Heather Berry, Anna Harvey, Ian Thornton, Felicity Thornton, Keith Shatwell, Pauline Shatwell, Kath Weston, Thirza Vickers, Peter Dawe, Jo Dawe, Judith Small & Carole Frudd
b)	Members Present: 42 Members were present 40 members paid their subscription for 2025 1 member paid online Majority of couples that attended paid the joint membership option.
2.	Minutes of AGM held on 15th November, 2023: These minutes were accepted at the 2024 AGM as a true record. Proposed by Judith Rowle Seconded by Jo Southam
a)	Matters Arising: No matters arising were raised
3.	Chairman's Report:
	Jean welcomed everyone to the AGM where the business items are discussed first followed a <u>Social Evening with potato pie supper and a quiz.</u>
	Jean then listed the benefits of membership to our 170 members in 2024. ➤ Monthly meetings with expert speakers from Young Designer of the Year 2023 to a speaker almost at the end of his career and others in between ➤ Free visit to RHS Harlow Carr ➤ Evening visit to a private garden in Croston ➤ 2 Day trips by coach ➤ 4-day Holiday to Somerset ➤ Working with the Parish Council to fund the planters in Edgworth and Chapeltown. ➤ Maintaining the Barlow and Tebay garden beds continues ➤ Suttons Seeds offer EDHS members 50% discount on seeds and 15% discount on plants
	➤ Rejuvenation of the Stocks Memorial Garden in Chapeltown is now complete. Work began in 2018 with a professional survey of the site. Unfortunately, there was little progress after that due to various issues and then Covid restrictions but in 2022 work began in earnest. NTPC gained a lottery bid which paid for the felling of a large tree and crown pruning of another which opened up the site letting more light in. EDHS and NTPC jointly chose Judithe Harrison's design for a wildlife garden and Heritage Properties UK was chosen to do the hard landscaping including moving the ancient cross slightly. The site is now planted up and bird & bat boxes have been hung and seats have been re-sited. A water butt and waste bin are still to be obtained.

	<p>When the grant is exhausted the remaining costs are to be equally shared between EDHS and NTPC.</p> <p>Work is now complete and the site was officially opened in August.</p> <p>Chapeltown Residents' Association have agreed to maintain the site.</p>
	<p>Legacy Funded Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ £2,000 was again available for applicants to apply for an award to help finance a horticultural project which will benefit the local community ➤ Thank you to Lesley King for organising The Crafty Green Fingers Group. Unfortunately, this course was discontinued due to insufficient uptake
	<p>Show: Great show with more exhibitors and entries than 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tombola stall raised £160 (inc. Gift Aid) which was donated to Bowel Cancer, UK, a charity chosen by Lauren Dickenson who presented the trophies. ➤ More junior entries than last year ➤ 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 facilities team at the Barlow for their support throughout the year ➤ The stewards at the show for all their hard work on the day ➤ The committee for tireless efforts throughout the year ➤ Tony Murphy was presented with an RHS Recognition Award for his work as Show Secretary and his help in setting up the Barlow for our meetings ➤ Co-opted members Sue Matthews, Carol Murphy, Janet Faulkner, Gill Pegman and Judith Rowle were thanked for the help and support they had given to the committee in various ways ➤ The advertisers in the schedule whose payments covered the cost of the schedule
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 4-day holiday visiting the gardens of Cambridgeshire, based in Ely, is being considered and names were being listed to assess interest ➤ Suttons Seeds again offer members 50% discount on seeds & 15% on plants ➤ Mahers of Great Lever will go out of business by the end of this year so we lose the benefit of the discount they offered over the past few years
	<p>She ended by thanking everyone for coming adding a further plea for members to consider how they can help in some way.</p> <p>This is her last year as chairperson and she is hoping to find a replacement/ understudy for next year.</p>
4.	Treasurer's Report:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Treasurer had prepared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Report to 30.09.2024 (end financial year) (appendix 1) Annual Show Report to 30.09.2024 (appendix 2) Summary Report to 15.11.2024 (appendix 3) Investment Track from 12.03.2018 to 12.09.2024 (appendix 4) ➤ The Treasurer thanked Judith Rowle for Reviewing the Accounts and presented her with a bottle of wine to show the society's gratitude. ➤ Phil explained the progress of the Legacy from its inception in 2018 when

