

**Edgworth & District Horticultural Society**  
**Minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025**

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Kerry Holt, Derek Ramsden, Andy Warman, Kathy Warman, Penney Clissold, Heather Berry, Ian Thornton, Margaret Brabbin & Carole Frudd
<b>b)</b>	<b>Members Present:</b> 42 Members present 41 Members present paid their subscription for 2025 1 Member paid online 4 Couples that attended paid for joint membership.
<b>c)</b>	Each table contained copies of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 2024 AGM Minutes</li><li>▪ Agenda</li><li>▪ Request for cake donors</li><li>▪ Request for Tea Duty volunteers</li><li>▪ Treasurer's Report</li><li>▪ Information re BBC Gardeners' Question Time</li><li>▪ Information re 4-day Holiday</li><li>▪ Sutton's Seeds Catalogues</li></ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2024:</b> Copies of the minutes were e-mailed to all members in advance of the AGM No issues were raised either before or during the meeting They were accepted at the 2025 AGM as a true record.
	<b>Matters Arising:</b> No matters were raised
<b>3.</b>	<b>Chairman's Report:</b> Jean welcomed everyone to the AGM where the business items are discussed first followed by a Social Evening with potato pie supper and a quiz.
	The committee have worked hard again this year arranging lots of activities including the holiday, 2-day visits and an evening visit, excellent speakers at our monthly meetings and of course the Annual Show, the highlight of the year! There are other benefits to members too. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Suttons Seeds are again offering a generous discount to members, 50% off packet seeds and 20% off other live products like potatoes, onions, plants, bulbs etc. You will need the catalogue with the new code as the old one is now obsolete.</li><li>▪ If you are not an RHS member but would like to visit any RHS garden we have a card which EDHS members may borrow for free entry for 2 adults. Pat Whalley holds it. The pass is signed 'in' and 'out' as a short term loan.</li><li>▪ Thank you to members who have supported these efforts in any way, without your input there would be no Society, so thank you.</li><li>▪ There are 170 members currently. We are a committee of 8 plus 2 loyal co-</li></ul>

opted helpers and we desperately need more help especially from willing people to help with the moving and lifting and routine organisation of the society.

This year we have sadly lost David Spencer, his support and efforts will be greatly missed.

- Our 8 meetings have covered a number of topics including Japanese Hardy Plants, Cultivating apple trees, to the efforts to re-introduce sphagnum moss to Holcombe Moor and the potential benefits of capturing water and carbon on our moors.
- 2 excellent garden day visits to John's Garden at Ashwood Nursery and Scampston Walled Garden. Our evening visit was to Sarah and Lee McLaren's beautiful garden at Chadwick's Close Farm on Smithills Moor.
- The 4-day holiday was visiting the Gardens of Cambridgeshire staying in Ely. We visited Coton Manor, Shuttleworth Air Museum, Cambridge Botanical Gardens, Ramsey Abbey Walled Garden and the Mary Challis Garden. We also visited Ramsey Rural museum and The Wimpole estate , quite a contrast to each other.
- Thanks to the Legacy left to the Society by Geoffrey Nuttall the Society continues to maintain the garden beds of The Barlow and the Tebay Memorial Garden monthly.
- The Society has again given away £2,536.00 towards local horticultural projects to the following:-
  - Belmont Community Garden
  - Planters near to church in Chapeltown
  - Turton Tower Kitchen Garden Group
  - Turton High School Project
  - Edgworth Primary School
  - Turton Tower Grounds Gardeners
  - Sharples Meadow Re-wilding
  - Crown Gardens Pond Project
- Lifetime membership has been awarded to Marjorie Openshaw and Barbara Mitton. Both these ladies are long standing supporters and members of the Society and make an effort to attend the Annual Show and come to an occasional meeting.
- Exciting news – The Society will be hosting BBC Gardeners' Question Time at The Barlow on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026. We hope that many of you will attend and will have some of your gardening conundrums answered.
- We need more committee members particularly to help with the following
  - Managing day to day accounts
  - Organising day trips and outings
  - Organising and managing rotas for making/buying cakes at the meetings
  - Serving the drinks and clearing away after meetings
  - More ideas and new blood to keep ourselves current.
  - You don't need to be an expert, just willing to give it a go and try.
- Jean thanked the small committee and members who have helped in various ways during the year. She especially mentions:-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Tony Murphy, Show Secretary, co-opted</li> <li>➤ The Barlow's facilities team for their support throughout the year</li> <li>➤ Advertisers in the schedule</li> <li>➤ Sue Matthews who takes money on the door each month, co-opted</li> <li>➤ Jo Dawe who organised the tea and cake rota, co-opted</li> <li>➤ Janet Faulkner who organised some of the trips, co-opted</li> <li>➤ and behind the scenes, our auditor, Judith Rowle.</li> <li>➤ Finally, all who helped make the Show such a success whether growing on the plants for the plant stall or staffing it on the day.</li> <li>➤ Working for the café, baking, selling or just eating the cakes, or Stewarding at the show itself.</li> <li>➤ Special thanks go to Janet Faulkner who arranged the day trips and helped at the Show, and to Lesley King who organised our children's project 'Crafty Green Fingers', acted as Auditor and stewards at the Show. They were each awarded an RHS Recognition Award.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Treasurer had prepared           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Report to 30.09.2025 (end financial year) (appendix 1)</li> <li>Annual Show Report to 30.09.2025 (appendix 2)</li> <li>Summary Report to 15.11.2025 (appendix 3)</li> <li>A powerpoint to illustrate his Report</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The Treasurer thanked Judith Rowle for Reviewing the Accounts and presented her with a bottle of wine to show the society's gratitude.</li> <li>▪ Judith has agreed to review the accounts again in 2026.</li> <li>▪ <b>Legacy</b> – Each quarter showed gain until July but despite 2 withdrawals totalling £8,000 the investment remains close to the original £46,000.</li> <li>▪ Since receiving the bequest in 2018 the Society has granted more than £14,000 to local horticultural causes.</li> <li>▪ Subscriptions remain the same, as follows:-           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£ 7.00 individual member</li> <li>£12.00 for a couple/family</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Monthly Entry Fees remain unchanged at -           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£2.00 Members</li> <li>£4.00 Visitors</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The Show raised around £343.77 and donated an additional £330.00 to Fort Alice (proceeds from the tombola stall)</li> <li>▪ The entry fee for the Show was increased from £2. to £3, and the schedule advertisements brought in a record £1405, plant stall raised £610 and the café £515. Despite this our outlay has also increased greatly, prize money has been increased and we had to pay more for the hire of the reading room to compensate the café staff.</li> <li>▪ Income from subscriptions barely covers the loss from meetings and day trips, planned to break even, often are not full. The 4-day holiday has had to be subsidised recently. 2026 holiday will be costed on a sliding scale on the number of bookings 20+, 25+, and 30+ The more bookings we get the cheaper the price.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consideration to be given on increasing revenue.</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Election of Officers:</b></p> <p>The current officers agreed to continue for another year.</p> <p>Chair: Jean Turner  Treasurer: Phil Broughton  Secretary: Irene Spencer</p> <p>Proposed by Sue Brohi  Seconded by Lesley King</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Election of Committee:</b></p> <p>Pat Whalley (Events Secretary)  Angela Swallow (Membership Secretary)  Heather Berry  Sue Brohi  Nick Grimwood  Lisa Lovett</p> <p>Nick Grimwood and Lisa Lovett were welcomed onto the committee and duly elected.</p> <p>Proposed by Lesley King  Seconded by Janet Faulkner</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Reviewer of Accounts:</b></p> <p>Judith Rowle agreed to review the accounts in 2026 and was duly elected</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Events Secretary's Report – 2026 Programme:</b></p> <p>21st Jan                    Invasive Plants, Sam Raynor, LWT  18<sup>th</sup> Feb                A World of Plants in your Back Garden, David Hurion  18<sup>th</sup> Mar                Ferns for Fernatics with Fronds, Michael Myers  1<sup>st</sup> April                BBC Gardeners' Question Time -Ticket Only - £4.50)  15<sup>th</sup> Apl                Summer Wings, Lesley Bentley  9<sup>th</sup> May                 DAY OUT – Plas Newydd, Anglesey  20<sup>th</sup> May                Urban Sky Park, Castlefield, Rachel Thomas NT  17<sup>th</sup> June                The Gardens of Thomas Mawson, Elaine Taylor  7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July            4-Day Holiday to Gardens of Worcestershire  15<sup>th</sup> July                EVENING VISIT – 28 Stafford Road, Motton  Sat.15th Aug.            ANNUAL SHOW  Sat.22<sup>nd</sup> Aug.            DAY OUT - to Southport Flower Show.  16<sup>th</sup> Sept.               A Beginners Guide to Growing Alpines  21<sup>st</sup> Oct.                The Daffodil World, Ian Tyler  18<sup>th</sup> Nov.                AGM with potato pie supper &amp; quiz (members only)  ➤ Pat was thanked for organising this excellent varied programme for next year.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Open Forum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Judith Scanlon raised the subject of the shabby planters this year. Larger planters are already being considered and the Parish Council will share the</li> </ul>

	<p>cost of them along with compost, bulbs etc. The linesman has offered to keep them watered etc. and Judith Scanlon offered help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members shared our concern about the state of the finances and virtually all felt that the fees need to increase. This will be discussed at a committee meeting. Suggested annual subscriptions were at least £10.00 pa right up to £20.00 pa. Entry charge increase is another consideration to be discussed.</li> <li>▪ Jill Pegman thanked the committee for all that they do to keep the Society going.</li> </ul>
<b>10.</b>	The meeting closed at 8.40 pm and was followed by a social evening with potato pie supper, quiz and a rolling slide show of our 2025 events.

Signed.....

Dated.....