	<p>its value was around £46,000. Today's value is approximately the same despite having withdrawn £9,000 over the investment period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The holiday lost £1,300 due to insufficient numbers. The Society covered the loss but that can't happen again. We need 30 names to make the trip viable. ➤ Number of people attending meetings has fallen since the pandemic, we used to get 70 – 80 people, now its more like 40. This results in our income reducing at a time when all our costs are rising. ➤ Subscriptions have had to be increased for 2025 as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £ 7.00 individual member • £12.00 for a couple/family • Monthly Entry Fees - £2.00 Members £4.00 Visitors ➤ It is likely that entry fees will rise next year. ➤ PB thanked Sue Brohi for finding advertisers for the Show Schedule ➤ The kitchen Garden team sold more plants this year resulting in fewer plants being donated to the kitchen garden at the end of the show. ➤ The café was a great success ➤ The Show raised around £407.50
5.	<p>Election of Officers:</p> <p>There being no volunteers to replace them the current officers agreed to continue for another year. The chairman gave notice that she intends to step down at the AGM in 2025.</p> <p>Chair: Jean Turner Treasurer: Phil Broughton Secretary: Irene Spencer</p> <p>Proposed by Geoffrey Whalley Seconded by Gill Pegman</p>
6.	<p>Election of Committee:</p> <p>Pat Whalley (Events Secretary) Angela Swallow (Membership Secretary) Heather Berry Sue Brohi Andy Warman</p> <p>Proposed by Janet Faulkner Seconded by Lesley King</p>
7.	<p>Reviewer of Accounts:</p> <p>Judithe Rowle agreed to review the accounts in 2025 and was duly elected</p>
8.	<p>Events Secretary's Report – 2025 Programme</p> <p>15th Jan Japanese Plants in the Wild 19th Feb Balcony Gardening 15th Mar DAY OUT – Visit John's Garden, W. Midlands</p>

	<p>19th Mar Painting with Plants (Chris Beardshaw -Ticket Only - £15)</p> <p>16th Apl. Helping Nature – No dig gardening</p> <p>21st May Growing Apple Trees</p> <p>18th June EVENING VISIT – Chadwicks Close Farm</p> <p>12th-15th July 4-Day Holiday to Gardens of Cambridgeshire</p> <p>16th July Fantastic Food & Drink (herbs)</p> <p>Sat.16th Aug. ANNUAL SHOW</p> <p>Sun.7th Sept. DAY OUT – Visit to Scampston Walled Garden & Plant Fair</p> <p>17th Sept. A World of Plants in your Back Garden</p> <p>15th Oct. Holcombe Moor Restoration Project</p> <p>19th Nov. AGM with potato pie supper & quiz (members only)</p> <p>➤ Pat was thanked for organising this excellent varied programme for next year.</p>
9.	<p>Open Forum:</p> <p>➤ Michael Arundel stood to thank the Society for the continual maintenance of the EDHS Memorial bed in St. Anne's Churchyard. The Society hires 2 gardeners to keep this bed tidy, whilst volunteers from the church maintain the rest.</p> <p>➤ Gill Pegman stood to thank the committee for all the hard work undertaken to keep the Society going.</p> <p>➤ Janet Faulkner informed everyone of the large increase in the cost of coach hire for day trips. It will be necessary to use smaller coaches and reduce numbers to 30 to help control the costings. The next day trip will be to John's Garden and Ashwood Nurseries in W. Midlands, Hellebore specialists. Cost of trip will be a choice of these 2 options</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">£26 Coach, Garden Centre and Private Garden</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">£33 As above plus guided tour of their specialist Hellebore Production House.</p> <p>➤ A member asked if a visit could be made to Gresgarth Gardens. This has been looked into before and there is a limit to the number of visitors they accept at any 1 time. It was suggested that details of the gardens will go into a newsletter and people can visit as individuals.</p>
10.	<p>The meeting closed at 8.45 pm and was followed by a social evening with potato pie supper, quiz and a rolling slide show of our 2024 events.</p>

Signed.....

Dated.....

IMS – 25.11.2024